Faculty Member's Work Faces Scrutiny in Book

Allegations that anthropologists, including one former UCSB professor, deliberately infected a South American Indian tribe with a deadly measles epidemic in 1968 while administering the Edmonston B measles vaccine have sparked fierce debate in the anthropological community.

In the book Dark Races in El Dorado, University of Pittsburgh scholar Patrick Tierney alleges that UCSB anthropology Professor Emeritus Napoleon Chagnon, and former University of Michigan geneticist James Neel intentionally infected the Yanomamó tribe with a deadly measles epidemic in 1968 while administering the Edmonston B measles vaccine.

The book also suggests that Chagnon falsified evidence to support his theories of inherent violence among the indigenous Brazilian and Venezuelan tribe. Last weekend in San Francisco, scientists from all over the nation converged for an Anthropological Association of America meeting to address the charges and set up a committee to investigate them.

Two presentations at the meeting were devoted to discussion of the book, UCSB anthropology Professor Ed Hagen said. At the first meeting, a panel of anthropologists debated the charges, and at the second, AAA members were invited to the microphone to express their views.

"With one exception, [the panelists] all denounced the book factual-ly, in accuracy and said it had no basis in truth," Hagen said. "The one exception was an indigenous leader from Venezuela who took a neutral position and said the charges are serious and need to be investigated. The second meeting was an open microphone. Some people supported the charges and supported the book and some criti-cized the book and criticized the charges. There was by no means an overall condemnation."

The AAA will establish a committee to examine the allegations and decide if a larger investigation is necessary, said Philip Walker, a UCSB anthropology professor and member of the AAA ethics committee.

"The committee will recommend who might be appointed to do such an investigation," he said. "We're very concerned about the issues raised in the book and the issues raised in terms of the allegations made before the book was published."

Chagnon, who lived with the Yanomamó for 24 years, first stirred debate in 1968 with his book Yanomamó: The Fierce People, in which he suggested that the intrinsic role of violence in the tribe's culture demonstrated an inherent human tendency.

Chagnon is controversial in anthropology because he's saying warfare is a part of evolution and that's why we are here. His theories have sparked fierce debate and have been criticized by many anthropologists.

In the book, Chagnon falsified evidence to support his theories of inherent violence among the group. The book has been widely criticized and has sparked fierce debate in the anthropological community.

See CHAGNON, p.3

Internet Bookseller Goes Under After Facing Fierce Competition

By CURTIS HSIEHAYSU

The bankruptcy of Online Bookseller Goes Under is the latest in a series of online services targeting the student market.

Today's article looks at the end of bookseller BigWords.com and the difficulty in marketing college textbooks online.

In 1997, BigWords, along with Varsitybooks.com, was among the first Internet companies to target college textbook sales. With an aggressive advertising campaign led by students who blanketed campuses with BigWords bouncy balls, the company started a revolution in on-campus marketing.

However, after three years, however, an inability to draw students away from traditional bookstores cost the company its existence.

Online bookellers have faced a fierce counter-campaign from college textbook vendors, shut down on Oct. 20 after laying off close to 200 workers, leaving employees and competitors to ponder the reasons for their demise and the financial promise of selling college textbooks online.

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PARIS (AP) — In a landmark ruling affecting legal-
ly uncharted Internet terri-
try Monday, a French judge ordered the U.S.-
based portal Yahoo! to block Web surfer-
"God save these United States,"
gained ground.
and the justices got right down to business — peppering
counted, would reduce Bush's margin to 796. Gore advis­
certify Bush's minuscule lead without accepting votes
down to this: Seven justices, all appointed by Democratic
on. Weary recount workers pecked through ballots in three
groups that accused the
Yahoo! would be fined
$13,000 for each day it
requires and impose its laws on
nations.
A Yahoo! attorney, Greg
Worren, contended that France had no jurisdiction
and the company should ignore a decision unless a U.S. court
were to enforce it. He said Yahoo!, the world’s most popular
portal, would refuse to pay the fines.
If we were targeting
France, we would have put
the site "French," Worren
"The French approach
would lead to a lowest
common denominator
between which the most
restrictive rules of any
country would govern all
speech on the Internet," he said. Alan Davidson, staff
counsel with the Center for Democracy
The decision capped a
seven-month court battle initiated by anti-racism
groups that accused the
Santa Clara, Calif.-based
company of violating French hate laws and in
which the trial judge called reliance on leading technical experts to examine the feasibility of "offing" the Internet.
"Offing" the Internet was not the end of what Harvard law professor Joseph Califano
called "a popular anthem of the Internet."
To the extent that governments insist on
main types of control, freedom on
the Internet will be restricted.
— Lawrence Lessig
Stanford University Internet law scholar
Washington, D.C. "What happens when the govern-
ment of China decides to
prosecute a human rights
group in the U.S. for dis-
seminating dissident materials that are legal here but ileg-
gal there?"
Lawrence Lessig, a Stanford University Internet law scholar, called Monday’s decision the
clarest example to date of
a free and sovereign nation setting rules for what
text can be accessed from its side
"To the extent that gov-
ernments insist on more of these types of control, free-
dom on the Internet will be restricted," he said.
The decision looks to
sugar the beginning of the end of what Harvard law professor Joseph Califano called "the popular anthem of the Internet."
Although experts agree it is technically impossible to completely block access to websites, software exists
that allows sites to certify the origin of visitors and deny them access based upon a computer’s regist-
redǔ" location. That soft-
ware is only expected to get better and cheaper with time.
Monday’s ruling also highlights the difficulties of developing an international Internet legal code,
given nations’ differing policy impera-
sions. The European Union is currently drafting such a code.
Court Wrestles With Question of Florida Recount
WASHINGTON (AP) — A
transferred nation turned its
eyes to Florida’s Supreme
Court, where an army of
lawyers for Al Gore and George W. Bush battled Monday over whether the
manoeuvre election should drag
on. Weary recount workers pecked through ballots in three
Democratic-leaning counties, wondering if their labor
would be for naught.
After 13 days of suspended political animation, law-
suit lawyers and courtorraine the presidential election may come
down to this: Seven justices, all appointed by Democratic
governors, will decide if the GOP secretary of state can certify
Bush's miniscule lead without accepting votes counted
by hand.
Bush’s official lead stands at 930 votes. Gore picked
up 134 votes in manual recounts by late Monday, which, if
counted, would reduce Bush’s margin to 796. Gore’s law-
Yay’s free speech
advocates say the case could set a dangerous precedent
by granting one country the right to reach across bor-
cers and impose its rules on
other countries.
A Yahoo! attorney, Greg
Weiss, contended that France had no jurisdiction
and the company should ignore the decision unless a U.S. court
court to do just that. GOP attorneys had their turn, which
began Thursday in San Francisco and
This is my mis-
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Bill Babbitt, of Sacramento County: "This is my mis-
mownterday that began Thursday in San Francisco and
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"I don’t believe it was
right to examine the feasibility of "offing" the Internet.
"It was difficult for me to come, but I had to,“ said Bill Babbitt of Sacramento County. "This is my mis-
movement.
Babbitt was a witness at the execution of his brother,
Manuel Babbitt, who was put to death in May 1999 for
killing a 78-year-old woman to death.
There are 564 men and 15 women on California’s
death row.
AP Wire Shorts
SAN QUENTIN, Calif. (AP) — More than 100 pro-
testers rallied at San Quentin prison to demand an end
to the death penalty.
The Sunday protest capped an anti-death penalty
conference that began Thursday in San Francisco, and
brought more than 1,000 execution opponents to the
city.
"The conference is the first of its kind and hopefully
the beginning of a new strong movement," said Kurt
Rosenberg of Americans for Civilian Service Committee, a
Quaker group that helps organized the protest.
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death row.

Weather
Every two weeks, it is the same thing: I buy food, and it disappears before I eat it. Of course, the weather-forecasters always have "no idea" what happened to it.
Well, I finally reached my breaking point over the weekend when I asked them, "Who ate my 45 of my 60 Costo taquito?"
All I heard was silence. Now, it’s pretty hard to lie about 45 taquitos, but if there’s anyone who can pull it off, it’s my Vista roommates. Regardless, the battle lines have been drawn, and apparently nothing is sacred in the ice box... even unopened frozen foods.
Tuesday’s forecast: 100 percent chance of a great white food blanket lecturer.
CHAGNON
Continued from p. 1
Chagnon showed was a huge number of people dying and a huge impact on the society. Other researchers have shown similar results. Chagnon was right — it's an upsetting message.

In his book, Tierney accuses Chagnon and Neel of deliberately infecting the Yanomamo because, "scientists had been competing worldwide to observe measles in a 'virgin soil' population." As an e-mail sent in September to the AAA by anthropology professors from Cornell University and the University of Hawaii first brought attention to these charges.

"In its scale, ramifications, and sheer criminality and corruption, it is unparalleled in the history of anthropology," the e-mail stated. "The epidemic appears to have been caused, or at least worsened and more widely spread by a campaign of vaccination carried out by the team, which used a virulent vaccine (Edmonston B) that had been counterindicated by medical experts for use on isolated populations with no prior exposure to measles (exactly the Yanomamo situation)."

Chagnon, who retired from UCSB in 1999, responded in a written statement to Time Magazine in September: "The assertion that James V. Neel, I and others of our research team deliberately infected the Yanomamo Indians with measles in 1968 to document how many would die is nothing short of heinous," he wrote. "I think that a large amount of professional jealousy lies behind this." The president of the National Academy of Sciences, Bruce Alberts, also released a statement refuting the allegations, claiming the vaccine is scientifically incapable of causing the measles virus.

"Although Darkness in El Dorado gives the appearance of being well-researched, in many instances the author's conclusions are either contradicted or not supported by the evidence he cites," Alberts stated. "Edmonston B virus vaccine was not virulent. It was a licensed, attenuated vaccine whose safety has been established. ... Second, in all instances of intensive study, the vaccine was never found to produce a communicable effect. It could not produce measles, nor could it produce a similar, communicable disease."

Tierney additionally alleges that Chagnon staged films and falsified evidence, effectively portraying the Yanomamo as a violent culture in order to substantiate theories of evolutionary warfare.

"One of the allegations made in the book was that Chagnon falsified evidence," Hagen said. "When you look at other people's studies, there's no evidence that Chagnon falsified or misrepresented data. Everybody may not agree with his theories, but there's no empirical evidence he has done any of these things. There are figures that show he's correct."

The New Yorker, which published an article by Tierney in September, defended Tierney's arguments against an article written by UCSB anthropology professor John Tooby, who denounced allegations made in both the book and article. The New Yorker cited passages within the book that note the Yanomamo's contact with outsiders other than Chagnon.

"Tierney never claimed, then, that Chagnon was the sole cause of the violence he recorded," the magazine stated. "Tierney's research ... does show that some of Chagnon's actions had the effect of promoting conflicts that he then attributed to the ferocity of the people he was studying."
I began, she said, but after a number of small contributions, person smile makes me thanksgivings operating his own offshoot of the San Diego Basket Brigade, where he reached out to hundreds of low-income families in Chula Vista, Oceanside, Vista, and other areas of his hometown with meals, clothes and toiletries he personally gathered and distributed. “To see another person smile makes me happy,” he said. “Everything you do, you do for yourself of course, but when I help others, it helps me... When I was a senior in high school, I delivered the baskets to needy families and their faces were like, ‘Wow.’”

This year, Scherger chose to focus his efforts on Santa Barbara County. Over the course of a few months, he collected five trashcans full of clothes and toiletries donated by Francisco Torres, Fontainebleu and Firestone Annex residents. In addition, the Chinese American Association at UCSB recently gave him 400 cookbooks, and $14,000 in monetary donations that morning, Monday became a turn-around day. “Every Thanksgiving, Robbins does a Basket Brigade,” he said, relating the story of his own desire to help people. “And he came up to them and said, ‘I didn’t put this together, I’m just the delivery person.’”

Scherger’s belief that able strangers should help strangers in need played an ironic part in a turning point in his life in January. While coming back from Las Vegas around 3 a.m. on New Year’s Day, Scherger, who was an FT resident assistant at the time, was hit head-on by a drunken driver. The drunken driver was not wearing a seatbelt and died on impact, while Scherger and his then-girlfriend, Jolene Blenz, survived thanks to two seatbelts.

On Nov. 7, I was in the back of my truck going ‘VOTE FOR AL GORE,’ with my stereo on, the CD player that I had pulled over and (an officer) said, ‘You can’t be in the back and the next day you would die, too. You’re 21, and I’m so sorry, I never knew that.’” And then he said, ‘You’re on eject.’ And I’m all, ‘No I’m not...’ and he said, ‘You’re drunk, too,’ Scherger said, laughing, “I hadn’t had anything to drink.”

Though his community involvement has run into these kinds of setbacks, not to mention Scherger’s hours of solo labor, he holds fast to the optimistic ideal that positive change emerges by the work of one individual is important and worthwhile. He retold his favorite story, an anecdote from Tab Ramos of Famous Ramos Cookies, which he feels best explains why he continues and will continue to help those less fortunate than him in the future.

One night while on a vacation in Mexico, a man decided to take a midnight stroll down the deserted beach. There was a full moon down the beach, and he could make out what appeared to be a young boy. It appeared that this boy would scurry around the beach, reach around and pick up something and throw it as hard as he could back in the surf. As the man drew closer, he looked down to discover that the beach was littered with

PHOTOS BY ALEX WARD / DAILY NEXUS

**Feature**

**Salvation Army Santas: Eat Your Heart Out**

**UCSB Junior Gabe Shergar Is Holiday Altruism In Action**

**BY TED ANDERSEN Staff Writer**

Pessimists often say one person can’t make a difference. Twenty-one-year-old UCSB junior Gabriel Scherger knows he can.

The geography and pre-med major’s holiday ideology revolves around the notion that one person can make a difference, and regardless of the size of the ripple of difference he creates, it still impacts the lives of others.

Each year since 1997, Scherger spent Thanksgivings operating his own offshoot of the San Diego Basket Brigade, where he reached out to hundreds of low-income families in Chula Vista, Oceanside, Vista, and other areas of his hometown with meals, clothes and toiletries he personally gathered and distributed. “To see another person smile makes me happy,” he said. “Everything you do, you do for yourself of course, but when I help others, it helps me... When I was a senior in high school, I delivered the baskets to needy families and their faces were like, ‘Wow.’”

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The crash put Scherger into a 10-day hospital with a broken nose for two months. He said his parents and girlfriend, however, he is happy admitted that he is not a religious person.

Now back in strong health, Scherger said he seeks to make the most out of his life right now. However, he admits that his own accumulated personality hasn’t been easy to manage, his environment in the past month. He was arrested on Oct. 21 on Del Playa Drive and Nov. 2 while drinking and driving. The man responded that there must be thousands of miles of beach and millions of stranded people. How much difference could one boy hope to make? The boy pondered this for a moment, looked at the starfish in his hand, and I started dancing for them. And then there was this car behind me and people were like, ‘Watch out, there’s a car behind you,’ he said. ‘And then I got hand-cuffed and taken to the drunk tank. I’m 21, and I had a shot at a half.”

“I’m very outgoing and very crazy, and a cop pulled me aside on [Oct. 21] when I was at a highlighter party — I put highlighter fluid all over my body, and I was looking for my ex-girlfriend. I saw all these pretty girls, so I’m like, ‘We got a party in there, the best party in the world,’ and I started dancing for them. And then there was this car behind me and people were like, ‘Watch out, there’s a car behind you,’ he said. ‘And then I got hand-cuffed and taken to the drunk tank. I’m 21, and I had a shot at a half.”

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The UCSB Bookstore, which has run advertising claims with advertising and marketing strategies. Nakoneczny said. “They weren’t really comfortable with that, and we are beginning to see that statistical data play out.”

As a result, Varsitybooks, which is still in operation, must now follow the NACS advertising code.

“Campus book sales are up and have been up,” Nakoneczny said. “The effects of the online competition have not been negatively impacted.”

BigWords was hit with similar charges from the Better Business Bureau. A message on the BigWords Web page stated they had “succumbed to the powers that be.”

“We took action on behalf of the student consumers,” NACS Public Relations Director Laura Nakoneczny said. “We are beginning to see that statistical data play out.”

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BigWords’ incompetence in managing textbook sales, combined with a poor delivery system, led the company to struggle in a fierce market.

“What you have here are companies started by people not in the textbook business, thinking that textbook prices are too high — which most students do, which I did when I was a student — but without checking the business models very carefully,” he said. “They pricing model is fairly similar to UCSB, UCLA, Harvard. There just isn’t a lot of discount potential there.”

The 2000 College Store Industry Report, published on the NACS Web page, showed that for every dollar spent on a textbook, 24.3 cents went to the store, with only 4.7 cents showing as actual income. The author received 11.5 cents, while the other 64.4 cents went to the publisher.

NACS studies also estimated 1999 online textbook sales at less than 6 percent of the market.

“What we saw was a great amount of herniectomy on the part of the students about buying online,” Nakoneczny said. “They weren’t really comfortable with that, and we are beginning to see that statistical data play out.”

Andrew Duncan Love, a former campus consultant for BigWords, said that the company could not attract enough consumers to support its expanding market.

“It was in fact cheaper, and not just with BigWords,” he said of online book sales. “The problem with BigWords was with the other avenues of business [other than textbooks]. They tried to expand too fast and could not get the business.”

Love, who served as a liaison between the UCSB campus and BigWords from January of this year until the company failed in October, was surprised by the shutdown.

“Basically [the closing] was out of the blue,” he said. “I was shocked.”

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The decision stated that students cannot be forced to fund groups. Morrison, who cited the March U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the existing lock-in fee for the Environmental Affairs Board. Both was placed on the ballot along with a proposal to increase the has prompted UCSB to review, and possibly revamp, its policy on their money goes.

An item on the agenda of last week’s Board of Regents meeting has prompted UCSB to review, and possibly revamp, its policy on student fees. The question at hand is the legality of compelling students to contribute money through standard tuition fees to groups that engage in politically or ideologically motivated activities. The problem is that most of these students do not realize they are entitled to a refund and complain that they are robbed by the Constitution.

The UC Regents glanced at and decided to allow the IVTU lock-in fee to request an allocation from the A.S. Finance Board or lobby for an individual basis, lock-in fees that students do not agree with. The decision stated that students cannot be forced to fund groups that engage in politically or ideologically motivated activities. The IVTU officially altered its mission statement to comply with the law. Any cognizant human being should immediately recognize this action for what it is — a loophole. The IVTU could rewrite its mission statement one thousand times, cast the final draft in gold and still be deemed a politically motivated institution. The IVTU is not attempting to pass judgement on the tenant’s union, but is merely illustrating a point. Nearly everything boils down to political or ideological motivation because these terms are so broad and ambiguous. Political groups, such as the Campus Democrats and the College Republicans, are barred from receiving a lock-in fee, but Associated Students and the Nsas, which are political by nature, are not. The Shoreline Preservation Fund, which receives a lock-in fee, would argue that it is providing an apolitical environmental service, but there is no such thing. There are people who want to rape the ocean and there are people who want to save it — which side gets its way is left up to politics. So, who is to decide what is permissible? Though much is amiss, one thing is clear: definition is necessary in University policy.

If the UCSB administration banned redundancies, excluding student groups from lock-in fee consideration, such groups would have only two public funding alternatives. They would be forced to request an allocation from the A.S. Finance Board or lobby for an arbitrary budget allocation from the A.S. president. Lock-in fees mean the money is coming directly out of students’ pockets, and the other two alternatives mean that the money is coming indirectly out of students’ pockets. El Congress, for example, is not allowed to receive a lock-in fee, but is granted a healthy budget allocation. What is the difference, if students sign the check either way?

Any attempt to legally define the terms “ideological” or “political” is completely futile, because all institutions harbor such motives. All non-religious groups must be allowed equal access to lock-in fee consideration. Students ultimately bear the burden of deciding what is permissible and what is not. If individuals do educate themselves and voice their opinions on mazes, the UCSB administration or a faraway court will decide where the dollars go.
Is Light at the End of Payday Tunnel

This is the Last of the Month Will Allow UCSB Employees to Pay Bills On Time

Mel Fabi is the I.V. Community Relations Committee chair and a senior film stud­
iers and Chicano studies major.

Some days, I have a hard time understanding how it can be possible that people are not aware of their life expectancy. The average person in the United States lives to be about 78 years old. For some reason, this number does not seem to concern many people. It is a statistic that is often overlooked and not given much thought.

As a student, I am constantly aware of my own mortality. I try to make healthy choices in my daily life, such as eating a balanced diet and getting enough exercise. I also try to minimize my exposure to harmful substances, such as tobacco and alcohol. These substances can significantly reduce my life expectancy.

I believe that the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) should implement a policy that allows employees to deposit their paychecks directly into their bank accounts. This would be a simple and effective way to promote financial responsibility and reduce the likelihood of employees falling into debt.

Currently, UCSB employees are required to deposit their paychecks in the Office of Accounting and Financial Services. This process can be time-consuming and inconvenient, especially for those who live far from campus.

By allowing employees to deposit their paychecks directly into their bank accounts, the University would be providing them with a valuable financial service. This would be a significant benefit for employees who may be struggling to make ends meet.

In addition to the convenience of direct deposit, there are several other advantages to this policy. For example, direct deposit can help employees avoid the risk of check fraud and overdraft fees. It can also help employees manage their finances more effectively, as they will have access to their paychecks any time they need it.

I would like to encourage UCSB employees to consider implementing this policy. I believe that it would be a simple and effective way to promote financial responsibility and reduce the likelihood of employees falling into debt.
The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

A Brief History

The story of the current Israeli-Palestinian conflict begins as far back as 1916, during World War I, when the European allies of Britain, France, and Russia were fighting a losing battle against Germany, Italy, and the Ottoman Empire, who controlled Turkey.

- 1915: In an attempt to create a civil war and distract the Ottoman Empire from aiding Germany during World War I, Britain negotiates with Arab leader Sherif Hussein, promising a united Arab empire in exchange for an uprising against their Turkish masters.
- 1916: While the Arab revolt is successfully underway, Britain and France must secretly to discuss the division of the Arab world between the two nations after the war. This information is later publically disclosed by the Russians following the 1917 Russian Revolution.
- 1917: Britain promises Jews worldwide a "national home" in Palestine in return for support in America and Russia for the war effort.

The Intifada Must Continue

By Khalid Amayreh

The Palestinian Times

The following Palestinian blood, which has been and is being shed inexcusably in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as well as in 1948, must not go in vain. The Intifada of al-Aqsa must not be allowed to become the subject of cheap and futile politico-economic jockeying here, whether it be a matter of the hands or our masters and grave-diggers, the Zionists (the Zionist), or by our ultimate tormentor (the Americans), or, indeed, at the hands of our so-called "Arab brethren" or, and foremost, at the hands of the Palestinian Authority of Yasser Arafat.

It is manifestly clear that, with a few exceptions, the Palestinian, Arab and Muslim masses have grown fed up and disinclined to the democratic haggling here and there, whether at the hands of our murderers and grave-diggers (the Zionists), or by our ultimate tormentor (the Americans), or, indeed, at the hands of our so-called "Arab brethren" or, and first and foremost, at the hands of the Palestinian Authority of Yasser Arafat.

Disputes between resident Palestinians and immigrating Jews in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have raised questions about the legal ownership of these territories.

The truth of the matter is that the main preoccupation of Arab despots, most of whom are too numerous to be listed and too gruesome to be forgotten.

The truth, however, which the uncultured Arab despots refuse to recognize and try to suppress, is that their recent meetings were aimed at preventing the Gaza Intifada from spreading to their backyards. Indeed, the last thing Arab despotic regimes want to see is an Intifada against the interests of their American protectors and sustainer, which would be an Intifada against their repressive and decadent regimes.

The problem doesn't stop at the desecration of al-Masjidul Aqsa by the convicted Zionist war criminal Ariel Sharon, or at the serious threats by the Zionists to destroy the Islamic shrine in order to build in its place a Jewish temple. Furthermore, the problem doesn't stop at Ehud Barak's constant efforts and bellicosity to impose surrender on the Palestinian people. Neither does the problem lie in the presence of the British and French police headquarters in Jerusalem.

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FERNANDEZ
Continued from A3
an open-border policy — a fear he finds irrational considering the current state of the Mexican economy.

"Many Americans have the idea that if the borders are opened, 50 million Mexicans will come in. It's not true. The U.S. is a great country, but so is Mexico," he said. "San Diego is much richer than Tijuana, but Tijuana is growing much faster than San Diego. And El Paso is sleepy, but Juarez has a lot of activity." Despite this belief, Fernandez listed several reasons why migration from Mexico to the United States occurs, including higher wages and an already established community. Currently, Mexican immigrants make up 60 to 70 percent of the community. Currently, Fernandez said. "As long as we have this, the incentive for migration is very high." Mild racism compared to other countries also contributes to the influx of immigrants, Fernandez said.

"This is not a racist country. It is not. The U.S. is very well equipped to accept other countries. It took many years and enormous battles for the American people to overcome racism," he said.

"The number one issue for me is protecting human rights, and we have to be vigilant about racism," he said.

Several audience members disagreed with Fernandez's viewpoint. Junior economics major Cesal Salazar believed Fernandez's interference with American society accounts for his naïveté.

"It's good to hear different perspectives of people from not from the U.S., but he hasn't experienced job discrimination here," Salazar said. "It was a great speech, but he was using the comparison model without having experienced racism here."

Assistant Professor of Chicano studies Edwina Barros-Carter also questioned Fernandez's faith in America's leadership.

"There are elements of modern immigration policy that are undemocratic," he said. "Border policies have to be accepted other countries. It is very well equipped to accept other countries. It took many years and enormous battles for the American people to overcome racism," he said.

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UCSB softball Head Coach Liz Kelly has more than enough to be excited about with the Gauchos' 3-for-3 weekend. Kelly was delighted with her team's performance.

The Gauchos' victory over the LMU Lions was a testament to their hard work and dedication. Kelly said, "I am proud of our team's performance over the weekend. They showed great perseverance and resilience."