

Univ. seeks ways to reduce lead

By SHANNON KOKOSKA
Collegian Staff Writer

The exercise and sports science department is looking at ways to eliminate periodic lead build-up from White Building's rifle ranges.

Improving ventilation is one way of eliminating lead-contaminated dust which results from the impact of lead bullets on sand mounts, said Bill Dreibelbis, a University industrial hygienist.

"(The department) wanted to upgrade the ventilation and basically provide a greater margin of safety," he said, adding that present lead levels in the range are safe.

Rob Cooper, a University engineering contract administrator, said his department is looking into improving the ventilation system. The project is "only in for an estimate," he added.

He was unable to quote an exact figure but said implementing a new system could prove to be an elaborate and costly process.

Another alternative is installing a "bullet trap" — a device which simply catches the bullets after they are shot — eliminating the use of sand, said Mark Belden, a physical education instructor.

The traps, which can cost up to \$33,000, are considered state-of-the-art, and are used at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colo., he said.

Air guns are another possibility, he said, but they also contain lead.

Bob Ricketts, activity coordinator for the riflery program, said use of air guns would entail purchasing new equipment. The University currently receives free ammunition from the



A shot of the White Building rifle range shows lead build-up in sand mounts. The photo was taken Aug. 30.

government because it follows standards set by the director of civilian marksmanship, he said.

Sand mounts currently used in the rifle ranges must be replaced every four or five years, due to fragmentation and lead build-up caused by the firing of lead bullets into the sand, said Robert Eisenbraun, coordinator for basic instruction.

New sand mounts were installed during the first week of classes, he said. Riflery classes postponed during the installation period have resumed.

Louis Plank, physical plant store-room supervisor, said the old sand is currently being stored in a locked area behind the Maintenance and Opera-

tions Building, and is covered with tarp.

Alternatives for dealing with the lead-contaminated sand include finding a secure landfill or hiring a waste specialist, Dreibelbis said, adding that the University is dealing with the sand as a hazardous waste.

Edward Shapiro, a hazardous waste management consultant for Pittsburgh-based Datagraphics, said no landfills for this type of material exist in Pennsylvania, and the closest is in Ohio. Disposal of the waste could cost as much as \$150 per ton, with transportation costs ranging from \$600 to \$1,000, he said.

Dreibelbis said the volume of the 30

to 40 tons of sand removed from White Building would decrease by about 40 percent after it was sifted for salvageable lead. This could leave as much as 24 tons of sand the University must dispose.

Eisenbraun said no decision has yet been made as to what would be done with the old sand or when it would be taken care of.

Tom Griffiths, safety officer for intercollegiate athletics, said the range should have remained closed until a definite plan had been made for the range's future.

"I think it was imprudent and I think it was premature to put (new) sand back in the range," he said.

PSU: Lead in rifle range poses no health threat

By SUE CALDWELL
Collegian Science Writer

Lead-contaminated dust created by firing bullets into sand mounts poses no health threat to students and regular users of the White Building rifle range, a University scientist said.

Previous checks done on the rifle range during firing show levels of lead-contaminated dust well below the recommended standards, said the University's senior industrial hygienist Bill Dreibelbis.

Sand mounts at the White Building were recently replaced because continual impact from bullets fragments the sand into lead-contaminated dust, said Robert Eisenbraun, coordinator for basic instruction. Although a ventilation system at the White Building removes dust particles, sand mounts at the

rifle range are regularly removed every four to five years, he said.

On average, students were exposed to lead particles for one hour a day, he said. Results from the sampling averaged from .004 mg lead/cubic meter to .03 mg/cubic meter, Dreibelbis said. These results are .02 mg/cubic meter below the maximum safe exposure level established by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

"We feel very comfortable that we are below levels that might cause any problems," he said.

Dreibelbis said people are exposed to lead through breathing fumes or ingesting it by hand to mouth contact. Lead is not absorbed through the skin, he added.

If ingested in fairly large amounts, Dreibelbis

said, lead can cause vomiting, diarrhea and kidney problems and may even affect the central nervous system.

"You would have to eat a bunch of bullets," he claimed.

Lead accumulates in the body at a very slow rate because the body is continually excreting lead through urination, Dreibelbis said. Industrial experts who work with lead on a daily basis are at the greatest risk for lead poisoning, he added.

Chronic exposure to lead may exert adverse effects on the blood, nervous systems, heart, endocrine and immune systems, kidneys and reproductive system, according to a material safety data sheet. Symptoms of acute exposure include thirst, a metallic taste, a burning sensation in the mouth and throat, excessive saliva and abdominal pain.

New program helps students quit smoking

By SUE CALDWELL
Collegian Science Writer

If you've been trying to stop smoking but the urge to take a puff continuously haunts you, Ritenour Health Center has a new program in which peers will try to help you quit.

Beginning tonight a free three week smoking cessation program called Peers Supporting Quitting will attempt to help 15 students kick the smoking habit. Bobby Pfau, assistant director at Ritenour, along with peer educators will lead students through role play situations and offer support to those interested in quitting.

The program will meet from 6:45 to 7:45 every Tuesday and Thursday night in 28 Ritenour beginning tonight and ending September 19. Pfau said interested students may still sign up for the program by calling 863-0461 by 5:00 this afternoon. For those students who do not make the deadline, Ritenour will sponsor two more PSQ programs during the Fall Semester.

Pfau said last semester Ritenour used the American Cancer Society's Fresh Start Program, but has since modified that program to create PSQ. Topics such as how to resist smoking in an alcohol-related situation and smoking roommates will be discussed, she said.

Laura Suchey (senior-corporate fitness and health), a peer educator for PSQ, said the program will not help students unless they want to quit smoking.

A lot of smoking is stress related, she said. Pfau added that September is a perfect time to quit smoking because students are not confronted with as much stress compared to other times of the year.

Students should also consider quitting, Pfau said, because of the recent

Student surveys at the University show more females smoke than males, the assistant director at Ritenour Health Center said.

emphasis on a smoke free working environment.

"You might as well quit while you are here and you can go to the workforce smoke free," she said.

Methods on how to hinder the urge to smoke will also be presented. If the desire to smoke arises, Suchey said, cinnamon sticks offer an excellent alternative. By the time someone finishes sucking the cinnamon stick the urge to smoke is over, she added.

In any given student population, Pfau said, 15 to 21 percent of the students smoke. Student surveys at the University show more females smoke than males, she said.

This is largely due to reliance on cigarettes as a weight suppressants, which Pfau said is not a myth.

"Smoking does tend to keep your weight down," she said.

In addition to the regular programs, students can also attend a monthly support group. The first such group will meet 8 p.m. Monday, September 21.

"It's much more supportive with other students than the general public," Pfau said.

Ready-made quit kits containing "Kiss me I don't smoke" stickers, chewing gum, toothpicks and quitting tips are available at Ritenour to interested students Pfau said.

Hearings set to evaluate Paul Robeson procedures

Although no plans have been made to cancel upcoming programs, hearings will be held sometime this week to evaluate existing event procedures at the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, said Lawrence Young, the center's director.

Safety concerns arose after a fight involving members of Omega Psi Phi and Kappa Alpha Psi fraternities broke out during a dance at the center Aug. 26. One man was injured in the fight, University Police Services reported.

The hearings will look at ways to pre-

vent such disturbances from happening again, Young said. "The concern, I think, is to provide a safe environment for all students," he said.

Last Wednesday, both fraternities made statements at the semester's first Black Caucus general assembly meeting, apologizing for any problems caused by the fight.

Both fraternities stressed that the incident was not a Greek but a personal matter.

— by Shannon Kokoska

ATTENTION!

ATTENTION!

STUDENT ORGANIZATION LEADERS!!

The Division of Student Programs is offering an **Orientation Program for YOU!** The intent of the program is to provide you with important information that will help you to be more effective leaders of your organization.

If your organization receives funding from the Student Organization Budget Committee, Program Development Fund, or other University sources, you should plan to attend. The Orientation Program will be Tuesday, September 5th at 7:00 P.M. in the H.U.B. Assembly Room. If you have questions call **863-4926**.

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