

Economics control alarm system quality

Editor's note: Last week the Emerald reported that "faulty electrical equipment" caused a Esslinger Hall's fire alarm system to go off, calling city fire engines to the scene. The firemen then advised Campus Security to thoroughly check the system for any more such flaws.

Emerald reporter Mike Hefley looked into the fire alarm system campus-wide, especially in the older and taller buildings and the more crowded areas such as Mac Court, to which Esslinger is attached.

"The Esslinger alarm wouldn't sound in Mac Court," explains Leo Brasseur, foreman of the campus electricians. "Lights would go on, and the sprinklers, too, but it's (the alarm system) all silent there for the very reason of crowd panic."

Ron Price, campus electrician, had to be called at his home on a Sunday afternoon to find the source of the Esslinger alarm and shut it off, a skill not common to non-electricians.

"If it's a false alarm, Price says, 'you just have to go around to all the stations and look for it. In the case of a malfunction, as at Esslinger, a light goes on, and you have to look for that in the same way.'"

Up until now, even an actual fire had to be hunted down that way. The alarms sounded for whole buildings, leaving the exact location, it was hoped, to the obvious signals of fire and smoke.

"We're in the process now," Price says, "of installing a new zone system." The buildings will be broken down into zones, and each zone will have a light on a centralized panel wired to its alarm.

All buildings, regardless of age, height, or capacity are installed with alarm systems as up-to-date as exist, claims Brasseur. As manufacturers improve them, as with the zone systems, the improvements are incorporated.

"What happened, apparently, was a circuit got tired and came loose," Brasseur says, "just like

they do on radios, car dashboards, or anything else. But it did just what it's supposed to do in sounding the alarm."

But why suffer the trucks to clang and wail hastily through the traffic, and the unnerving uncertainty of unseen, perhaps non-existent danger?

"Basically," answers Gary Underwood, inspector-investigator for the Eugene City Fire Department, whose territory includes the campus, "because it's the most economical way to go."

"We're operating on a low-voltage system, and that means we can't handle a 'trouble' system outside the main one."

To the question, "What if there were a panic-related tragedy, or a real fire somewhere else while the malfunction-born alarm is attended?" the electricians, Campus Security, and the firemen simply say, "It hasn't happened yet."

Underwood says the campus system has very few actual malfunctions as a result of faulty

equipment or electrical work. But there are a lot of accidental alarms due to the ever-present construction taking place on campus.

One such mistake occurred at Gilbert Hall, a construction site switching from the old to the new alarm system, last Monday morning. The system which sounded its alarm was not yet wired to the city fire department as was Esslinger's, so no trucks came.

"But what happens there is that workmen start getting into fuses and boxes where they don't belong," Underwood says.

University fire alarm systems are especially vulnerable to this kind of mistake because, "again, for the sake of economy," Underwood says, "their circuit is what we call a series circuit, which means it's shared with other systems, and if it's broken anywhere,

the whole thing goes out."

Except, he clarifies, the alarm stations will go back on and continue to function, even though the alarm is already sounding.

The electricians feel sensitive about the frequent accidental wiring mixups, since the blame is often assumed to be theirs.

"Just think about it a minute," Brasseur asks. "Whenever anything like that happens all you read about is 'faulty wiring', 'false alarm due to faulty wiring' or 'fire due to faulty wiring'. Right away everybody thinks of the electricians."

"Just like that story in the Emerald: 'Faulty wiring caused a malfunction... That piece of equipment did exactly what it's designed to do. It sounded the alarm when it went bad.'"

Kesey's literary series rolls on; Leary issue next

Ken Kesey's literary godchild, *Spit in the Ocean*, is back with a second edition, two years after the first one saw its day. *Spit in the Ocean* is a literary series, as opposed to a magazine, which implies regularity. It is a series of seven, and each issue is edited by a different person. Kesey himself was the first editor.

"Timothy Leary was supposed to be the second," says Kesey's wife Faye "but we've had such a hard time getting ahold of him that we put him up to third."

Even so, she says, the Leary edition hopefully will be mailed out by the end of the year. "He sent all the material up to us. We still don't know where he is, but his issue's all ready to lay out."

The second edition was put together by a soul named "my", and is mostly non-fiction, interviews and articles. It will be mailed from the printers "as soon as we get the postage money." It is mailed because the series is sold mainly by subscription, although a few bookstores, including the University's, handle a few copies.

"The bookstores generally want too big a discount," she explains, "and we're already losing money on it."

Plans have proceeded as far as the fourth edition, but beyond that "we want to put out an issue of poetry, but nothing's really solid yet. Lee Marrs will be editing the fourth edition." Marrs is a female artist and cartoonist from San Francisco. Her issue will be one mainly produced by women.

The Kesey's are also looking forward to another Spring HooHaw next year, featuring local poets, dancers, jugglers, and other entertaining talents.

"We learned a lot from the first one," she reflects. "Next year we hope to have a lot more local people. We had a lot of outsiders this year because they were doing a tour for the bicentennial thing, and we just plugged into that. It turned out to be a bit too much."

Subscriptions to the *Spit in the Ocean* series, seven for \$10 are available by writing to 85829 Ridgeway Rd., Pleasant Hill, Ore.

On the job credit plan explored

By LORI PETERSON
Of the Emerald

The Educational Coordinating Commission (ECC) recently awarded the University a \$55,000 grant to explore possibilities for "lifelong learning" (learning on the job for college credit) at colleges in the state of Oregon.

The 15-month grant, funded through Title I of the Higher Education Act, was presented to the University following a decision made by an ECC steering committee.

The grant itself is for "a consortium of universities" according to Dick Fehnel, project chairman and assistant professor at the Wallace School of Community Service and Public Affairs.

"The intent of the grant is to find out what 'non-traditional' learners need," states Fehnel.

Non-traditional learners are defined as people who don't normally have access to higher education because of location, time or family situations.

The steering committee of nine members have identified the methods and objectives of the grant.

Fehnel describes the group as a "committee who cut across community and private colleges around the state as well as the chancellor's office and Division of Continuing Education (DCE) and who have been following the non-traditional learners concept."

Fehnel and the committee hope to determine what gaps are in the network of institutions and will review existing policies across the state.

The grant will also provide for study into a differential tuition policy, where some students will pay a lower rate for tuition because they are not using university facilities, yet will pay full costs on other portions of tuitions.

Fehnel terms this as "bringing in a new market," and he believes it will encourage more people to take advantage of the opportunities at state colleges.

"We will be developing a prototype of a handbook," says Fehnel.

The handbook will identify existing programs for non-traditional learners throughout the state.

Fehnel says it will be "the yellow pages of non-traditional learners programs" and will make it possible for advisers to refer people to

existing programs in their area.

A working conference is on tap for March 1977, and will involve 200 or 300 people, according to Fehnel. Among those taking part will be members of the State Legislature, State Board of Higher Education and boards of directors from community and private colleges. Educators from throughout the state as well as people from the non-traditional learning group will participate. Recommendations will be made to the State Board of Higher Education following the conference.

"U of O currently makes no direct attempt to reach these people," states Fehnel.

The University currently has a non-matriculation program that caters to the individual who attends classes for personal interest rather than to obtain a degree.

Glenn Starlin, vice-provost for academic affairs admits "we're trying to encourage rules and regulations to develop the program."

Starlin supports the program for non-traditional learners and hopes to "get people involved all over the state."

Fehnel foresees a decline in students between ages of 18 and 21 entering universities and colleges in the near future and because of this even this campus has to "redefine target population and re-gear programs for older people."

Fehnel, a strong backer of education-related-to-jobs says "the Oregon state system is far behind the times in terms of having programs in reaching non-traditional learners."

Mountain Climbing Rentals?



Berg's Rents:
Crampons
Ice Axes
Back Packs
Snow Shoes
Hard Hats
Summit Packs
Sleeping Bags
Boots
Gaiters and

TENTS

Berg's Nordic Sport Shop
11th & Mill 343-0013

Andrea's Bikinis
Ready Made or Custom Fit
\$9.75 and up

Andrea's
2441 Hilgard
Eugene, Oregon

THE 2ND HAND BOOK MAN
New & Used Books
Top Prices Paid for Your Quality Used Books
Beautiful Selection of Cards

101 W. 7TH • 342-2002

a. d. TENNIS CORNER
ALL COURT
the best features from NIKE'S top tennis/basketball line combined into a quality canvas shoe for all court sports

\$14.95

Restringing stay title nylon 10"

Famous brand tennis rackets, balls, clothing.

Wilson SPALDING TRETORN Bancroft
the athletic department

Downtown in the Atrium 10th & Olive