

Friday, April 27, 1984 — Santa Cruz Sentinel—A-5

Support column cracked at Bayview during quake

SANTA CRUZ — A supporting column in the three-year-old Bayview School media center cracked under the strain of Tuesday's earthquake, school district officials revealed Thursday evening.

Chuck Rutter, Santa Cruz City Schools maintenance and operations director, told school trustees at a special meeting at the DeLaveaga School Media Services Center that the 18-foot column would be replaced today.

Rutter also told the School Board that two overhead beams supported by the cracked column developed cracks after the temblor, which was centered in the Santa Clara Valley and measured variously at 5.8 and 6.2 on the open-ended Richter scale.

Rutter, who said the school's new media center had been built to meet the state's latest seismic safety standards at the time of its construction, said he believed that both the column and the beams had cracked because of internal flaws. He said, however, that he was hopeful that the

overhead beams would "resume their proper shape" when the damaged column is replaced and the "stress is taken off them." If necessary, he said, the beams will be bound with metal straps, or replaced.

The metal and wood shop ceiling at Soquel High School was also damaged slightly in the quake, Rutter said. He said ceiling tiles were cracked when the "roof apparently flexed."

Otherwise, Rutter said, the district's six elementary schools, two junior highs and four high schools survived the earthquake unscathed. "There were no reports of any foundation damage or any walls shifting anywhere," he said.

News of the quake damage prompted Trustee Nancy Matlock to suggest that the district should ready itself for another impending disaster. "We've had the fire and we've had the earthquake," she said. "We should be alerted to the plague of locusts that is coming up."