Nuclear waste worries SLO
Policy allows harmful trash to be dumped
By Grant Landy

Only a few steps into the 90s, and the decade of environmen­tal consciousness and energy alternatives has already separated the public and private spheres into two camps — those who generate energy and must get rid of it, and those who use the energy and want its disposal done away with.

An example of this is a new policy approved in June by the Nuclear Regulatory Commis­sion. Called Below Regulatory Concerns (BRC), it will allow about 30 percent of the nation’s "low-level" radioactive waste to be treated as normal garbage.

Possibly, trash companies could be picking up radioactive wastes and discarding them into dumpsters.

“The policy has been around since the Atomic Energy Act of 1954,” said Mothers For Peace representative Laurie McDermott. “But now it’s be­ing developed and only awaits an application before being enacted.”

Low-level wastes are not the primary wastes discarded from fueling the reactor, said UCLA engineering assistant Bill Kastenberg. “Low-level wastes are just the components that are found primarily on clothing,” said Kastenberg. “It’s mainly the bike parts left on the costs and gloves of maintenance personnel.”

Concern in San Luis Obispo County would focus mainly on the nuclear facility at Diablo Canyon, located in the Irish Hills north of Avila Beach and on utility companies like Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E). It was Kastenberg’s understanding, however, that the policy is optional, and that the utilities were not going to follow it, mainly because of concerns over their public image.

But he said the economic in­centive may be so great that money may soon outweigh im­pact.

“It is much cheaper to rid wastes in trash than in other ways, such as hauling it to burial sites,” he said.

Diablo Canyon spokesman Brad Thomas said that PG&E has no intention of using the BRC rule.

“We here at PG&E and Diablo Canyon are not to use it,” said Thomas. “We probably will never do it.”

What worries environmental groups like Mothers For Peace and representative McDermott is that the companies could utilize the BRC rule without notifying the public.

See NBC, page 6

Bike riders urged to use locks
Police also favor registration for easier retrieval
By William Douglass

Bicycle theft continues to plague the campus, said Cal Poly Police Officer Joe Baranek. Last year more than 100 bikes were stolen on campus.

According to the San Luis Obispo Police Department, an additional 191 bicycles were reported stolen within city limits in the same period, for a loss of more than $66,000. The Crime Prevention Department classifies most of these thefts “crimes of opportunity” because the bikes were not locked.

“To my knowledge,” Baranek said, “no bike on campus has been stolen when it was locked properly with a U-bolt.” He said chain locks can be broken with bolt cutters.

Baranek said the best way to recover a stolen bike is to have it registered before it is stolen. Cal Poly requires all dormitory resi­dents to register bicycles with Public Safety. There is no charge for registration. Officers take the bike’s description and serial number, then they issue it a license number.

If the bicycle is reported stolen, the serial and license numbers are entered in a na­tionwide computer, said Baranek. Officers can run a computer check on a bike during traffic stops, and if it comes up as stolen the bike is recovered.

Residents of the city are re­quired by law to register their bicycles at the finance depart­ment of city hall, said Margery Donati, billing officer for the ci­ty.

The charge is $2 per year, and the bicycles are registered for a three-year period. Donati said that students who have bikes registered in their dormitories or at Cal Poly are not required to register.

See BIKES, page 4

Thief of bicycles, parts are up, SLO police say
By Kelly Hagerty

A recent statistic has sent a warning to bicycle owners that theft in San Luis Obispo is a reality.

Last week the San Luis Obispo Police Department reported that in a three-day period $2,000 worth of bikes were stolen. Ac­cording to Crime Prevention Officer Steve Seybold, that number is not unusually high.

In 1989, $10,000 in bikes and bike parts were stolen in San Luis Obispo. Of that, $40,000 of the thefts occurred on Cal Poly’s campus. Numbers like these make Cal Poly Public Safety Of­ficer Mike Kennedy concerned.

“The key is to make people aware (of the problem),” Ken­drey said last week.

Two incidents have been re­ported to Public Safety since Nov. 19, and he expects the numbers to match last year’s. Unfortunately, Kennedy said, no matter how many precautions are taken to protect a bike, it can be stolen if a thief is determined enough.

He recalled an incident in the residence halls where a student locked her bike as

See THEFT, page 7

Poly interviews first director candidate
By Dan Shargel

The first of six candidates for the position of director of affir­mative action was at Cal Poly earlier this week to meet campus officials and speak at an open forum.

Marion Boenheim, assistant to the executive vice chancellor and director of affirmative action at the University of Mississippi, was here Monday and Tuesday for interviews and meetings with Cal Poly President Warren Baker, his staff, the Consultative Committee and the Equal Op­portunity Advisory Council, as well as the Monday afternoon open forum with faculty, staff, and students.

At the open forum Boenheim, who has been director of affir­mative action at Mississippi since 1988, said an affirmative action program she implemented there was the waiving of tuition fees for minority students in order to get more racial integra­tion.

“It was nothing real outland­ish,” she said. “We just made the commitment that it (minority in­tegration) would be done.”

Through her efforts, Boenheim said the number of minority faculty members at the Univer­sity of Mississippi has risen from five to 27.

Since there are 400 faculty members at that university, Boenheim said that figure was “not wonderful but was certainly an increase.”

She said the various strategies used to hire more minority fac­ulty were not new or different.

“It was simply the task of making a commitment and then working forward by looking at places where we can find addi­tional people,” said Boenheim.

One of the strategies used was searching for graduate students “which we thought had real potential and sent them off to other institutions to get degrees. We then had them make com­mitments to come back to be with us for a couple years (as faculty members),” she said.

See DIRECTOR, page 4

ASI Highlights:
Board of Directors’ meeting tonight at 7 p.m. in UU 220. The meeting is open to the public. Discussion items include 1989-90 ASI and University Union audits.

Insight ...
Find out how students confront daily challenges with the help of Disabled Student Services.

Today’s weather ...
~ Patchy morning fog and mostly sunny in the afternoon.
High: 89 degrees
Low: 47 degrees
N.W. winds up to 20 mph
Second Opinion

City residents need new bikeway system

San Luis Obispo is desperately in need of an improved bikeway system. The City Council has expressed concern over this issue but little action has been done. Yet, if residents, especially the students, wish to use their bicycles for transportation and leave their smog-producing cars at home, they must change their way of life. The answer to this problem lies in establishing a bikeway system throughout the city.

The ideal path would be along the Southern Pacific Railroad property which extends through town. A bikeway on this property would create a nearly straight trail connecting the campus area to the south end of town, thus making biking to Cal Poly a much more attractive alternative to driving.

The college towns of Palo Alto and Davis already have built extensive bikeway systems. Palo Alto has a "Bicycle Boulevard" - a two-mile stretch leading from a residential area to the downtown on which no automobile traffic is permitted and even the cross traffic is required to yield to bicycles. Similarly, one-third of Davis streets have bike lanes, in addition to about 20 miles of separate bike paths. It is estimated that nearly 25 percent of all around-town trips in Davis are made by bicycle.

During last elections, Roalman was vocally in favor of improving conditions for bike riders. "I am ready to do whatever it takes to build the Southern Pacific property.

As an environmentalist who uses his bicycle as his primary mode of transportation, he should be leading the way in developing a bikeway system that could rival that of Palo Alto and Davis. Councilmember Peg Pinard also has urged more students to bike rather than drive to campus.

The City Council must give people more and safer bikeways if we are to expect to leave our cars at home and opt for environmentally cleaner form of transportation.

An Editorial excerpted from Mustang Daily, April 6, 1990.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 200 words. They should include the writer's name, address, phone number and major title. Submit letters to Room 226 of the Graphics Arts building. They may be edited for length, clarity or factual content. Contact the Opinion editor at 756-1143 if you wish to write a guest column.

Opinion

Editorial

Power plants should not treat toxic waste as normal garbage

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission approved a new policy in June which has been in a stage of existence since the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 but is just now being further developed. This new policy is called the Below Regulatory Concern (BRC). The BRC will allow approximately 50 percent of the nation's "low-level" radioactive waste to be treated as normal garbage.

Trash companies now will be able to pick up radioactive waste on daily garbage rounds under the BRC rule. Radioactive waste will be treated as normal garbage.

Low-level waste is defined as the little forms of contamination found primarily on the clothing, coats and gloves worn by maintenance workers taking care of the reactors. The primary reason for the BRC policy is economics.

It is simply economically wiser for nuclear facilities to dispose of low-level waste in the least costly way possible. Throwing out waste with the morning's trash is far cheaper than packaging and hauling that same waste to a dumping and burial site.

Many nuclear power plants are concerned about public image under the BRC rule. Realistically, though, it is hard to believe how the tempestation of substantial economic savings would not at some point override the concern for a positive public image.

Many nuclear power plants are concerned about public image under the BRC rule. Realistically, though, it is hard to believe how the tempestation of substantial economic savings would not at some point override the concern for a positive public image.

It is disturbing that, as with many other business decisions, the economic gain possibly could be enough of a positive incentive to encourage such a lax and careless disposal of low-level waste.

This new policy should be a large concern to the residents of San Luis Obispo because of the close proximity of Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. Diablo Canyon, says that it has no intentions of working under this new disposal option.

The BRC policy is not mandatory. It is simply an alternative presented to nuclear plants. This simple alternative, however, could create complex problems. Technically, power plants do not have to tell the public if they are using the BRC policy. They may tell the public that they are not dumping toxic waste as normal trash and may, in fact, be doing so.

According to Cal Poly natural resource management professor Doug Pittro, there is a good chance that this new policy, among other problems, could create some degree of water contamination.

The implementation of such a policy could put at risk the safety of our drinking water, the health of those picking up the plant's disposal and the overall health of the community. It is impossible to understand the ramifications of such a policy 10 or 20 years down the road.

It is understood that there is an economic factor in everything that is produced. It is also understood that new and more productive means to economically dispose of toxic waste must be created to maintain an affordable price for electricity.

However, the minute that economics becomes a higher priority than the value and well-being of local residents is when the balance between the dollar and progress must be examined.

Some say it's a crime that we are allowed to dispose of aluminum cans, which should be recycled, and plastic foam containers, which should not even be produced. But the real crime comes in allowing Congress to tell nuclear facilities that they have the right to toss out their low-level waste along with their used lunch bags and office supplies.

There must be a concern for the citizens who are now going to be exposed to the nuclear waste. Not only will this waste be accessible to the average citizen, but it could be potentially threatening to the number of individuals who are employed by the sanitation industry.

The economic gain of such a policy is far less substantial than the possible danger to a human life.

As citizens of San Luis Obispo, it is our responsibility to see that an "watch-dogs" for such a policy. Because it is no longer a requirement for nuclear power plants to watch out for the well-being of citizens, the responsibility now must belong to the people.

Industrial progress is to the advantage of everybody and should be, therefore, the responsibility of everybody. However, if the government and companies running the power plants have the economics and intelligence to create and work with nuclear power, then it only makes sense that they should utilize that same economics and intelligence to dispose of their waste safely.
NEW YORK (AP) — Men who habitually drank at least two alcoholic drinks a day were nearly twice as likely than abstainers to die before age 65, and the difference for women was three-fold, a study found.

Drinking at least two drinks a day was associated with an increased death rate compared with not drinking alcohol, researchers reported in the journal Addiction.

They analyzed data on 40,700 men and 32,000 women ages 35 to 64 years of age over 15 years who were part of the Northern Manhattan Community Health Study.

The study found that men and women who drank at least two alcoholic drinks a day were 31 percent and 44 percent, respectively, more likely to die from any cause than non-drinkers.

Newer, more valuable cars are supposed to cost more to license, but the goof made owners of late model Porsches bills for $1,344.

The social club is now being reinstated by two Cal Poly students who are also licensed pilots. The charter was revoked in 1966 because of university regulations on student air travel. It was later reinstated after long break and following them to find their risk of early death because of the way the study was done, cautioned study co-author Darryl Bertoluci.

The study began with people who already were dead, and worked backward in time to classify them on their drinking habits, rather than starting with people of known habits and following them to find their risk of early death.

Spud called lifesaver for hungry population

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists say the humble potato may offer the world a second chance to support a population that is expected to explode over the next century.

The first chance was the "Green Revolution" in the 1970s and '80s, when scientists and politicians hailed the miracle of turning the humble potato into a source of carbohydrates to feed the hungry.

The second chance is the "Green Revolution" that's just starting to take hold, said John Hay, a geneticist at the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The new revolution is focused on improving the potato's genetic makeup, which could help it resist disease, improve its yield and make it more nutritious. Scientists are also working to develop new varieties that can be grown in areas where the current crop doesn't thrive.

Dr. Rudy Adler
411 Monteverde
544-2545

Dr. Rudy Adler has been in practice for over 20 years. He specializes in sports injuries and functional medicine. Free Consultation and Exam. Call for info.

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Thousands of California car owners couldn't believe the bills they were getting from the Department of Motor Vehicles -- and they were right.

At least 100,000 vehicle owners were overcharged or undercharged hundreds of thousands of dollars in license fees when a DMV computer went awry last week. Julie Castro was shocked when she opened her car registration bill, expecting to pay about $130 to license her 1987 Hyundai. Instead, the bill was for $3,344.

Pet owners whose registrations expire Nov. 14, 16 or 18 or have been receiving the bills for the past several days, some have been asked to pay up to $6,000 to register their vehicles. The computer came up with the wild numbers after it mixed up the years and makes of cars. Newer, more valuable cars are supposed to cost more to license, but the goof sent owners of late model Porsches bills for $14, while owners of old Volkswagen beetles were dinged for $1,500.

1,344

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Orkin Exterminating Co. is bugged over the product that made it famous -- the giant cockroach.

At least 100,000 vehicle owners were overcharged or undercharged hundreds of thousands of dollars in license fees when a DMV computer went awry last week.

Orkin Exterminating Co. is bugged over the product that made it famous -- the giant cockroach.

An airplane is scheduled to land Thursday in the University Union (U.U.) plaza. Well, it won't actually be landing in the U.U. The plane will be towed in by the Mustang Aviation Club for the activity hour festivities.

Exterminator bugged for portrayal in movie

The club was chartered in 1947. At that time, the club owned active planes which were used for instruction and rental to its members.

The charter was revoked in 1966 because of university regulations on student air travel. It was later reinstated for a brief time as a strictly social club.

The social club is now being reinstated by two Cal Poly students who are also licensed pilots.
Bikes

From page 1

re-register with the city.

Barranek said because of the nature of the job, there would be an unrealistic task for police to actively search for stolen bikes. “It’s like if a Walkman is stolen,” he said. “We are not going to pull over everyone with a Walkman.”

There are two types of bicycle thefts on campus, Barranek said. Inexpensive, unlocked bikes are stolen as pranks or for quick transportation. Expensive bikes are stolen for parts or their value.

Barranek said theft of a bicycle valued at $400 or less is petty theft, while a bicycle valued above $400 is grand theft, a felony.

There is a low incidence of bike thefts on campus, Barranek said, because stolen bikes are usually taken off campus. “There is no place to stash a stolen bike in the dorms,” he said.

Baranek said the complaint by some students that there are too few bike racks is unfounded. “The racks are just not convenient right in front of the classroom,” he said. Even though the bike racks were removed from the inner campus last year, they were placed at more convenient sites and additional racks were added.

Baranek said part of the problem of bike theft at Cal Poly is because of the student’s perception that San Luis Obispo is a crime-free city. “There are a lot of thefts here because there are a lot of things to steal.”

Director

From page 1

The Consultative Committee, as well as Sandra Holbrook, director of personnel services, and Karen A. Alvarado, director of affirmative action, will be in charge of interviewing candidates.

The position will have an important significance to the future of Cal Poly.

“Denholm and the other consultants, modifying the project, said Denholm. “We’re real interested in affirmative action.”

Baranek said that whoever fills the position will have an important significance to the future of Cal Poly.

“Affirmative Action points Cal Poly in the direction necessary to follow all the federal and state regulations regarding affirmative action and implement the policy which has been established,” said Bethel.

That policy, Bethel said, “has a lot to do with fair employment practices,” and “establishing goals to ensure that the faculty candidates and students will not be divided, but the assignment is for two years.”

Former chief of party Larry Rathbun has an idea of what Rathbun said. “We were not surprised Bob was interested in the job,” Rathbun said. “I was not surprised when he was chosen.”

Rathbun said he will attend class and take a two-year course in international development (US AID) and the university.

Rathbun was appointed chief of party by the Dean of the School of Agriculture, Lark P. Carter, in 1985 when the university received a 10-year contract and supported university for the Costa Rica college’s development. The University of Nebraska is the other main support university in the project.

Joseph Sabol, associate dean of the School of Agriculture, said Cal Poly’s main goal is to act as consultants, mostly helping farmers “learn by doing” approach to agriculture to the humid tropics.

Rathbun commented, “We were not surprised Bob was interested because of his position as chief of party means that he will be involved with the entire university.”

“T’ll be in charge of instilling a hands-on approach and an educational philosophy,” Flores said last week before he left for Costa Rica.

Cal Poly’s involvement with the Agricultural College of the Humid Tropic Regions began in 1985 when the university received a 10-year contract and supported university for the Costa Rica college’s development. The University of Nebraska is the other main support university in the project.

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Rick Best does more than 'sit around.' Although he has been cruising around in his wheelchair as long as most of us have been walking, nothing has stopped Best from working hard to achieve his dreams.

Best is in his fourth year at Cal Poly as a civil engineering major. He often faces obstacles that are unfamiliar to most students. Best is proving that he is more than capable of meeting any challenges that come his way.

Best is only one of many disabled students at Cal Poly who has successfully adapted to his disability and is enjoying a rich and active college life.

"I don't really think about being disabled," Best said. "I do the best that I can within my personal limitations. But that's all anybody can do."

Best was injured at birth when his arm became stuck behind his head. The doctor had to pull Best's arm down and in the process bruised his spine. Best is now 'T2 paralyzed,' just below the arms and down to the toes.

"It's just one of those things," Best said. "There's nothing I can do about it now. I have to focus on the here and now, not what could have been."

In addition to a full load of classes this quarter, Best is the secretary of Disabled Students Unlimited (DSU). DSU is a club formed by a variety of disabled students at Cal Poly whose main purpose is to promote awareness of disabilities on campus. In addition, Best is the chairperson of the Campus Recycling Coalition.

Best seems to enjoy keeping busy. "I used to tutor Cal Poly students for 10 hours a week last year," Best said. "Although I found it very rewarding, sometimes it was disappointing when they didn't get the grade I wanted them to."

Best also places a lot of importance on education. He is no foreigner to academic success and has worked very hard to maintain his 3.75 grade point average at Cal Poly. He received college scholarship money based upon his high school performance and entered Cal Poly as a 17-year-old freshman. Best plans to get a philosophy minor in addition to his engineering degree to further round out his education.

Best is originally from Thousand Oaks and is looking forward to returning home for Christmas to see his parents and four older brothers who are scattered all over the state.

Best attributes most of his positive outlook on life and his success in school to his parents. Both were college graduates and always have encouraged their sons to pursue an education. All of his brothers have gone to college and two of them are now in graduate school.

"I was never treated any differently from any of my brothers," Best said. "Of course I've had a lot of physical problems, but they (my parents) have never expected any less of me."

"It was tough going my first two years at Cal Poly. In addition to the normal adjustments any freshman has to make, there was the added stress of my financial situation," he said.

Best has bills of more than $300 each month for medical services and supplies. This year he receives Medi-Cal stickers, which best said. "It was tough going my first two years at Cal Poly. In addition to the normal adjustments any freshman has to make, there was the added stress of my financial situation," he said.

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A Student Favorite for 20 yrs.

Hand Carved French Dip Sandwiches

Salad Bar-Fish + Chips

1/3 lb Burgers-Steak Sandwiches

Daily Specials-Chowder

Heineken-Budweiser-SLO Brewing on tap

From page 3
He said he is not optimistic about a role in the new German government.

About 220,000 government workers nationwide automatically went into employment limbo. They will receive about 70 percent of their pay while West German officials decide how many to keep.

"I know I'm out of work," admitted chief East German government spokesman Matthias Gehler.

From page 1
"Technically, they wouldn't have to tell the public," said McDermott. "They could be using the landfills for wastes but tell us something different. You must be careful with semantics of what is being said in press relations."

Cal Poly Natural Resource Management professor Doug Pirtro said that any radioactive wastes in dumpsters could cause environmental safety problems. "The problem is that the landfills are not sealed," said Pirtro. "There is a good chance of some degree of water contamination and other problems."

McDermott said that economics is the primary reason for the policy being developed. Utility companies also could be creating their own landfills, she said.

Pirtro believes that economics have to take a second-stage to the consequences of radioactive wastes on human society.

"It doesn't seem appropriate that low-level radioactive materials of any kind should be disposed in our landfills," said Pirtro.

"If they have the economics to deal with nuclear power, they should have the economics to safely get rid of its wastes."

From page 3
many activities planned for this year. The club will organize excursions to Air Force bases, air traffic control installations, air shows and aviation symposiums.

The organizers of the club expect to maintain a reference library of aviation publications, including books, periodicals and videotapes. The Mustang Aviation Club also will offer seminars and speeches presented by representatives from the fields of aviation and aeronautics.

Faculty advise for the aviation club is Daniel Biezad, an aeronautical engineering professor.

The club will hold its first meeting Monday, Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held in the Graphic Arts building. Room 104. For more details, call Lipper or Cardozo at 544-4636.

Information for today's columns was provided by the Mustang Aviation Club.

Stop by and visit your ArtCarved representative during this special event. Check out our awesome collection of styles. ArtCarved will customize a college ring just for you with thousands of special options. Don't delay—see your ArtCarved representative before this promotion ends.
By taking certain precautions, Seybold said, owners will more likely recover a stolen bike. Without proper proof, the original owner cannot get the bike back. Many times, he said, the bikes are not claimed by the owners and end up sitting in a warehouse. Recovered bikes can sit for as many as six months until they are auctioned off.

"Each year 400 to 500 bikes are sold at the auction because bikes are not claimed by the owner," Seybold said. Without proper proof, the original owner cannot get the bike back. Many times, he said, the bikes are not claimed by the owners and end up sitting in a warehouse. Recovered bikes can sit for as many as six months until they are auctioned off.

"Each year 400 to 500 bikes are sold at the auction because bikes are not claimed by the owner," Seybold said.
DSS

From page 5

The students at Cal Poly are fantastic. Often they are a little hesitant to help a disabled student, but it is only because they don't want to offend them. Use your best judgement," Currier said. "The best idea is to go ahead and ask the disabled student if you think he or she needs help, but don't worry, it's a good idea to help out." Beth Currier has been assisting DSS for nearly 13 years and has had several additional operations since then, including one that took nearly six and a half hours.

"It would be nice not to have to worry about medical problems. I often get pressure sores from sitting in my chair and sometimes I feel that I am too dependent on medication," Best said.

Best used to be as active in sports as he possibly could before his major surgery. His brother, Tim, has inspired him to get involved in sports in his own special way. Tim went to Nepal two years ago on a rock climbing expedition and has encouraged his little brother to build his arm strength so that they can go "hiking" together. "It's not by choice (that I'm inactive), but I wouldn't still be participating in my charge to Cal Poly students if it wasn't for my brother to build his arm strength so that we can go 'hiking' together."

Best's eyes lit up when he realized that he had an opportunity about learning how to play tennis in high school.

"I went changing to the net in my wheelchair, trying to show off my great backstroke, when I lost control of my chair and ran into the net instead. The net bounced back and I flipped out of my chair. That's what I got for showing off," he said.

Best said the only real advantage to being in a wheelchair is that you don't have to walk in all the long lines at Disneyland for the rides. You get to go through the back door, he admits. Best says that he tries hard not to let the "minor" inconveniences bother him. He prevents him from enjoying the basics of life. Best lives with a friend in a first-floor apartment close to Cal Poly and does his fair share of the cleaning.

"Last year I used to 'ride' (in my wheelchair) every day and I'd get to campus much quicker than the students who had to drive to campus and find a parking spot. Plus it was easier."

"I may not be able to do great - I know the path of least resistance."

There's nothing I can do about it now. I have to focus on the here and now."

-Rick Best

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