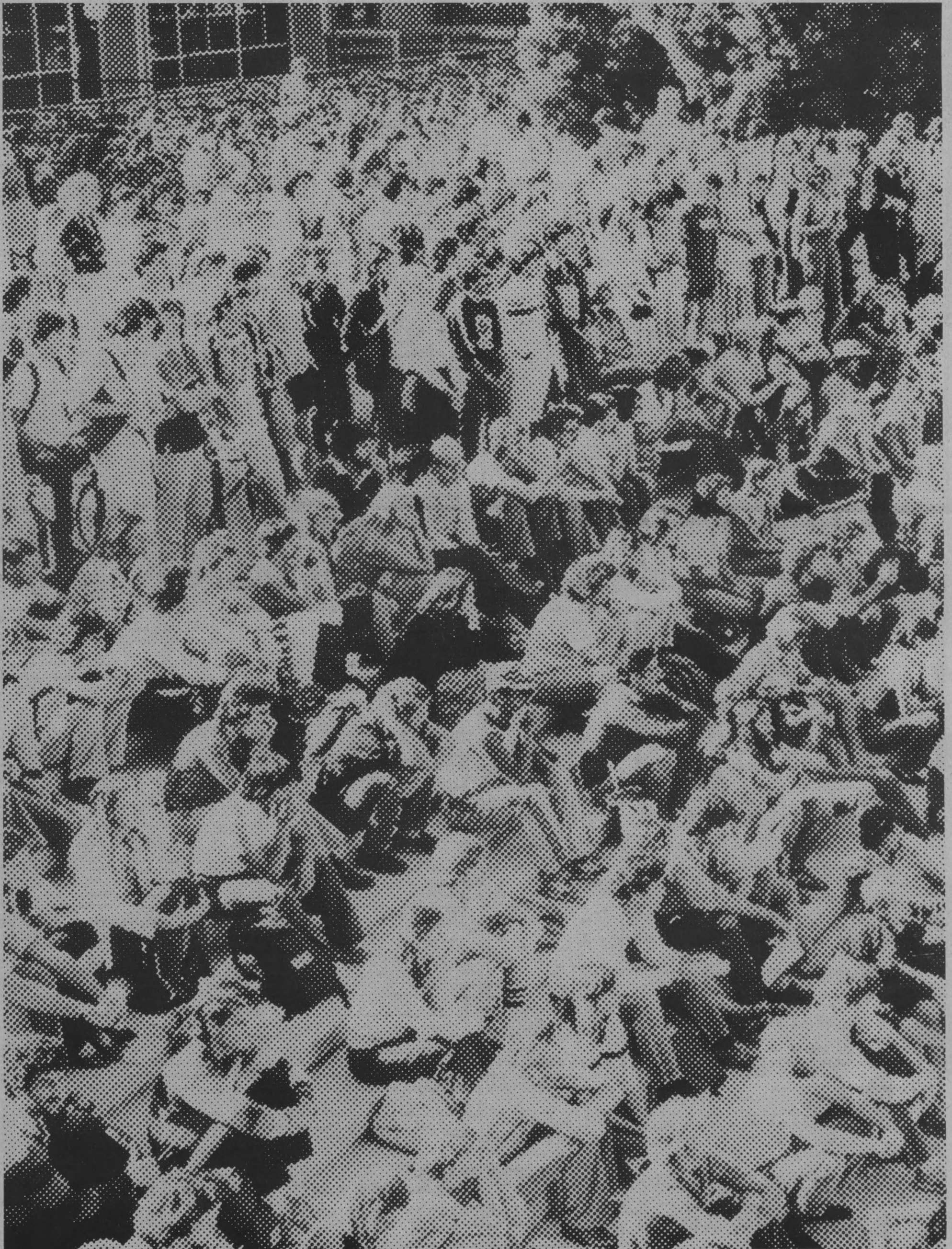


PORTAL

Friday, November 6, 1981

magazine



PORTAL magazine

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PORTAL is a biweekly feature magazine published by the Daily Nexus. Correspondence should be addressed to Portal Magazine, c/o Daily Nexus, P.O. Box 13402, UCSB, Santa Barbara, Ca. 93106.

Soap Opera Addicts Devoted to Prime Daytime Melodrama

George Stevenson is a polygamist with wives and children in Syracuse, Westchester, and Manhattan. It's a shock to the community, causing small town scandal and family embarrassment. What will happen to poor George? After all, one wife has terminal cancer and another is a hopeless alcoholic.

Many people are faced with such turmoil every day - or at least Monday through Friday. This is the life of a soap opera addict. He appears normal on campus and in the grocery store, but something inside him changes between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. These are the hours of daytime prime time.

Whether it's "Day of our Lives," "Search for Tomorrow," "All My Children," or one of the 13 other daytime dramas, the addict needs his daily fix of adventure, passion, lust, and love. He arranges his class or work schedule around the opera hour and is always sure to read the soap recaps in the Saturday morning paper. He subscribes to Soap Opera Digest and owns a video disc recorder for those rare occasions when he is unable to see his soap.

Granted most fans are not

tense tangles in the characters' lives. Most of the dramas are set in a small town near a large city. Almost all of the characters are related to each other, and each has something a bit unseemly in his past.

Some characters are predictably "good," such as All My Children's Mona Cain, and some are notoriously "bad," like Mona's daughter, Erica Cain Martin Brent Cudahy, soon to remarry. Still others change from "bad" to "good" or vice versa, like General Hospital's Heather Webber and Anne Logan.

"The addict needs his daily fix of adventure, lust, passion and love."

All of these characteristics contribute to the soapy scene, but the single overwhelming necessity for success is sex - and lots of it. A recent Newsweek article reported that of the scenes in which intercourse was implied, "80 percent occurred between unmarried lovers." The most frequent sex scenes were found on General Hospital, the most popular soap in the country.

General Hospital is by far the most watched serial by UCSB students, as indicated by a recent survey. All but two percent of the soap viewers watch "GH" and more addicts are being

(Please turn to p.8A)



Students gather 'round the tube for an afternoon of daytime drama.

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Weiner Balances High School, UCSB with Accelerated Study

By SANDRA THOMAS

“We’re sort of a special breed inside the regular zoo,” explains Julie Weiner, one of 30 high school students attending UCSB through the Accelerated Study Access Program (ASAP).

Weiner, who at 17 has more poise and confidence than some graduating seniors, started taking classes at this campus last year when she was only a junior in high school.

“I wanted to learn Italian. I’d been studying it for a year from a friend but she couldn’t always explain the grammar. I decided to take Italian but San Marcos High School doesn’t offer it, so I went to the counselors and they suggested the program out here,” Weiner said.

The accelerated student program has existed at UCSB under different titles since 1967, allowing hundreds of “under-aged” students with special interests to attend UCSB or Santa Barbara City College and transfer the credits toward their high school degrees. The college credits are also retained, and Weiner, for one, will have 40 UC units by the time she graduates from high school this June, enabling her to enter the UC system as a sophomore.

Weiner’s interest is in language. She is currently taking Italian and French and hopes to fit Spanish into her schedule. When she does go “officially” to college, she’ll begin Hebrew as well.

Right now Weiner finds herself between two worlds. “I still consider myself in high school,” she says. “I go to first period at San Marcos, take the bus out here, have my two classes and immediately race back. In fact, I have to leave class early to catch my bus.”

Weiner likes the fast-paced quarter system, though. “They expect you to work, and the people here do. My French class is wonderful. We’re learning so much more than any high school class teaches. They say each quarter at a University is about the same as a year in high school,” she com-

ments.

“I’m getting so much done and yet I don’t feel like I’m being pushed. Maybe when people in high school have to take a language some of them aren’t very interested, so it goes slower. I am learning at an accelerated rate here and I can only speak for the languages.”

But languages aren’t the only classes that lure students from local high schools, junior high schools, and occasionally even grade schools. Mathematical whizzes come for the computer science and advanced mathematics. Others come for specialized

the classes we want. The French class I wanted to take was offered at a popular time. It was closed but they got me in, which I couldn’t have done if I were a regular student. The administration really pushes to get you in there.”

ASAP participants also pay special fees since they take fewer classes. Weiner estimated her fees run slightly over \$100 a quarter. There are no entrance exams or class requirements for the program, and qualified students from any local school can put in their applications around August.

“Age is not really a requirement, says Carasas. When we interview a candidate we look for someone with the maturity and ability to cope with the balancing act between schools. Most of our students are outstanding performers recommended as high achievers. The students must also be able to cope with being in a situation where they are ‘different’.”

Has Weiner’s age ever made her uncomfortable at UCSB?

“I’ve never felt that young. Not old, but certainly not young. I wanted to meet older people but that proved difficult since I rush out here and rush back, so I’ve never been able to become involved in university life other than the classes.

When I meet someone in class I can’t say, ‘Let’s have coffee after class,’ because I’m just not around afterwards. Any spare time I have I’m in the language lab.” Even so, Weiner has made friends who during her interview called out to her as they passed or sat down to chat.

“I don’t consider this ‘school,’” she explains. It’s like playing with Monopoly money — you know it’s money but it’s not real. I consider this “the University,” but it doesn’t seem like work to me, partly because I’m doing things I’m interested in, partly because I don’t really feel this is my high school.”

Weiner participated in many activities at San Marcos. As a senior she is taking Government Leadership, English, a mass media class and advanced theater, but she is also involved in student government and musical theater productions. Fortunately, she receives help from her family.

“My mom is really supportive because the whole paperwork situation is bogging. I’m really fortunate to have her support instead of being here on my own like most freshmen. She helped me with the adjusting her high school and college schedules doesn’t pose much of a problem in the fall quarter, since UCSB starts later and ends earlier than her high school semester. Spring quarter, however, is much worse. “With Easter vacation at two different times, I can’t go anywhere because I have school at one place or the other.”

“It’s like playing with monopoly money — you know it’s money, but it’s not real.”

Weiner will take summer school at UCSB to complete her freshman English requirements then move on to UCLA, UC Santa Cruz or UC Davis, with her eye on a junior year abroad. With long-term goals pointing toward languages, theater and design, Weiner is eager to enter college full-time.

“Right now there’s sort of a two — way pull. Here there are classes, but they don’t have the fullness of friends, lunches, theater activities. Hopefully when I get into college I’ll be more involved.” She already has a head start on the rest of her class.



Julie Weiner Nexus/Sandra Thomas

English courses like classical mythology. Yet the College of Letters and Science supervisor for ASAP, Joyce Carasas, points out that students don’t come here on a whim. “Students join the program because they have exhausted what is available at their own schools. It is not our purpose to compete with the high schools.”

Accelerated students go through the same pre-registration and packet filing procedures as full-time students, but they do get some special assistance with classes due to the restrictions on their schedules.

“The administration is wonderful to accelerated students,” says Weiner. “They’ll do anything they can to get us into

WRITERS

Portal Magazine is currently soliciting original works of fiction and poetry for an upcoming special issue. The subject matter must be original, creative and of interest to the general student body; copy may not exceed 1200 words. Submit work to the Portal office under Storke Tower before Nov. 20, or contact Laurie at 961-3048.

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By PATTI GARON

While few people can tell you exactly what it is that they expect out of a college education, very few people would not include having some good times.

Definitions of "having a good time while at UCSB" will vary, however. For some, joining the human freeway on Del Playa on Friday and Saturday nights is the extent of their socialization; others find enjoyment in sitting around, shooting the breeze, ostensibly studying for midterms.

And, for some, there is nothing like having 25 girls call you "sister," or having an older guy refer to you as his "little" brother. That is to say, for some people, college means never having to say you're sorry for

these people with minor stockholdings in LaCoste and feet of TopSider? What is involved in being a Greek at UCSB? And more importantly, why, with social life so accessible here, would anyone join a house? What is there to be gained by being a member of (for example) Tau Delta Chi?

(In order to protect the innocent, the names in this story have been changed and are often completely mythical.)

"UCSB, you know, is like, you know, a big school," the transfer said. "I was looking for a way to meet a lot of people fast, and party a lot. And I went to Rush, and with all the things they told me, and what it would involve, I, you know, decided against it. It's easier to party on D.P. and just meet people

Buddies."

For fraternities, says Brett Doney, Fraternity Council (IFC) President, are Big Brothers assigned to each party and quite often, the older brother or another member of the same house will have some of the same classes before.

The Greek system here is different from other ways from schools like UCLA, UC and USC. "UCSB has a unique system of the sororities and fraternities encourage activities beyond their house...and petition (between houses) is almost nonexistent." Adds Doney, "We have one of the healthiest Greek systems, and the leaders from other schools are coming to UCSB to find out why."

The "why" is not an accident. The Greek system here is a carefully planned phenomenon.

For sororities, it starts with Rush, which is a "thoroughly planned year-long process," according to Duncan. Rush begins weekly throughout the year, and information is sent before the beginning of the fall quarter to all new and transfer students. The information includes a registration/application fillout and a accompanying request for \$70, used to cover housing and administrative costs for Rush.

Rush begins in earnest when the freshmen move into the dorms on campus a week before school starts (San Miguel and Santa Cruz were used this year for Rush activities), and an orientation meeting is held the first night, with appropriate information on everything one might want to know about rushing a sorority. Rush counselors are assigned, and a series of introductory parties begins. All rushees attend the two nights of parties, and after that, Duncan, "it is a mutual selection process."

It is this "mutual selection process" which often can be a negative experience at some schools. But both Duncan and Doney emphasized that, while the Greek system isn't for everyone, being a member of a sorority can be a definite plus to attending college.

Should freshmen, not used to the rigors of college courses (especially on the quarter system) pledge a sorority or fraternity? "Admittedly," says Brett Doney, "everyone should, but there are benefits in having an older brother (or sister) who has been through it all before."

For fraternities the system is much the same as that of a sorority, except that it occurs during the first week of school. Both sororities and fraternities, the



Sororities can provide opportunities for leadership, friendship and social interaction. Nexus/Greg Harris

forgetting the Greek alphabet.

The Greek system, for the majority of the turbulent seventies, had to fight against some very damning evidence: they were a system that was based on class separation, they depended a great deal on materialistic values, and they were the ultimate in snobbery. This, of course, meant that during the late sixties and early seventies, the membership in the Greek Way dropped; UCSB was no exception.

But, it would seem, things have changed. The country's attitude has shifted, and

"Membership in the Greek houses has climbed to a high not seen since the sixties."

many have said that it is only natural that with the return to "normal" values comes a return to the Greek system.

People are noticing the preppy dressing, on campus and everywhere else. This didn't happen by accident; many people who are already in the Greek system feel that it is born of the desire to, if not be Greek, be associated with the Greek life.

Positive Greek feedback may have started with the film, "Animal House." People who hadn't known that there were such things as "good" houses or "bad" houses or revellers such as toga parties, were appalled, and then later, intrigued. Parents remembered some of their "good old college days"; a phenomenon was born. But, you say, what is this "Greek?" Who are

on the 4th floor (of the library)."

For others, there is the enjoyment which follows after finding people who feel the same way you do.

Lisa G., after rushing a sorority last year, feels that being a Greek has added a lot to her life as a student here. After pledging her sorority as a freshman, she is currently an officer. The Greek system is working for her, and there is more than just the social level involved.

Says Gina Duncan, "...the Greek system...isn't all fun and games." Duncan should know. As Panhellenic Rush Chairman for 1981, she is aware of what is involved, both time and social wise, in being a member of a house here at UCSB.

"People go through Rush for different reasons...to meet people, for housing, because of a parent or other member of the family's experience as a member; and some people...just want to be part of the Greek system."

What can be achieved through membership in a sorority/fraternity here at UCSB?

At other schools, UCLA or Cal State Northridge, for example, the social life is almost non-existent because of the high commuter student population. A lot of the students attending those schools find that sororities/fraternities/little sisters are the only way to meet people. But it would not seem to be necessary here since the social life is fairly accessible, most of it located within the few blocks of I.V. Why, then, has the membership in the Greek houses climbed to a high not seen since the sixties?

"Sororities and fraternities offer a chance for leadership, friendship, and social interaction. And, since this is a U.C. campus," says Duncan, "there is a high emphasis on scholarship, with such programs in sororities as Study Tables and Study



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and Fraternities

Shifting Attitudes

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involved in pledging is the duration of a quarter.

"What you get out of joining a sorority," says Duncan, "is essentially what you put into it. The only definite time demands are the Monday or Sunday night dinner-meetings."

And according to Doney, "Each (fraternity) house varies in how much time is involved, from week to week and month to month."

And the rewards? As mentioned previously, joining a sorority or fraternity can actually aid the member since "a lot of emphasis is placed on scholarship. We can't initiate someone who hasn't got the grades," said Doney. Duncan maintained



Rush is a "mutual selection process" for an individual and a house. NEXUS/Jeff Barnhart

"We have one of the healthiest Greek systems, and leaders from other schools are coming to UCSB to find out why."

that being a member of a sorority can help budget your time.

The Greek system too, can offer a chance for leadership and social interaction in a community sense.

"Being a member of a Greek system - any house - can be a positive thing. People are reaching out to us. They realize that Greeks are a good resource with good, fresh ideas. A lot of people are going to find this out, and use the Greek system."

Some ways in which the Greek system is utilized by the community can be seen in how each fraternity or sorority has a charity which is benefitted by the different functions held by that house throughout the year.

For example, the Haunted House held by Sigma Chi and Alpha Phi this Halloween benefitted the Heart Association. The campus benefits also since the members of the different houses on campus participate in diverse extracurricular activities such as LaCumbre and student government, as well as Adopt-a-Grandparent, and Student Tours.

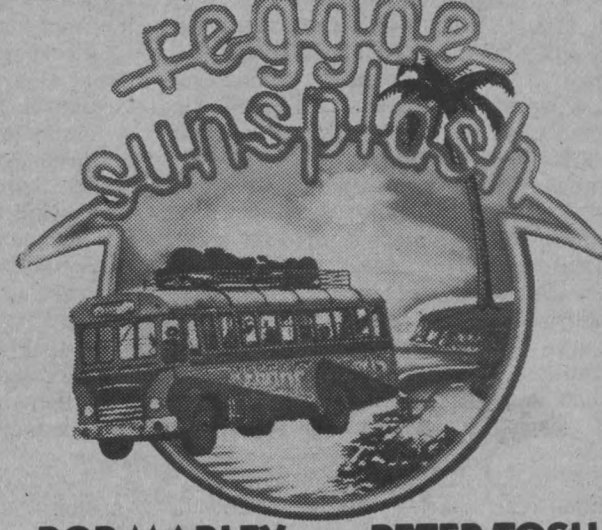


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Anti-Preppie Guidebook Rejects Alligators but Perpetuates Myths

By RUTH HOFFMAN
Ever since Sir Issac Newton theorized that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction, history as well as science has been proving this to be true.

One current example of Sir Newton's law is the Preppie/Anti-Preppie phenomenon. Publishers Simon and Schuster, surely in a desire to cash in on the anti-prep movement, have recently come out with a handbook for this faction of reaction.

Their publication, Ralph Schoenstein's *The I-Hate-Preppies Handbook, A Guide for the Rest of Us* falls somewhat short of its claim, since "the rest of us" is comprised only of Jocks,

Greasers, Freaks and Nerds, categories most anti-preps wouldn't care to be thrown into.

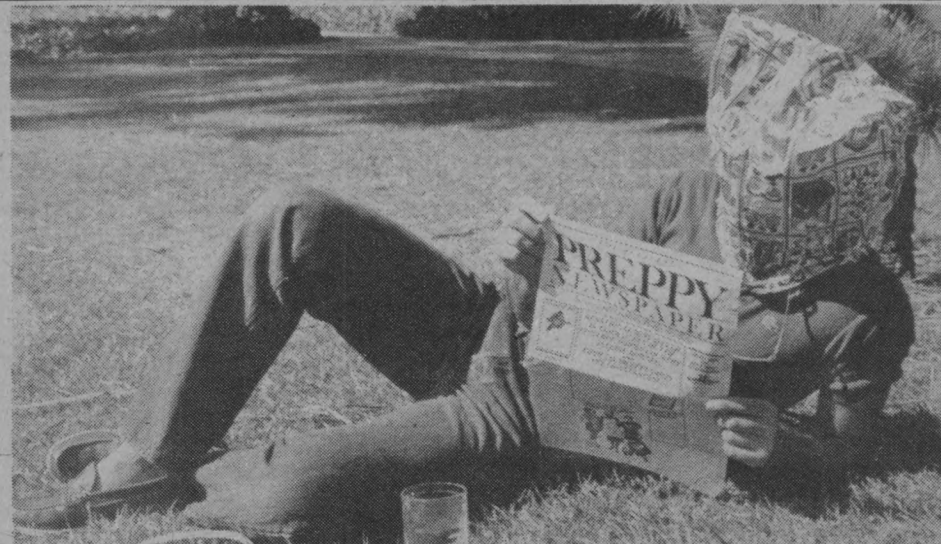
The Handbook begins with a brief, absurd definition of each character type. For example, "Freak" does not mean a woman who can use her navel to launch sesame seeds... (but the category) includes miscellaneous weirdos, like lovers of wheat germ and Japanese whales."

The following section explains "how to spot an Anti-Prep," and like the rest of the handbook, the chapter is full of stereotypical and derisive comments. "Muffie is always the name of a Prep (or a basset hound)," Shoenstein claims, "but

sometimes we cannot determine an Anti-Prep's group just by his name and we have to use some other guide, like his breath."

One of the Handbook's few strong points is its pictures. The sketches and photographs may actually evoke an occasional giggle.

The reading, however leaves one cold. And how could it do otherwise, when the author himself says in the preface that he tired of researching the book ten minutes after he had begun? The book reflects its author's lack of enthusiasm - it is thoroughly blasé in tone, and full of nonsensical comments and obscure references. Shoenstein's low-key attitude is understandable



The Unknown Preppie finds security in La Coste, Top Siders, and a paper bag.

Nexus/Betsy Finnegan

though, since the subject of the book - humor based on social prejudice - could only appeal to the unfeeling and the unintelligent.

When I was buying the *I-Hate-Preppies Handbook* at the UCen for the purpose of

reviewing it, a young man glanced at me and asked, "Is that madras?" I turned to look at the speaker and saw him pointing at my skirt. (Note: madras is a plaid fabric purported to be a preppie trademark.)

"Just good old cotton polyester," I replied.

He told me he had read the anti-preppie manual, but it had not been to his liking. In all seriousness he asked, "Are you an aspiring (Please turn to p.8A)

One Last Word

Stereotyping People Can Be Harmless, Imaginative Pasttime

By JANE MUSSER
Aren't stereotypes fun? When you get right down to it, isn't it entertaining to classify people you see on campus on the basis of personal appearance: the clothes they wear, the way they walk, the friends they have.

Maybe it really isn't fair, but I have a tendency to do this kind of classifying unceasingly. I don't do it in a mean-spirited way, and besides, I really don't believe that typecasting hurts anything. Deep down inside, I know that people who wear alligator shirts and matching alligator socks probably are capable of making intelligent conversation; that not all women who have continually wind-swept blonde hair and wear dolfon shorts think Gerald Ford is still president; that wearing faded army fatigues doesn't automatically make you anti-nukes and pro-whales.

But it really can be fun to spot people who physically fit a stereotype and go on to speculate about the rest of their stereotypical lives. This kind of idle speculation is what makes waiting in bus terminals and airports so entertaining. And it can make sitting through dull lectures bearable, too.

For instance, rather than doodling in the margins of my notebook when a professor begins to drone on, I gaze around the lecture hall until I spot someone of interest. Judging by what

that person is wearing, how they sit, what they are writing, I start speculating about where they live, who they live with, what they think of the person they are sitting next to, what they will do after class, what they did before class, what they had for dinner last night.

With stereotypes in mind, I usually try to figure out their names. Stereotypes can be a hindrance here, though, as I often have difficulty getting past the notion that every woman who wears espadrilles that match her blazer and fingernail polish is named Suzy, and that all men who button the top button of their long-sleeved, cotton shirts are named Wallace, but let their friends call them Wally.

Then I go on to boyfriend/-girlfriend's names (Bob or Dave for the women named Suzy; Gertrude or Felitia for the men named Wally), and if their parents still live together, how old they were when they learned the truth about Santa Claus, and whether or not they watch "The Richard Simmons Show" on weekday mornings, "General Hospital" in the afternoons, and/or "Loveboat" on weekends.

I also try to guess musical tastes. Some people make this very clear, wearing Bruce Springsteen or Grateful Dead t-shirts. The ones who aren't so obvious are the real challenge. Is it true that Pat Benetar appeals only to people who own at least one piece of tight

black clothing? That only those who don't wear shoes can be considered true Jackson Browne fans? That all men with one pierced ear admire Elvis Costello?

Food tastes are easy speculation material. How can women who not only wear but actually look good in tight Calvin Klein jeans subsist on anything but Tab and carrot sticks? Is it an unwritten rule that people who wear leather anklets and feather earrings have to eat granola out of plastic vegetable bags? Do polyester pants and grape jelly-filled donuts go hand in hand?

What about general lifestyles? Of course the ones who are traditionally easy to classify are those who live in sororities or fraternities and those who live in Teepee village. But try to figure out, based solely on outward

appearances, if someone lives in an on-campus dorm or F.T. Do they like their roommates? At dorm parties, do they drink beer or do they prefer wine coolers? If they look like they live in an apartment, where is their apartment? There's a big difference between Del Playa and Segovia; do the residents of these streets look any different?

And what about class level? In any crowded lecture hall, the freshmen are easy to spot because they attentively take notes up until exactly three minutes before class is over, at which point all of them, as if by some inner yet universal instinct, cap their pens, close their notebooks, unzip and then rezip their backpacks. It is of little consequence to freshmen that the professor is still talking and that the

rustling of half the class can be rather distracting. They know that class is almost over and they are ready to leave.

Sophomores generally arrive five minutes late, with the wrong notebook for that class, and without a pen

or pencil. They are fun to watch in class, and fun to make bets on with other nonsophomores about how long it will be before they fall asleep, their weary heads buried in their coffee-stained hands. (Please turn to p.8A)



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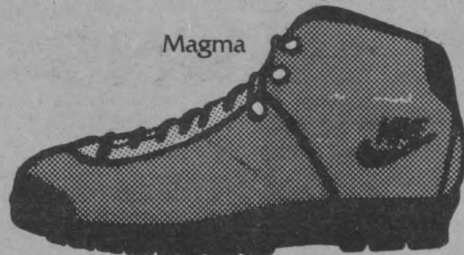
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Preppie

(Continued from p.7A)
Preppie?"
"Oh no!" I exclaimed, feeling like the victim in a case of mistaken identity. He smiled and nodded. I could tell that I was being pegged by my clothing, which consisted of a turtleneck, plaid skirt, and boots - typical college dress.

But while he was sizing me up for a Prep, I had him down cold for a Nerd. He had thick, black glasses, dingy clothes, and the ghostly complexion of a person who never sees the daylight. A complete lack of style. He seemed so much the epitome of a Nerd that I checked his shirt pocket twice for ball point pens and ink stains. To top it off, I was sure I remembered seeing him fumbling with his computer cards on the bus.

There we stood, a Nerd and a Prep. I was so embarrassed I had to excuse myself and leave.

Later on I asked myself, "What pleasure can one actually get from these

Soaps

(Continued from p.2A)
converted every day.

When asked why he watched "GH," one student simply sighed, "Genie Francis." Others claimed that they could relate to the soap situations; and "GH" created a special empathy because the characters are younger than those on other soaps. The magnitude of soap tragedies can also make one's troubles seem much less serious and thus easier to cope with.

Many students think that soap operas are just plain fun.

General Hospital, for example, has become a social event. One visit to any dorm lounge at 2 p.m. will verify that. These weekday afternoons there sit anywhere from 10 to 30 people completely engrossed in the day's t.v. activities. No one will speak until commercial breaks, and then anyone who missed yesterday's episode is filled in on the happenings. When two "followers" meet they have an immediate topic for discussion because "GH" is common ground.

Soap watching is common among both men and women. While the soap opera addict has typically been stereotyped as a woman, the male viewing population has greatly increased in the last two years. The contemporary soap addict may be male or female, housewife or businessperson.

Will Anne become a lush? Has Dorian really found her long lost daughter, Cassie? Will Erica marry Brandon? Did Laura really divorce Scotty in Mexico? The answers lie in tomorrow's episode.

classifications?" I certainly had not enjoyed having my entire lifestyle summed up with a single word by this fellow, and if he had known that my mind was chiselling him down to a four letter label, he would certainly have been deeply offended.

But I realized that many people may find the humor offered in the "I-Hate-Preppies Handbook" quite entertaining, and I am the first to admit that I tend to be oversensitive. Therefore, being as objective as possible, let me say that I highly recommend the I-Hate-Preppies Handbook to all people who get a kick out of name-calling.

Forming Creative Stereotypes

(Continued from p.7A)
Juniors are easy to identify because they are the ones who never go to class. Juniors will usually show up on the day class cards are handed out, on midterm day, and for the final. The occasional lecture that a junior does attend is usually spent sighing loudly, writing letters to friends and looking at other people in class.

Seniors are the ones with the look of panic in their eyes; they are running scared, having suddenly realized that they may not graduate without these four

units. So they make an honest effort, but for many the two previous years have conditioned them all too well.

They never quite get around to buying notebooks, and thus are condemned to either borrowing individual sheets of paper from compassionate freshmen, or taking notes on paper bags. Seniors almost always race into finals and midterms about 15 minutes after the test has begun, looking like they got up 15 minutes ago.

Where does all this speculation lead? Can we

make any conclusions about people on the basis of my stereotypes? Once we figure out that someone is probably a senior who lives in a Del Playa apartment, listens to Aerosmith and Barbara Streisand, eats raw yogurt and Habit burgers, still believes in Santa Claus, and lives with a woman named Rainbow, what difference does any of it make?

Undoubtedly, the majority of my speculation leads to erroneous and meaningless ends. So what conclusions do I draw? Only that perhaps I should pay more attention to

what is being said, in class, to reading a newspaper in the bus station, to watching where I am walking on campus.

On the other hand, I'd swear the woman in front of me belongs to some kind of strange religious cult. I bet her name is Sapphire and she eats raw locusts, and chants every morning. That guy sitting next to her must be thinking that she is really weird. On other hand, it looks like he's falling asleep. Maybe his roommates kept him up late last night, playing that Pretenders music that he probably hates...

the movies



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