

Ecologist says California leads population crisis

By CLAY EALS
Of the Emerald

It is urgent and necessary that the State of California demonstrate it can achieve something close to no population growth in order for the rest of the world to follow suit, according to George Treichel, ecology professor at San Francisco State College.

Treichel spoke to an audience of about 500 at an ecology panel discussion Wednesday night in the EMU ballroom.

Admitting the severe problem of population and environment in California, Treichel said, "We in California are the looters and polluters of the world . . . we are the principal destroyers of the inhabitable earth."

He claimed the text of his

speech came from the idea expressed on a San Francisco billboard he had seen recently, which stated "As traffic gets worse, outdoor advertising gets better."

Treichel and University professors Peter Frank and Walter Martin centered speeches around the subject of "Population: The Basic Problem," at the first of a scheduled series of seven public meetings concerning the problems of population and environmental crises.

Sponsored by the University Graduate School Council and the Speakers and Debates Bureau of the ASUO, the meeting was moderated by Larry Pike, University graduate student in ecology.

Treichel, the keynote speaker,

pointed out that 1969 was the breakthrough year of taking the subject of population and environment from the classroom to the mass media.

California is the state a person thinks of when the population explosion is brought up in conversation, he stated. Treichel said California's population has doubled every 20-22 years and most planning of any sort in the state is based upon that figure.

The only people who gain with an increase in population, according to Treichel, are those who have a product or service to sell.

Frank, professor of biology, in his discourse on world problems, spoke of a "malfusion trap" and raised the "most frightening of all world questions," that being "What has posterity done for me?"

He described the "malfusion trap" as the result of an increase in both the birth and death rates in the

Martin, professor of sociology, focused on the situation in the United States by citing many projected population figures. He stated the United States would reach a population of 400 million by the year 2035.

University found . . .

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cruciating on campus, calling for those present to work to "smash ROTC, smash recruiting . . . and ultimately smash the system that this University serves."

- Documented stocks and bonds held by the University's Development Fund and the State Board of Higher Education in "corporations that are involved in imperialism."

- Listed members of the Board and their positions in the community, positions generally relating to large businesses.

- Attacked specific programs on campus and the method by which corporations and the government choose to fund these programs, which was referred to as "buying off this University."

- Criticized the vast bulk of University classes as "failing to shed light on the problems of our era," as "lecturing on navigation while the ship is going down," and as "just another fac-

tory in the vast U.S. information agency."

The prosecution then summed up its case on how the University is in "complicity" with the "system of U.S. corporate imperialism," and the court asked to hear from the "defense," presumably each University administrator who had last week been sent a "summons" to attend the trial, or others in the audience.

There being none in the room prepared to present a defense of the University, the entire trial and audience moved to the steps of Johnson Hall, where President Clark finally agreed to address them.

Before the move to Johnson Hall, one of the trial's organizers claimed that Clark "wanted to make this trial a 'kangaroo court' by refusing to participate."

Amidst heckling, Clark told a growing crowd of several hundred: "I didn't come to the trial because the trial was theatre."

"I do not believe that a university should be neutral," Clark said, bringing cheers from the crowd. "But," he added, "I do not believe that a university should be politicized by any parties."

Replying to attacks from the audience on the University and American society, Clark said: "Any society anywhere will develop problems that must be resolved."

But, he added that he had not heard any proposals from those involved in the trial "that you can engage in," and that the University already has "procedures" for airing grievances and working to change University processes.

Clark left for a scheduled meeting of the faculty, and trial judges called for a "verdict" from those in attendance. Though the decision was "guilty," a large number of those viewing the proceedings, most of whom had not been at the trial but had come from classes to hear Clark's presentation to the trial, voted "not guilty."

Trial leaders then arranged for a meeting to determine what the University's "sentence" would be, and one declared, "we are going to try to close this University for its complicity in war, racism and imperialism."

At that point, most of the group dispersed. Nearly 100, however, regrouped and marched to the faculty meeting in 150 Science "to inform the faculty that the University will be closed tomorrow."

They were denied the opportunity to immediately address the meeting, and the faculty considered and passed a motion to adjourn because of the "atmosphere" in the room.

The students then moved to Johnson Hall where they held a short "sit-in" in the main hall and discussed plans for following up the trial with definite actions.

The group met at 8 p.m. and made plans for a picket of all buildings in which classes are held today in an effort to discourage class attendance.

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