Cindy Entzi, your new ASI President

By Christine Spone
Daily StaK Writer

Last night, after election results were told to the two candidates in a closed office, ASI President Steve McShane stepped outside and graciously announced that Cindy Entzi will be the 1997-1998 ASI president.

After learning of her victory, Entzi said a million things were running through her mind. "I appreciated everyone here who supported me," Entzi said. "I was worried about an hour before the results came." Entzi beat McShane by 64 votes, 1,291 to 1,227. Entzi said that she and McShane are not at odds with each other. "I'm not going to downplay anything Steve has done," Entzi said. "There are big shoes to fill." McShane said now he'll have more time to be a graduating senior. "I gave everything I could, and look forward to helping next year's leadership team to make sure contributions from this year continue," he said.

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As soon as possible, Entzi said she will begin the process of filling executive staff positions for her administration. She also said that she is excited about the support she received in the election.

This runoff election attracted more Cal Poly students than ASI expected. Around 4 p.m., voting locations for the college of liberal arts and mathematics ran out of ballots, causing a slight downtime of voting availability.

Tamer Osman, election chair, said that because of low voter turnout for past elections and runoffs he had not anticipated a turnout of more than 2,000 students this time.

Osman said that students not able to vote at their polling location could have gone to Student Life and Activities to vote.

See COUNCIL page 5

Academic Senate censures administration over salary policy

By Mary Hudley
Daily StaK Writer

The controversial Performance Salary Step Increase (PSSI) policy created a stir in the Academic Senate again on Tuesday. The senate passed a resolution "censuring" Cal Poly and CSU administration for ignoring faculty opposition to the PSSI policy.

A censure is an official expression of condemnation or disapproval, and is rarely administered by university governing bodies. It's an extremely strong statement that should only be used in extremely serious circumstances," said Senate Chairman Harvey Greenland. "Otherwise, it loses its strength." Apparently, the professors who make up the Academic Senate decided that the PSSI policy created exactly such circumstances.

The PSSI policy is a form of "merit pay," in which faculty must apply for raises each year. The applications are reviewed by college committees, who then make recommendations to President Warren Baker, who then make the final recommendation to the administration.

"In essence, the faculty are being censured for doing their job," said Paul Zingg, Cal Poly provost and part of the "Cal Poly administration" named in the censure. "The president (Baker) executed a policy that this faculty created and now he's being censured for doing it. I think that's unfair," said Paul Zingg, Cal Poly provost and part of the "Cal Poly administration" named in the censure.

The Academic Senate created the actual guidelines followed in awarding PSSIs at Cal Poly, though the Academic Senate created the actual guidelines followed in awarding PSSIs at Cal Poly, though the "Cal Poly administration" named in the censure.

Though the Academic Senate created the actual guidelines followed in awarding PSSIs at Cal Poly, several senators did so unwillingly as they feared it would mean a cut in overall PSSI policy.
Creek renovation helping local ranchers manage grazing land

By Kristin Hall
Daily Staff Writer

The planting of hundreds of trees along Chumash Creek is the final phase in an environmental improvement project designed to show ranchers better management practices.

About 800 willow trees were planted along the creek last spring and 100 oaks will be planted by today as part of Cal Poly's Best Management Project (BMP).

The planting of hundreds of trees along Chumash Creek is the final phase in an environmental improvement project designed to show ranchers better management practices.

"It's a good experience and hopefully in 20 years the trees will still be growing."

- Karen Dulan
Soil Science graduate student

"It's a good experience and hopefully in 20 years the trees will still be growing."

A passive approach would be to simply keep the cattle away from the creek to sustain the area and allow the vegetation to grow on its own.

The active approach is making improvements by physically planting vegetation.

Another creek on the property, Walkers Creek, is also in bad shape. However, the project involves leaving the second creek untouched in order to draw results and prove that BMP practices really work.

The project is a 10-year study.

The project has been popular because it's an improvement," Shottwell said. "The main debate has been whether to take a passive or active approach in re-vegetating the area."

Karen Dulan, a soil science graduate student, helped plant the trees with several other Cal Poly student and faculty volunteers that allow cattle to graze and the creek to stay healthy at the same time. Techniques involve short-term grazing where cattle are rotated every few days. Also, the addition of a water trough to keep cattle out of the creek is encouraged.

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The project is an effort to restore the eroding creek that has been deteriorated by grazing cattle and the absence of vegetation. The creek runs through Easual Ranch, an 800-acre ranch owned by Cal Poly located off Highway 1 across from Cuesta College. The university uses the ranch for its Cows Student Enterprise Project, in which 150 trees and their calves graze on parts of the ranch and are later sold for their meat.

In the past, ranchers allowed their cattle to wander the hillside, continuously grazing. The open range system doesn't keep cattle out of the creek is working without costing them a lot of money.

"Hopefully in 20 years ranchers can improve without costing them a lot of money."

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"I think the thing about the base closing is suppression," said a congressional source in Washington, D.C. "That's ridiculous," said a congressional source in Washington, D.C.

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The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said it would cost $5 billion to move the operations and such an expenditure is unthinkable when Congress and the Pentagon are weighing another round of base closings nationwide.

Anonymous reports may be made to Sheriff's Detectives or Crime Stoppers.

Several parties have offered a reward in this matter which may total up to $75,000.

MISSING PERSON INFORMATION

WANTED

by the San Luis Obispo County SHERIFF

REWARD

Name: Kristin Denise Smart
Date of Birth: 2/20/77
Height: 6'1"
Weight: 145 lbs.
Hair: Blond (possibly dyed brown)
Eyes: Brown
Address: Stockton, CA

MISSING UNDER SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

Kristin Smart was last seen walking to her dormitory residence on the Cal Poly campus on Saturday, May 25, 1996 at approximately 2:00 a.m. Kristin is a Cal Poly student who uses the nickname of "Roxy." If anyone has information regarding Kristin Smart, please contact the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Office.

The Southwestern Company

Average Profit 1st Summer

$6,121

These students participated in our summer program last year:

NAME

PROFIT

Martha Aguileria
$6,700
Ryan Arzu
$5,500
Charlie Brown
$10,000
Steve Clark
$6,700
Gillian Daly
$10,000
Christy Dykhouse
$8,000
Jason Goldrich
$5,500
Drew Graham
$5,500
Eric Jafari
$24,000
Dan Janjigian
$23,000
Sean Kalub
$7,500
Justin Penza
$5,500
Sarah Schisler
$12,000
Ben Strickland
$6,500

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Sean Kalub
$7,500
Justin Penza
$5,500
Sarah Schisler
$12,000
Ben Strickland
$6,500

TRAVIS' CAFE

UFO aficianados claim that research involving space aliens has been conducted at Area 51. Residents in the tiny hamlet of Rachel, Nev., some 20 miles from the secret base, say it apparently is still operating.

The reported closing was met with skepticism by Pat Travis, 53, who operates the Little A' Le' Inn, a cafe in Rachel.

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Mental Health Association providing growing care through gardening

By Monica Phillips
Daily Staff Writer

At the Mental Health Association's Growing Grounds Farm, plants aren't the only thing growing. The farm is a private, non-profit business providing vocational training for adults with psychiatric disorders.

A unique way of growing plants has become popular at the farm, where most of the employees and volunteers suffer from schizophrenia or manic depression, among other mental illnesses.

The Growing Grounds Farm helps boost self-esteem and give training to mentally ill adults who may not find work elsewhere.

"It's given me the discipline I've needed, and health, a paycheck and friendship," said one mental health worker in an interview with Allison Lund for the TV program, "California Health & Harrison.

Not only does the farm provide a learning experience for mentally ill patients, but also for Cal Poly students and other community members who volunteer their time at the Growing Grounds Farm.

"I wanted to have an experience with mentally ill patients," Barbara said. "It's something out of the ordinary, not just broken arms."

"The biggest challenge was to think of them as me," she added. "I'm learning how to get along with people on a universal level. They're the nicest, most genuine people I've met.

Some may have never worked and some need job coaching, and a safer place to feel comfortable with working.

The farm implements a method called horticulture therapy — reducing stress through the care and nurturing of plants. It's based on an idea that when the workers see the plants grow they feel good about themselves and feel they've succeeded at something.

"The farm helps relax people because being in nature makes people feel good. At the farm we have plants, animals and music," said Derren Dike, field supervisor, Cal Poly graduate and one of four staff members at the farm.

They turn down the music during the day to encourage social interaction.

Student Community Services at Cal Poly has also volunteered at the farm. The farm staff said they need campus clubs and classes to volunteer, because there's strength in numbers.

"Cal Poly volunteers are god sent," said Frank Ricceri, farm manager. "When a big group comes to help, a big chore that takes a week could be finished in three hours.

The community supports the farm a great deal. A local Eagle Scout designed a garden at the farm for his Eagle Scout project.

Students from a Cal Poly construction management class built farm's office in two quarters. They insulated, drywalled and painted the office, more than doubling its size.

Cuesta Nursing Students also volunteer at the farm.

The mental health association provides social and vocational services, which are free for the patients.

"To be considered for programs, all patients must have an open case registered with County Mental Health. The farm receives patients through referrals. The Mental Health Association provides services for about 250 patients and at least 50 of those patients work at the farm on a weekly basis.

Some may have never worked and some need job coaching, and a safer place to feel comfortable with working.

"I have a really good responsibility to give, be with other people, teach them how to plan and be a good role model here," said another worker of the Growing Grounds Farm.

According to Dike, employers look for reliability and whether the applicant can perform the job. There are not enough employers who will hire mentally ill adults.

"I can do the job but they need to have more accommodating schedules," he said. "A full-time work week is usually 40 hours. Thirty is a lot to expect from a mentally ill adult and 10 to 20 is good, they're working.

Being outdoors working with plants adds to the relaxed, stress-reduced atmosphere.

"I really enjoy spending time with the (workers) and I can't really beat being outdoors working with plants," Andres said.

The interaction with the people has shown Dike and the other staff members that these workers enjoy working at the farm and appreciate the chance to help in the community.

"We get so busy in so many complex things, it takes people who have struggled, who are humbled by a tragedy to be more in touch with being a humane human," Dike said.

The workers not only learn job skills and farming, but they also get to take home the products they helped make.

The farm produces 13 types of lettuce and several flower varieties including marigolds. They also produce specialty products like basil and chocolate-colored bell peppers.

"We're not certified organic, but we use a healthy way of growing," Dike said.

Big Sky restaurant is one of the farm's biggest customers, buying some of each different lettuce variety the farm grows. They are just one of 40 local restaurants that buys products from the farm.

The farm also has a Masters Gardener Trial, which is a national organization that recognizes high-quality products in the industry.

The farm is 75 percent self-sustaining and the rest is received from county grants and donations.

Dike would like to see other horticulture therapy centers develop throughout the state. "Sometimes patients from Santa Maria want to volunteer or work at the farm, but the bus ride is just too far," Dike said.

Dike also serves as the Central Coast representative of the American Horticulture Therapy. The committee is working with Cal Poly students and professors to add a concentration and minor in horticulture therapy. The concentration would be an option for ornamental horticulture majors and the minor would be for non-majors.

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Religion issue response

Editor,

Yes, I confess I am a sun worshipper as you call it and a regular at the Cal Poly pool. I am really easy to recognize out of the sun what California is all about? I feel I am what a "real" Californian should be. I love the beach, pool, women in bikinis and hot sunny days. If you don’t like seeing people layout at the pool then go back to Oregon, Oklahoma or wherever you came from.

In response to your comments about skin damage, I feel there are health risks in every aspect of our lives. If you’re so health conscious, then I’m sure you

Abusing the sun is fun

Editor,

There is a common myth that sitting in the sun for too long will do you no harm. It’s just that you need to wear sunscreen. I’m afraid that this is not the case. Sun exposure is associated with the development of skin cancer, the leading cause of cancer-related death. Each year, an estimated 48,000 Americans are diagnosed with skin cancer, and more than 10,000 die from the disease. Skin cancer risk increases with age, fair skin type, exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation, and a family history of skin cancer.

Marijuana can be addictive, so take this test

Marijuana is a Schedule II drug, which means it has a high potential for abuse and no currently accepted medical use. It has been estimated that approximately 20% of people who use marijuana develop an addiction to it. The exact cause of marijuana addiction is not known, but is believed to be influenced by genetic, environmental, and psychological factors.

In addition to addiction, marijuana use can also lead to a variety of health problems. These include:

- Respiratory problems, such as coughing, wheezing, and shortness of breath.
- Cardiovascular problems, such as high blood pressure and heart rate.
- Mental health problems, such as anxiety, depression, and paranoia.
- Physical health problems, such as weight loss, decreased appetite, and low bone density.

Is your school and/or job performance affected?

If you have answered yes to any of these questions, you may have a problem with marijuana. If you want more information, please come visit us down at Peer Counseling.

Letters to the Editor Policy Box

Mustang Daily welcomes contributions from readers. If you’ve read something that struck a nerve, let us know. Or, if you feel like striking a nerve, give it a go. Simply email your letter to jamiller@calpoly.edu. If you want more information, please come visit us down at Peer Counseling.

Jennifer Dwyer and Maria Stahura are members of the AOD Team.

Letters to the Editor: watch advertising

Editor,

I’m not sure if I fully understand how the Mustang Daily comes to be. I think it is important for people to know that no one can ever live like Jesus and no Christian can honestly say he is even close. I would challenge anyone to show me someone who successfully lives in such a way, perfect and sinless.

I honestly don’t know how I would get by without th pool. It’s my time each day to relax in between classes and just think about everything, or nothing at all. I mean the pool might look scary from upstair, but really it’s not that bad. Why don’t you come down and I’ll share a few rays with you. I might even save you a lawn chair.

Don Maroldy, Business sophomore and proud pool junkie
John Lee Hooker will dazzle fans with his legendary blues at an outdoor concert in Avila Beach this Sunday. "It's very rare that he plays live...it's more than rare. You won't see it again," said Bruce Howard, general manager at K-OTTER radio station who is managing promotions for the show. "This time he's doing a full set and that's unheard of."

The Memorial Day weekend concert will be held at the Avila Beach Resort. Golden Circle tickets have already sold out, but lawn seating is still available, though Howard expects to sell those out as well. Judging by sales, Central Coast fans seem enthusiastic to see the man Howard calls the "granddad of blues."

Hooker, 77, was inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame in 1991, and has extensively toured the United States and Europe dur-
Spielberg brings 'Lost World' back from extinction for fans

Dino sequel follows book's big footsteps

By James Scott
Art Weekly Staff Writer

Four years have passed since anyone has ventured onto Isla Nublar, an island so-named for its tendency for cloud cover and violent weather patterns, 90 miles off the coast of Costa Rica.

The theme park that once graced the island's tropical slopes, with all its electric Fords and fences and 'attractions as astounding, they will amaze the children of the entire world,' has been fire-bombed to obliteration by the Costa Rican government.

Genetic engineering firm InGen, responsible for finding intact dinosaur DNA strands preserved in petrified tree sap and replicating the codes into new animals, is on the verge of bankruptcy from class-action lawsuits involving injured or killed family members involved with the park.

And John Hammond, the company's chief operations officer, is now a retired old coot in poor health, while his nephew, Peter Ludlow, is driving the conglomerate into the ground.

The park, which was sold to a Madison, Wis., company last year, remained closed.

As John Hammond's friend, Ian Malcolm, who died in the Jurassic Park novel, would have said, 'They can't keep a good dinosaur down.'

Some girls danced near the stage, but most movement was left to the band, playing with an energy that hints at what happened next.

"Schi n dle r's List" was the film that finally made Spielberg a director worthy of every major film award in the world, including Oscars for best director and picture.

A throwback to the horror movies of the Hitchcock era, "The Lost World" is a much darker film, following a pattern established by other pop-culture sequels such as "The Empire Strikes Back."

"Schi n dle r's List" was sandwiched between his two dino pictures. "The Lost World" was the film that finally brought Spielberg the critical acclaim and respect as an artist, winning the director virtually every major film award in the world, including Oscars for best director and picture.

The story, which is literally 50 percent different from the Michael Crichton novel, starts off basically the same.

All along, the theme park island was just that - a theme park. In reality, there were multiple islands; one of which, Isla Nublar, housed the actual genetic labs and breeding grounds for the park animals, who were later transported to another location.

"I never felt the same way about Jurassic Park (as I did for E.T.)," director Steven Spielberg confessed to Premiere magazine for its cover article.

"I didn't think it was a perfect film -- Among the films I have directed, it's not even in the top five. But there was such an outpouring of demand from the public -- I couldn't face the same 9-year-old, new opening. Okay, so you're not going to make a sequel to E.T., I understand how personal it was to you, so why are you not making the sequel to Jurassic Park? And I had no answer to that."

Spielberg has been criticized for the decision to go back to dinosaurs -- make yet another popcorn-muncher flick. After all, history will now record that 1993's "Schindler's List" was sandwiched between his two dino pictures.

Universal Pictures has bet $80 million that we'll all want to see "The Lost World" again.

"I didn't think it was a perfect film -- Among the films I have directed, it's not even in the top five. But there was such an outpouring of demand from the public..."
Art show educates for Mental Health Month

Art show educates for Mental Health Month

By Monica Phillips
Arts Weekly Staff Writer

The Mental Health Association, the county's mental health department and the San Luis Obispo County Arts Council are hosting the 'Opening Minds' art show from May 22 to June 9 at the Arts Center in San Luis Obispo.

All entries for the second annual show were received by people diagnosed with mental illnesses. More than 100 entries have been received and are now ready to offer services for the terminal and their families, as well as for counseling with those coping with loss and grief.

The art show is one of our biggest fund-raisers throughout the year, said Kathleen Wolff, public information officer at the San Luis Obispo County Health Agency. "It brings an awareness of mental health to the community."

An opening reception is held today from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. with refreshments and a silent auction.

"It doesn't hurt to have a mental illness as long as someone doesn't make fun of you," one artist said.

One of the artist's work was placed on stationery and will be sold throughout the show.

Local artists, Margaret Costigan and Adele Campbell each donated artwork for the silent auction to raise money for next year's art show.

"It's not the end of the day when everyone's been dancing all day. Hooker will come on and play more of a nighttime, smoky-style blues," Losie said.

According to Howard, Hooker and Musselwhite are close friends. One was the best man at the other's wedding.

"What I'm crossing my fingers for is to get the both on stage, one on the harp (blue harmonica) and the other one on guitar. They could just kick!" Howard said. "If you're a blues fan, it doesn't get much better than this."
CONCERT

From page A2

energized spirit mimicked in their lyrics and their up-tempo pop-rock style. A unique quality of Dishwalla is its ability to change pace and style at the drop of a hat. "Wonderful Life," the cover song of their new album coming out in August, breezes forth between a hard rock beat and a flowing melodic ballad. These changes made their song more interesting than a pop band that only knows three chords.

Santa Barbara native Dishwalla brought many entertaining aspects to the stage. Not only did their songs vary in style and sentiment, but so did the band members when lead singer J.R. Richards' microphone went dead during the first number, "Charlie Brown's Parents."

"If it goes out again, we'll just stop and then start playing again and so on if it happens again," Richards said.

Dishwalla's bassist Scott Alexander said, "This is nuts. Get a generator."

Richards suggested a loan from the beer garden's Budweiser commercial.

"The biggest new plot development for the film, besides the fact that there are 10 times more people and 10 times more dinosaurs, also would have known from their faces that a problem had occurred."

Some of their songs had very personal meaning to the band including "Miss Beautiful." "This is about a very important part of my life," Richards said. "This is about the woman who gave me my first wet dream."

The crowd in front of the stage grew steadily throughout Dishwalla's set, moving and growing to the heaving last laid down by drummer George Pendergast. Dishwalla's number one hit, "Counting Blue Cars," brought audience members running to the stage. Not only was the crowd up and down and belting out each word to the song about the possibility of a female god. Everyone went wild for Dishwalla's version of "Thrilled Love," a popular song in the 70s and Levi's Wild Legs commercial.

When Dishwalla wrapped up their set, no one wanted to leave. Fans stood yelling and cheering for an encore, egged on by a backstage crew member. Dishwalla resurfaced after a few minutes. "We're going to play a couple more for you. I don't know what, but we'll think of something," Richards said.

"Opening Minds" art show opens at the San Luis Obispo Art Center Thursday, May 22 at 7 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center. Tickets $4 to $10.

"The Lute and Guitar in the Italian Baroque: Their Roles and Repertoire," a lecture by experienced musician James Tyler. Tyler will confer and teach students Friday, May 23 at 216 in the music building at 2:40 p.m. The public is invited.

Eleventh Annual California Festival of Beers for Hospice takes place Saturday, May 24 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tickets $35, designated driver $5 at the door. More information call K-OTTER at 927-5021.

LOST WORLD

From page A2

"Hello there!" she cries incoherently as the 'compy, what Chrichton describes as a 'chicken from hell,' hope out of the bushes and beeps up to her.

Moments later, the compy's friends show up to offer their own version of "hellos."

The biggest new plot development for the film, besides the fact that there are 10 times more people and 10 times more dinosaurs, also comes from the first book: the giant featherless birds escape the island to the mainland, providing material for you guessed it, JPS.

For the film's breathtaking 15-minute finale, with Industrial Light and Magic's spectacular computer-generated effects and Spielberg's emotionally manipulative build-up, the dinosaurs run rampant in San Diego, reportedly cheering children from school bus windows, crashing freeway traffic, dining on adolescent mall rats, slurping from urban swimming pools and cornering yuppies in cul de sacs.

Now who doesn't want to see that?
The chancellor is very clever at portraying this as a sincere attempt to reward merit and portraying it as something faculty agreed to, which is not the case," said mathematics professor George Lewis.

Statistics professor Jay Devore, who wrote the censure proposal, said "administration seems to be paying lip service to our difficulties." He said he was glad the proposal was passed.

"I feel it was a step in the right direction," Devore said. "It's a wake-up call to administration, but I would hate to see them completely ignore (the censure)."

The censure carries no legal weight, so the administration could ignore it.

"Any change in housing availability in the community affects us," Allen said.

He said that currently his department is looking for the best financing for more on-campus housing. They will be asking for student input about housing designs and options.

"What is most important to us is increasing the housing stock," Allen said.

The council voted unanimously to approve the appeal for senior housing. Next, the proposed project M U S T A N G D A I L Y

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CREEK from page 2

Chumash Creek is expected to show improvements in erosion, sediment and vegetation. Forty sycamores and several blackberry bushes will be planted later in the year.

BMP is part of a larger project called the Chumash Watershed Improvement Project. Chumash Creek ultimately leads into the Morro Bay Estuary.

Sedimentation in the creek's water, due to the erosion of the banks, is polluting the water in the estuary.

The Regional Quality Control Board recognized the problem and teamed up with Cal Poly Farm Operations which maintains the Cal Poly ranch to seek federal grant money to help solve the problem.

More than $100,000 has been granted by the Environmental Protection Agency since the project began three years ago. Any funding the university receives from the agency is matched by the Cal Poly Foundation.

The funding for the watershed project goes toward the BMP project as well.

Brokaw from page 3

anchors for the three major networks are believed to earn $4 million to $5 million a year, the Times said.

Brokaw won't comment on contract talks, NBC said. His agent, Ed Hookstratten, didn't immediately return a call. CNN also had no comment.

But an NBC official said Brokaw told an affiliates convention in Phoenix on Monday that he looked forward to spending the rest of his career at NBC and "NBC Nightly News."

"The fact that he has an offer on the table is not news," said Julia Moffett, NBC News spokeswoman. "CNN regularly offers tremendous salaries to network stars. NBC and Brokaw have a successful partnership that has lasted over 30 years, which was reaffirmed on Monday."

Brokaw and CNN founder Ted Turner are friends and neighbors in Montana, where they have ranches, the Times said.

"NBC Nightly News" has been the ratings leader in 19 of the last 21 weeks.
From page 8

AVILA

It is also less expensive. Unocal Environmental Affairs Manager, Hill Sharrer, said that in bioremediation, microorganisms living in the soil use the oil as a food source. If air and nutrients are added to the soil, they consume the contamination faster than would naturally occur.

We're proposing to enhance that natural process by injecting air into horizontal wells beneath the ground and possibly add nutrients to enhance the natural activity," Sharrer said.

He said the bioremediation process could be used only in the townsite and one small area on the beach because of erosion.

He said that one of the reasons bioremediation may not have been considered as an alternative at first is because it is a lengthy process.

"Excavation, at best, can probably remove about 95 percent of the contamination and the residuals left in place would be biosparged, which is the same methodology used in bioremediation only underwater," he said.

Cal Poly professor Christopher Kitts said that bioremediation could mitigate the Avila Beach contamination. He said it has been successfully used for decades. The question is if it can be done quickly enough for public and regulatory approval.

Bioremediation works but it depends on what parameters are placed by the regulatory agencies on getting the job done," Kitts said. "It depends on a degree on how much time they will give us to do what they want to be remedied."

Kitts also said much of mitigation involves battling experts on what is euphemistically called "risk assessments," or how the underground pocket of oil might affect anyone near it.

"I think that's what is going to be going on in the next few weeks. I don't think Unocal's going to roll over and accept this," Kitts said, referring to the county's preferred solution.

The study will be conducted by a team of toxicologists chaired by Greenberg and will include toxicologists representing Unocal and the Masry and Vivitoe law firm.

According to the county documents, the team will be collecting surface and soil gas samples to check contamination levels as well as air samples from homes and businesses sites.

The total study is expected to cost more than $500,000 which will be paid by Unocal.

The health department will conduct a community meeting at the Avila Beach Civic Center on Thursday, May 29 at 6:30 p.m. to get public input about health issues which may be associated with pollution problems. Additional meetings will be scheduled.

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hazardous to jump to conclusions about the extent of the problem.

"I know from what I understand isn't that much different from what you would find up and down the coast," Weidenfeller said. "I talk to people that sleep on that beach every night. I've been going to this beach for 15 years. Nothing has happened. I just wish they would settle down and quit exploiting it until something concrete and specific is found."

Weidenfeller said she is waiting for results from testing currently being conducted to determine the extent of Avila Beach's contamination and the danger it may pose to people. Until then, she plans to become more vocal about the publicity and be more open-minded about alternatives to the excavation plan. "I'll be writing letters to the editors soon," Weidenfeller said. "We just need to wait. It's a beautiful beach. (Excavation) would be disastrous."

However, Leister has a different outlook on the proposed excavation. Even though her business has suffered already and would most likely close permanently should the excavation take place, Leister supports the option. "I think it's a good thing that they are going to excavate," Leister said. "The important thing is that they return this beach to a healthy state. Once it's clean, I'll take my daughter on the beach again. I won't take her now."

Meanwhile, Gregory said the Avila Beach Association (ABA) is attempting to keep some businesses focused on what they will face in terms of the clean-up options. Additionally, the association is formulating ideas to augment business this summer.

"Right now, we're not planning anything on the beach," Gregory said. "We're letting things sit for a while with the (environmental impact report)."
OUTER LIMITS

THURSDAY, May 22, 1997

A beach’s struggle

Health department looking for answers regarding Avila

By Christian Spone
Daily Staff Writer

The San Luis Obispo County Health Department began a study on Monday hoping to provide the definitive word on whether or not the pollution problem at Avila Beach poses a public health risk.

County Environmental Health Director Curt Batson said the county launched the most extensive study to date by gathering data not only from Avila Beach but also from Pismo Beach and San Simeon State Beach to compare results.

"By doing comparisons, we're trying to put into perspective what we find at Avila Beach," Batson said. "The first sample results will be ready the late part of next week."

County Environmental Specialist Steve McMasters said county staff started their work by looking at the impact on Unocal's proposed project for reclamation.

Although the report looks at all viable alternatives for mitigating the contamination, it identifies a preferred alternative - removing the contamination primarily through excavation.

"After looking at Unocal's proposal, we made an exhaustive examination of 71 remedial technologies," McMasters said. "Out of the 71 technologies we created seven scenarios, then limited them to three and took them all the way through the impact analysis. One of those three was the excavation alternative."

McMasters said that one of the reasons excavation was chosen is because long-term impacts are weighted more heavily than short-term impacts in terms of seriousness.

"Excavation is more intrusive, but the Unocal proposal would leave more of the contamination there," he said. Unocal's plan is to remove the contamination through the use of bioremediation - placing oil-eating organisms in the soil.

McMasters said that the county will be looking for public input for the next few weeks. Any action taken will be determined by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, the county planning commission, the board of supervisors and the Coastal Commission, but will be highly influenced by what the public wants, he said.

"It's really going to be up to the community to voice their opinion as to what they think is the best route to go," McMasters said.

Several workshops will be held by the county and the Regional Quality Control Board to answer the public's questions. They will be held at the Avila Beach Civic Center on June 25.

Unocal will be responsible for the cost of the clean-up. Its bioremediation plan is a longer and less dramatic process than excavation.

Businesses continue struggle to boost profits

By Matt Leuster
Daily Staff Writer

"It has cut our business down to below half of where it used to be," Leuster said.

The outlook for this summer is much less concrete for Steve Gregory, manager of the Sycamore Mineral Springs. The flurry of information, some of it conflicting, makes it more difficult to estimate how businesses will fare in the coming months, he said.

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