



Daily Nexus

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May 9, 1995

University of California, Santa Barbara

Two Sections, 24 Pages

UC Regent Accused of Hypocritical Viewpoint

Connerly's Use of His Ethnicity Questioned

By Ann Bancroft
Associated Press

SACRAMENTO — University of California Regent Ward Connerly, an outspoken opponent of Affirmative Action, denied Monday he benefited from minority preferences while contracting with the state Energy Commission.

Connerly, one of the board's few minority members, has appeared on national television and news magazines calling for an end to race-based Affirmative Action programs in University admissions and public contracting and hiring.

He is a close ally of Gov. Pete Wilson, whose opposition to Affirmative Action is expected to be a key issue in his presidential campaign.

The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported Monday that Connerly's Sacramento consulting firm received more than \$1 million in state business during the past six years by signing up as a minority contractor.

"I have never gone out of my way to certify as a minority contractor," insisted Connerly. "My only point is, if I am benefiting to the tune of \$1 million as they're saying, why am I calling for the end of the program?"

Connerly conceded that since 1988, when state agencies were required to make efforts to grant at least 15 percent of all contracts to minority-owned business, he began checking the "yes" box — certifying that his firm is owned by a minority — on Energy Commission contracts he won for his client, California Building Officials.

His 17-employee firm also administers federal Community Development Block Grants, and 15 communities that hired Connerly and Associates in the past two years told regulators they complied with Affirmative Action requirements by hiring a minority-owned firm.

Although Connerly's firm is owned in equal partnership with his wife, he said his attorney ad-

See REGENT, p.9

Previous University Police Officer Added to Prevent Retail Hoarkings

By Sylvia Luis
Staff Writer

A former UCSB employee was recently rehired to take a security position at the UCen Bookstore and install 32 surveillance cameras and have already led to the capture of thieves.

Since former Campus Police Community Relations officer Will Wood was named loss prevention manager May 1, five bookstore thieves have been caught by the cameras.

"I've had the job for a week and most of my time is spent getting the cameras up and running," Wood said. "We're letting a lot of students know that we

have this prevention."

Theft results in a loss of profit, which means increased prices for customers, according to bookstore Director Ken Bowers.

"One of the unfortunate things about theft is that when one steals, another pays for it," he said. "The main goal is to keep prices at or below current level through the reduction of costly losses. Will is really involved with loss prevention. He prevents the loss of articles that are owned by the bookstore. A lot of it is shoplifting."

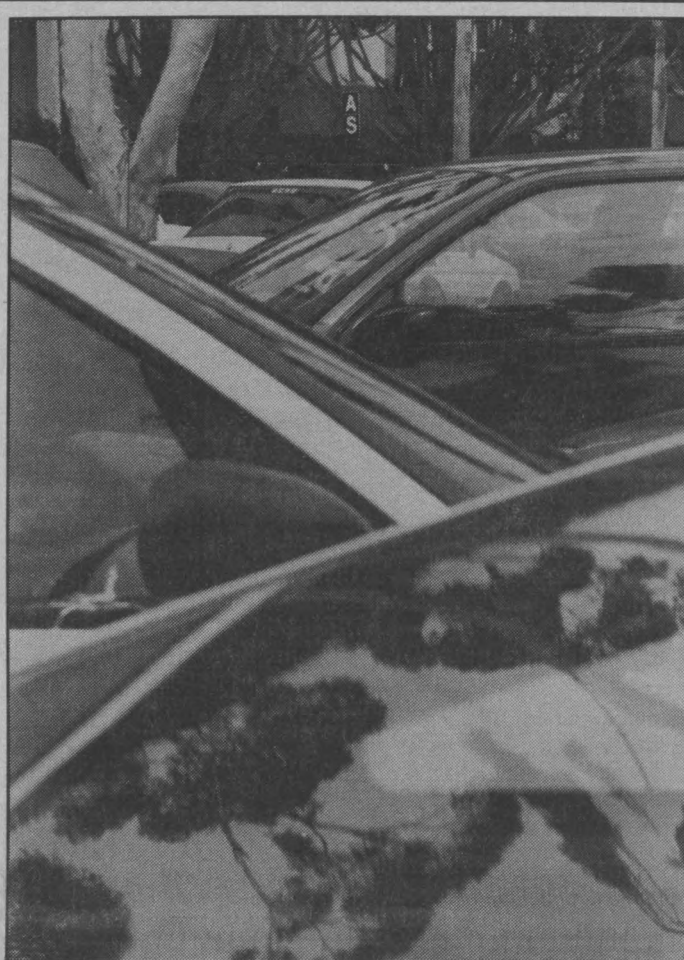
Wood wishes to provide education on the consequences of criminal actions such as shop-

See WOOD, p.5



RACHEL WEILL/Daily Nexus

The surveillance system in the UCen Bookstore can zoom in so far that it can read the serial numbers of the bills in the registers.



RACHEL WEILL/Daily Nexus

Not a Lotta Lots

Parking in Lot 23 near San Rafael Residence Hall has been changed from C to A/S, leaving only a few rows for students and more for faculty and staff.

Local Seeks New Trial on Allegations of Unfit Counsel

By Eric C. Steuer
Staff Writer

Testimony will continue Thursday in an evidentiary hearing involving a Hope Ranch man who claims his lawyer improperly advised him to enter into a plea bargain in a 1993 kidnapping and molestation conviction.

In October 1993, 27-year-old Eric Alden Panizzon was convicted of kidnapping and sexually abusing a Hope Ranch teenager after accepting a plea bargain which put him in prison for a term of life plus 12 years. A co-defendant in the case, Steven Gillen, pleaded no contest to the kidnapping charges and is currently serving a 12-year sentence.

Panizzon now claims he accepted the plea bargain as the result of inadequate counseling by his attorney, Michael Carty of Santa Barbara, and is seeking a new trial on the grounds that Carty did not properly work to clear him of criminal charges.

Panizzon's new attorney,

See TRIAL, p.8

Offshore Oil Tankering Under Contention

By Michael Ball
Staff Writer

An order prohibiting coastal oil shipping was lifted last week in an attempt to resolve a dispute over tankering rights and bring all participants to the bargaining table.

On May 1, federal officials rescinded demands that Exxon Corp. cease oil tankering off the Santa Barbara coast, in return for a 30-day discussion period on the issue, according to John Romero, spokesman for the Minerals Management Service Pacific Region office.

"Exxon will not tanker during these 30 days," he said. "We issued a letter to Exxon. ... It calls for an agreement between MMS, Exxon and other parties. [We said in the letter] we would withdraw the formal order to cease tankering if Exxon would cease tankering voluntarily. We wanted to forgo the formal appeal process. Exxon agreed and signed the letter."

Exxon had been sending oil from a Gaviota collection facility via pipeline to a storage site near San Francisco, where it was then loaded on ships bound for a Los Angeles refinery, according to Mark Chaconas, aide to 3rd District Supervisor Bill Wallace.

"Instead of tankering from this area ... they tanker it down from the Bay Area," he said.

The oil developer's request to continue use of tankers, which pass within 25 miles of the Channel Islands, should be rejected due to conflicts with state and county policy, according to Linda Krop, an Environmental Defense Center attorney.

"We think that the tankering is illegal," she said. "We hope that the agencies will stand firm in their requirement that the

Exxon's ocean oil transportation conflicts with the company's original authorization to develop offshore reserves in the county, according to Krop.

"They also needed a consistency certification [which was] tied to preferences ... for pipelines over tankers," she said. "The certification was based on an assurance that they would use pipelines to Texas. It's also a vio-

Exxon Shipping Dispute

October 1994	March 28	May 1
Exxon begins tankering of oil from Bay Area to Los Angeles.	MMS issues cease and desist order on shipping operations.	MMS rescinds ban for 30 days and Exxon halts operations. Parties enter negotiation to resolve dispute.

ZACK GROSSMAN/Daily Nexus

tankering will stop."

The company began using tankers in October despite objections from county officials and members of the California Coastal Commission, according to Romero. In late March, the MMS ordered Exxon to end its shipping operations before May 1 and comply with a ban on tankering, he said.

lation of county policy that directs them to use pipeline when possible."

The county's goal has been to utilize the more environmentally sound method of transporting oil, according to Chaconas.

"Our policy's always been that we are moving oil out of this

See EXXON, p.9

HEADLINERS

Panel Says Exhibits Need Consultation

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Smithsonian Institution must be more than "a home for congratulations," but its curators should consult widely when putting together controversial exhibits, a citizens' panel said Monday.

Although not mentioned in its report, the controversy over the now-canceled *Enola Gay* exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum clearly was in mind when the 22-member Commission on the Future of the Smithsonian Institution wrote its report.

In January, the Smithsonian's governing regents canceled a planned exhibit built around the plane that dropped the atomic bomb over Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945. Veterans groups called the exhibit an insult, say-

ing it would have portrayed Americans as the aggressors in World War II. The museum now plans to display only the partial fuselage of the plane, without

"These challenges can be better understood by recognizing that the Smithsonian is an educational forum rather than a cultural or scientific authority or even a home

and scholars responsible for the exhibit."

The commission was chaired by Maxine F. Singer, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington. Appointed in 1993, it was only the third commission created by the regents in 150 years to chart the institution's future. The panel presented its 33-page report to the regents Monday.

At a news conference, Smithsonian Secretary I. Michael Heyman said he has not felt pressure to change current exhibits from four Republican members of Congress who were appointed regents in January — Sens. Thad Cochran of Mississippi, Alan Simpson of Wyoming and Reps. Samuel Johnson of Texas and Robert Livingston of Louisiana.

These challenges can be better understood by recognizing that the Smithsonian is an educational forum.

Commission on the Future of the Smithsonian Institution

commentary.

As America changes from a country that adhered to a single set of values to one that tolerates diverse viewpoints, museums have become more interpretive and the result sometimes is "acrimonious and contentious debate," the commission said.

for congratulations," the panel said.

It recommended "broader and independent reviews of proposed exhibitions," which would seek balance "between constructive judgments and criticisms of an exhibition's content and the desirable independence of the curators

Children With AIDS at Birth May Not Manifest Symptoms

CHICAGO (AP) — Contrary to widespread belief, children who catch the AIDS virus at birth may live for years without symptoms and without anyone knowing they are infected, researchers say.

When the youngsters get sick, physicians may fail to recognize the source of the problem. And even if they are identified, communities and schools may not appreciate the children's need for social and psychological help, the researchers said.

"The important thing to remember is that these children are out there," said Dr. Samuel Grubman, who led a study of 42 children ages 9 to 15 who had been born with HIV and were being treated for their infections at Children's Hospital of New Jersey in Newark in June 1993.

Ten children were

symptom-free, eight showed some signs of illness, but not enough for an AIDS diagnosis, and the remainder had the disease, researchers said. Thirty-six of the 42 had



shown no signs of illness until after age 4.

Some of the children had not been tested for AIDS by their pediatricians even though they had telltale symptoms such as lymph swelling, the researchers said.

"Many pediatricians still do not recognize that HIV infection can [appear] in a previously healthy school-age child," the team wrote.

Report: 2.5 Million Women Have Undiagnosed Disorder

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A clotting disease that often produces abnormal uterine bleeding strikes 2.5 million women in the United States, but only a few thousand are correctly diagnosed, researchers said Monday.

Women and their doctors often mistake von Willebrand's disease for heavy menstrual bleeding, said Dr. Cecil Long of the obstetrics and gynecology department at the University of Mississippi Medical Center.

"Women naturally go to their gynecologist for bleeding problems," he said. "But gynecologists are so focused on looking for obstetrical and gynecological reasons for abnormal bleeding that the screening tests for von Willebrand's disease get forgotten."

Only a few thousand women each year are diag-

nosed with the condition, which can cause excessive blood loss if left untreated, especially after traumatic injuries.

Von Willebrand's disease results from lack of or



defects in the von Willebrand factor, a protein essential to blood clotting.

Women diagnosed with the disease often have a history of bleeding problems in their families.

They may first notice the condition during menstruation, but they often suffer from bruising, gum bleeding, frequent nosebleeds and prolonged bleeding during minor surgery.

Israel Releases Palestinian Prisoners for Muslim Holiday

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel freed Palestinian security prisoners in a goodwill gesture Monday, but PLO officials said the releases fell far short of what was promised in peace negotiations.

Israel traditionally frees prisoners in advance of Muslim holidays. The Eid al-Adha festival, capping the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, is this week.

Some 250 Palestinians were to be freed Monday and 150 more later in the week in the first releases since June.

An Islamic militant guerrilla commander and 19 other prisoners were freed from a prison in Israeli-occupied southern Lebanon, Lebanese security sources reported. And Egypt released 240 Muslim militants it said had renounced violence. More than 5,500 Pales-

tinian prisoners are held in Israeli jails and army lock-ups. More than 2,000 of them were arrested in the past seven months in a crackdown on Muslim militants involved in



deadly attacks on Israelis.

Palestinian negotiators have demanded that as part of the Israel-PLO autonomy accord, Israel free all Palestinian security prisoners.

Israel has insisted it will not release prisoners involved in attacks on Israelis, but agreed last year to set up a joint committee to work out a timetable for freeing the others.

United Nations Rejects Plea for Airstrikes Against Serbs

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Serb gunners pounded two U.N.-protected cities on Monday, and the United Nations, apparently concerned for peacekeepers' safety, rejected a request for NATO airstrikes.

Mortar blasts shook Sarajevo a day after a Bosnian Serb mortar attack on a suburb killed 10 people. Hospital officials in government-held Tuzla in northern Bosnia said 13 people were hurt by two shells Monday.

Both cities are U.N.-declared "safe areas" which are supposed to be spared from attack. The U.N. forces in Bosnia have had little success ensuring the protection, though.

For the first time in months, U.N. officials confirmed that Bosnian Serb tanks fired on gov-

ernment positions, blasting off seven rounds north of Sarajevo in violation of the heavy-weapons exclusion zone supposed to exist around the city.

But U.N. officials on



Monday rejected a request from the U.N. commander in Bosnia, Lt. Gen. Rupert Smith, for NATO airstrikes against Bosnian Serb positions ringing the capital, U.S. officials said.

A U.S. official at the United Nations, speaking on condition of anonymity, said NATO jets were in the air when the decision not to strike was made.

Daily Nexus

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Mint Chip, Double, Waffle Cone

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Letters to the editor and columns must be limited to two pages, typed double-spaced (3,000 characters), and include the author's name and phone number.

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Weather

While I generally prefer to patronize vendors within my homeland of Isla Vista, I found myself within the comforting confines of Thrifty Drug & Discount yesterday in search of cheap ice cream. No one does cheap ice cream better than Thrifty, as any good American knows.

On my way out, I noticed at the check-out stand, right above the latest *Enquirer*, a collection of UCSB beer mugs. Glass and ceramic! It got me to thinking, many customers of this establishment are Goleta suburbanites who have little, if any, daily contact with the university crowd. For them, this little marketing outpost represents the most direct community relations from UCSB they'll receive right next to a rack of Snickers bars.

What would they glean from this contact? That UCSB is known more for beverage consumption than study? That the university is proud of its scholars and wants to allow Goletons to share in the glory in a way everyone can relate with? We couldn't get a contract to have them come with a Happy Meal? I dunno, but I'm struck by another thought: what if I'm mistaken in my assumption that only the Goleta Thrifty carries the Gaucho mug? What if they're a hit from Podunk to Peoria?

UCSA May Apply Heat to Regents If Needed

By Tim Molloy
Staff Writer

Members of the University of California Board of Regents may not warm up to the methods involved in the latest drive by the UC Student Association, according to one individual on the board.

Significant aspects of UCSA's drive, entitled "Access: Stop Turning Back the Clock," include a massive postcard campaign, rallies, educational forums and a series of individual meetings the association has already held or plans to hold with 12 of the regents.

If UCSA efforts to communicate with the regents in private meetings prove unsuccessful, the association will bring its concerns that students' needs are not being recognized to the decision makers' offices, according to UCSA Executive Director Glenn Magpantay.

Regent Frank W. Clark, who had not heard of UCSA's latest campaign before Monday, said he and other regents would look on any demonstrations outside their places of business negatively.

"It will ... have an adverse reaction," Clark

Supes Focus on Bad Bilge, Booze Ban, Budget Today

The status of a hazardous waste dump, budgetary matters and an Isla Vista park alcohol ban will be among the items examined by the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors today.

The board will see a presentation on the Casmalia hazardous waste site, according to Mark Chaconas, aide to 3rd District Supervisor Bill Wallace.

"There will be a status report on Casmalia," he said. "There had been a report at a previous meeting ... but it was continued until later."

The previous board discussion focused on who should carry the weight of cleanup costs, according to Wallace.

"This is the ongoing saga of how to clean up Casmalia," he said. "The [Environmental Protection Agency came] in to discuss it with us."

Concerns have also been raised that in the wake of recent flooding, contaminated rainwater

would seep into groundwater at the site, Wallace added.

Debate came to a head after public complaints regarding safety at the site, according to Linda Krop, an Environmental Defense Center attorney.

"We helped get it shut down," she said. "Once they stepped in, we backed down."

The site is currently facing a multimillion-dollar cleanup effort, according to Wallace.

"The EPA is trying to get past users to pay for it," he said.

Also on the agenda is the approval of an \$8 million budget for the county's Flood Control Dept., as well as authorizing the county sheriff to enforce the new Sueño Park drinking ban in I.V., according to Chaconas.

The board will meet at 9 a.m. at the Lompoc City Hall Council Chambers.

—Michael Ball

said. "You bet it will."

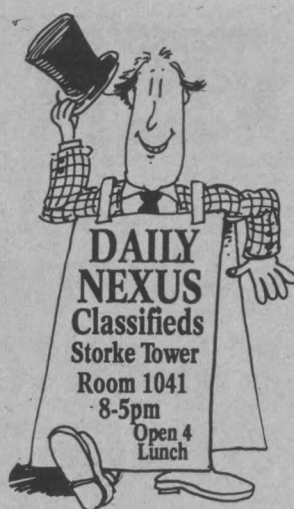
The demonstrations would come only if regents failed to hear students' concerns through other venues, according to Associated Students Executive Vice President for Statewide Affairs Kris Kohler.

"Ideally, what happens is that we first have a call-in [to regents] to ask for a meeting with students," he said. "When regents ac-

cept that, we gladly take it. When they refuse to meet with students, then we can hold other demonstrations to demand that they are accountable to students and to what we have to say."

The Access campaign aims to push five student issues. UCSA will focus its efforts on convincing re-

See UCSA, p.5



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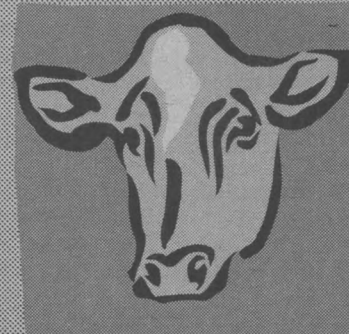
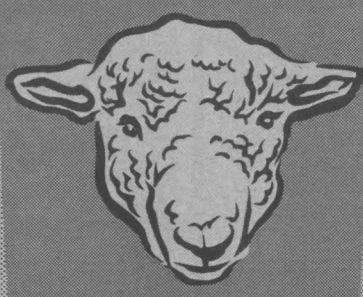
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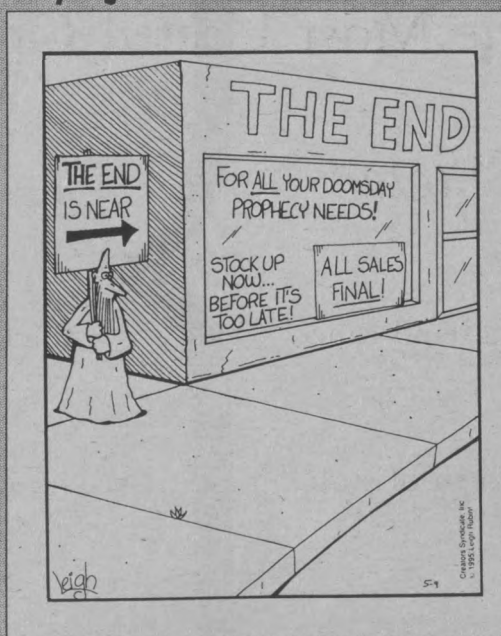
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WOOD: Nabbin' Thieves in the UCen

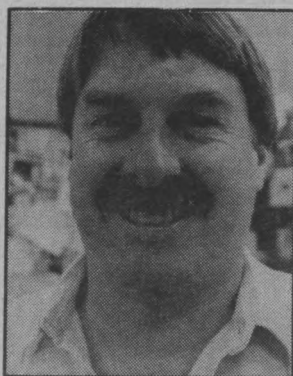
Continued from p.1
lifting, which often result in misdemeanor or felony charges capable of permanently staining police records.

"A lot of people aren't aware of the implications of the crime, what can happen to you if you are arrested," he said. "We are looking out for the well-being and the safety of all in the store."

Suspects do not steal only out of need but also enticement, according to Linda Heid, bookstore associate director.

"Temptation is a real big thing with the students," she said. "Even if they have money, it is easy for them to get tempted."

Because of Wood, the store now has a process of criminal detainment as



Will Wood

well as increased awareness of thieves and how to capture them, according to Heid.

"Before, there really wasn't a methodology of procedure," she said. "We don't want people not to feel comfortable in our store, but that we do take shoplifting seriously and

we will prosecute."

Wood was chosen for the job due to his extensive law enforcement background and also because bookstore associates knew he had recently been laid off from his position at the local precinct, according to Heid.

"We've actually been thinking about it for a long time, and we knew that Will was available," she said. "With casual recruitments we didn't need an application process."

Wood encourages students to place bags and backpacks in the lockers in the front of the store. The \$0.25 deposit is returned when patrons remove their articles.

In the future, Wood hopes to gain an assistant to aid in security measures.

UCSA

Continued from p.3
gents to hear concerns on rising fees, the lack of availability of same-sex family housing, *Smith v. Regents*, and possible threats to Affirmative Action and federal financial aid.

A highly visible aspect of the drive will be a student march on the second day of the May 17-19 regent meeting at UC San Francisco-Laurel Heights, according to Kohler.

"We're doing a caravan to UC Berkeley, and then on Thursday, May 18, we are doing a march in San Francisco from the Civic Center to the regents' meeting," he said. "There, we'll have some speakers ... and will present the re-

gents with some postcards."

The Access campaign is necessary because the University's recent course on the issues indicates regressive policy-making by its decision makers, according to Magpantay.

"We seem to be turning back the clock," he said. "We're creating a UC that is reserved for the elite, like it was in the past."

UCSA has assigned each of the UC campuses to direct its efforts toward different regents according to the university's geographic proximity to the regents' home cities, Kohler said.

However, he believes it is unlikely that UCSB students will participate in any form of demonstration outside regents' offices because of the distance of the

seaside campus from designated regents Meredith J. Khachigian and Leo S. Kolligian.

"It's difficult for us because our so-called regents are in Fresno and San Clemente," he said.

Kolligian is among the 12 members of the board of regents who have agreed to meet with or have already met with UCSA to discuss student concerns on regental policies.

Commenting on Affirmative Action, Kolligian told the Nexus Monday that he anticipated modifications in UC policy, but did not go into specifics on his expectations.

"I think there's going to be some changes," he said. "Whether or not we take the lead is [another] matter."

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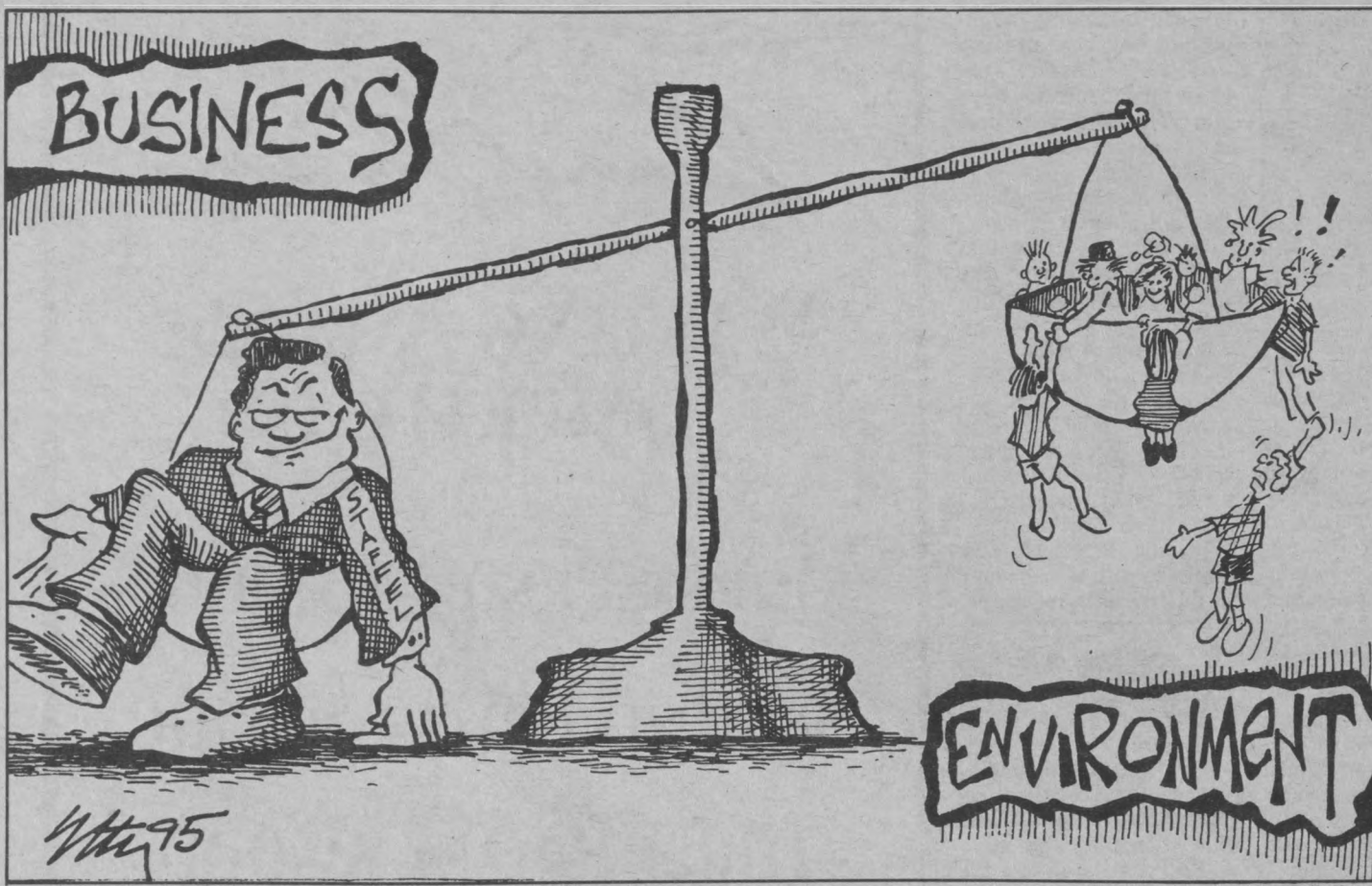


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OPINION

"A nuclear reactor is a lot like a woman. You've got to read the manual and press the right buttons."

—Homer Simpson



PHILLIP ETTING/Daily Nexus

Coastal Conflict?

Latest Commission Appointment Could Be a Threat to the Environment

Editorial

Local environmentalists are facing yet another potential blow to their cause after Gov. Pete Wilson named Santa Barbara County Supervisor Tim Staffel, well known for his pro-growth stance, to fill a vacant seat on the California Coastal Commission beginning next week.

This is an ironic move on the governor's part considering Staffel, board chair and 4th District representative, has consistently supported decisions favoring business above ecological causes. Moreover, he has openly expressed his belief that private-property rights should play a larger role in the tug of war between the two.

Isn't it somewhat a conflict of interest to place an official with such a staunch pro-growth attitude on a board originally created to uphold the Coastal Act? The legislation was authored in 1970 to protect the California coastline, and the CCC, although nonpartisan in nature, is similarly designed to look out for the interests of our rapidly vanishing precious environments.

Staffel's previous moves as a supervisor have often been in the completely opposite direction. The proposed Ellwood Shores development plan poses a clear-cut example of his amount of support for environmentalism — quite simply, little if any at all. And while this might be acceptable on other state bodies, it might just prove dangerous in the case of the CCC.

During the drawn-out Ellwood debate, he was part of the 3-2 majority, along with fellow board members Jeanne Graffy and Tom Urbanske, that revoked the Revised Specific Plan, drafted last October, which reduced construction limits from 40 to 31.9 acres. As a result of this January ruling, deve-

lopment lines were consequently re-expanded to 38 acres. Although not as large a figure as some had anticipated, this new proposal, currently on the table awaiting decision, nevertheless threatens to infringe upon some of the last environmentally sensitive terrain of its kind in California.

However, this previous voting record does not discount that Staffel is an intelligent individual who carefully examines information before making a decision. Environmental leaders involved with the CCC have applauded him for his keen thought and attention to detail. However, they say, the pro-development character of his decisions and actions presents a potentially sticky dynamic within the commission.

Further threats lurk in the possibility that Wilson, if given another vacant seat on the commission, might repeat his choice of a pro-growth official. Such open slots extend golden opportunities for politicians to keep their contributors and supporters — in Wilson's case, a largely business-affiliated group — satisfied. If the CCC were indeed to become even partially an expansion-oriented group through such savvy political mechanisms, this would completely subvert its original aims and intentions.

At such a crucial time for local environmental politics, with Ellwood and Mobil Oil's Clearview Project dominating the future horizon, it is truly disheartening to see what may be viewed as a blow being dealt to the California Coastal Commission. Granted, diversity of opinion is a valuable facet of any representative body. But when the body in question is responsible for protecting our coastline, the last thing it could use is a member whose ideology promises not assistance but a threat to that aim.

The Reader's Response

Clarifying Things

Editor, Daily Nexus:

I am writing this in response to both Mr. Eric Cardenas' letter (Daily Nexus, The Reader's Voice, May 4) and Ms. Wendy Connelly's letter (Daily Nexus, The Reader's Voice, May 5) printed last week in rebuttal to my column (Daily Nexus, "Environmental Ignorance," April 27) to hopefully clarify a few things.

First off, let me take the opportunity to say that the Earth Day festival was one of the best I have ever attended, and the information booths did provide more than plenty of useful information. A big round of thanks and congratulations go to any and all involved in putting together a GREAT event. THANK YOU! Of all the things I did not want my article to do was try to say that ALL environmentalists are ignorant, but unfortunately, the way it was titled sent out the wrong message. I must also admit that some of the wording was somewhat harsh and generalizing, so for this I offer my deepest and sincerest apologies to Mr. Cardenas, Ms. Connelly and to any concerned, TRUE environmentalists that these generalizations may have upset.

What I was actually trying to point out is that some people, not most people, can take any movement to extremes, especially if the right words are spoken. There are many examples of this that I can cite, but we're limited in space. Ignorance was not the issue in my article, but rather fanaticism based on taking the extremist view that some people do. That's all.

With respect to the founders of the environmentalist movement, I must add to their defense that quantification of the Earth's survival was a new science at their point in time and that at the time their predictions and/or expectations (not hopes) could have been a reality by 1985 (not 1980, my mistake) if the movement had not taken the form that it did, and for their perseverance we owe them many thanks. It's because of them that we now have the difference between soft and hard technology, and it is with this that I should say that the support in my article was mostly geared toward the soft industry/technology aspect, not the hard.

The compliance that many of these firms show toward environmental concern can be based on the willingness to care, as is the case in the company I work for. This is not naive, it's real, and most of all, it works even if we are a division of a Fortune 300 company. Corporate rule is an entity that is heavily entrenched in today's society, and the destruction of corporate structure is not going to be the answer. However, this is where truly concerned environmentalists with the knowledge, tools and, most importantly, the facts come in to the picture by educating those within the corporate structure to implement methods that are environmentally friendly. This will take REAL environmentalists with hard facts to back their arguments, and I am sure they are the majority within the environmentalist movement.

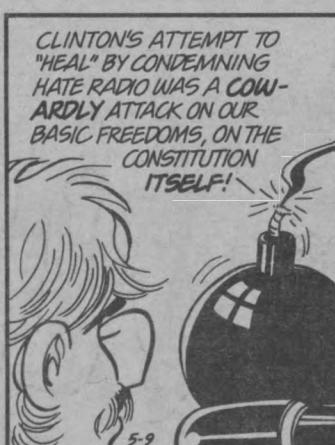


LEXI COFFEE/Daily Nexus

Unfortunately, this is where the stereotypes come in, and the first thing that must be done is to eliminate the stereotypes of "preaching tree huggers" that exists. At this point, I should also apologize for perpetuating the stereotype by mere generalization based on the wording. This was wrong, and for this, I apologize as well. One has to realize where I come from, not in distance, but time, and at the time of my growing up, I was exposed to writers such as Paul Erlich, Robert and Leona Rinow, Rachel Carson and Wallace Stegner. If any of you have ever read any of their works, you will

Doonesbury

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



Response

agree with the level of pessimism that I spoke of in my article and how it can create extremism in some people.

There are many success stories out there, and in order to assure more of them we should take the opportunity to share them with the masses and be proud of what the movement did as a joint effort between true environmentalists and concerned industrialists.

It's funny because the only disagreement that I have with Mr. Cardenas' rebuttal to my article is his reference to himself as an "enviro-Nazi." Mr. Cardenas, your assessment of yourself is wrong since you shared a point of view with me using logic, fact, wisdom and intelligence. For this I cannot and will not call you anything other than a true environmentalist — to call you anything else would be a wrongdoing of your love for the planet and your fellow humans, as well as wrongdoing of your participation in a movement that has changed the ways that would've caused a true catastrophe for us all.

As for Ms. Connolly's assessment that we have come a long way from the '70s, this is true, and it's through the efforts of people like Mr. Cardenas that we have. I hope that I have clarified what the true nature of my article was supposed to be and not what it seemed to be like. I have learned plenty from the rebuttals I received and will continuously keep learning as part of the challenge presented by Mr. Cardenas, while at the same time keeping the hope that together we can make industry and technology work to meet environmental goals for the many who share this planet.

However, this will present a challenge to maintain a logical, hard-facts, non-extremist approach to the problems at hand. Extremism on either side will only succeed to create conflict. If it seemed like I was "out to bash anyone who really cares," let me give you my sincerest assurance that this was by no means my intention at all, but rather to point out why, if any, bashing of sorts occurs. It's our planet, it's our home and our future depends on intelligent choices to be made by US all, but in order to do so we must work together to achieve a global education available to the masses with the good news as well as the bad taken into consideration. We will all benefit from this in the long run. There's so much more that can be said, but I'll just end it here for now by adding to Mr. Cardenas' quote: peace with the earth and with each other.

HENRY SARRIA

Nuclear Holocaust?

Editor, Daily Nexus:

To anyone who discusses or writes about holocausts: When you mention the Nazi-era Holocaust, please don't forget the genocide of over a million gypsies who died alongside the six million Jews. When you present a list of holocausts, you might consider the most recent domestic U.S. holocaust: Two million people died in Nevada and Utah due to above-ground nuclear testing. A few of the victims (or their surviving families) received a mere \$50,000. The remainder couldn't meet the government guidelines to "qualify" and remain uncompensated!

This is a very shameful holocaust, and we must never forget. A special day should be set aside as a day of remembrance for these victims of atrocity. Thanks. No nukes! Compensate fallout victims!

BRENT BAKER

More Clarifying

Editor, Daily Nexus:

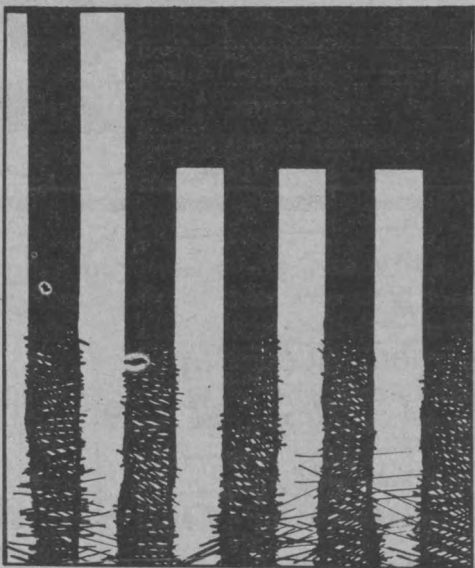
I would like to take the opportunity to respond to Travis Moon's response to my letter (Daily Nexus, The Reader's Voice, May 4). Travis, I'm glad that I was able to irritate you enough to get you to respond. So many times after reading columns or articles in the Nexus, I have been incensed. After reading your column last week, I was unable to shake the annoyance I felt about what I read. Perhaps now you can understand what many of us feel after reading your column. There are some points about your response, though, that need clearing up.

First of all, as a columnist, you should be able to tell the difference between a legitimate attack on your person and a hypothetical analogy designed to prove a point. You spend so much time lambasting the government for limiting your personal liberties (and by "your," I mean people in general), I

was merely pointing out some of the more harmful activities that could normally fall under the heading of "personal liberties." Apparently, even you would agree that these activities are unacceptable, and for that I am glad. Therefore, you would agree that some limitations are necessary on "freedoms." As for who determines what is "good," I distinctly remember pointing out that it is the majority of society which determines what is good — it seemed pretty clear to me.

As for the rest of your letter, it seemed to take on an Oliver Stone-esque turn toward conspiracy theories again, despite your claims to the contrary. "There is little doubt that American forces killed hundreds in their invasions of both Panama and Grenada and banned the media from both to cover up the murders." Actually, I have a friend who was part of the Special Forces detachment in Grenada, and the only people who were killed were those shooting at American troops. In almost any court of law, that would be considered self-defense. As for the Panama invasion, I don't know what news station you watch, but I distinctly remember "on the spot" reports and reading about the embassy standoff every day in the paper. I especially enjoyed the "atrocities" and "murders" committed by those horrible Psy-Ops troops who blasted heavy-metal music into the Vatican embassy.

As for the War on Drugs, it was started because people got fed up with the influx of illicit drugs into this country and pressured the government to do something. We did not start this war, the dealers did. As the son of a former narcotics officer, I tend to take the discussion of this topic rather seriously. We also didn't start the Vietnam War, but rather supported a government that we had helped to establish, right or wrong. Most people these days feel that the Vietnam War was a mistake, but we have the benefit of hindsight, an advantage Presidents John-



MATT RAGLAND/Daily Nexus

son and Nixon didn't have.

You say that you decided to respond to my letter because I wrote about you, saying that I took cheap shots at you. While I am truly sorry if I offended your obviously delicate sensibilities, it seems to me that you have done the same thing in your response. In fact, according to your letter, I am "underhanded," "pathetic," "narrow-minded" and "intolerant." All of this simply because I *disagreed* with your opinion? When confronted with an argument that went against your beliefs, you resorted to name-calling, kind of like a bully who doesn't know how to react when he is finally stood up to. It seems pretty intolerant and narrow-minded to me if you can't even stand to hear a dissenting opinion!

As for your parting shot at me, let me set the record straight. According to your letter, "people like Geoff Gaebel can continue to deny these occurrences by changing the channel to Roseanne when the reality of our country's own shortcomings become apparent, but changing the channel won't make the reality go away."

I tend to take offense to a remark such as this. Yes, I know that our country isn't perfect, but I certainly don't ignore the shortcomings. I have spent over 10 years of my life doing my best to help others. As a boy and into adulthood, I spent 7½ years as a Boy Scout. I have received two citations for heroism in my actions in helping others: one for my involvement in the search for, and subsequent return of, a retarded man who wandered away from his day-care facility, and the other for helping in the search for a kidnap victim. As an Eagle Scout, I have been nationally recognized for my service to the community. Scouting taught me about being a citizen — to the community, the country and to the world community. I

also spent the 11th and 12th grades and my first two years of college working with high school students, first as a sort of peer advisor and then as a youth-group leader.

My point is that when I feel strongly about an issue or a cause, I have courage enough to take action and *do* something to change it. I have spent the better part of my life helping other people and trying to make the world a better place to live in. Actions speak much louder than words, so if you want people to take you seriously, I have one piece of advice: Quit your bitching, get off your butt, get out into the real world and actually do something about the things you believe in! Unless you are willing to take that risk, don't you *dare* accuse me of being blinded to reality! It's really easy to say you stand for something. It takes a whole hell of a lot more guts to get out there and actually prove it!

GEOFF GAEBE

Not Again

Editor, Daily Nexus:

OK, here we go again with yet another letter in response to Michael Garcia's letter to the Nexus (Daily Nexus, The Reader's Voice, May 1). This letter also includes a response to Scott Gutterman's letter regarding Eric Shapiro's comments about Garcia's letter on the Holocaust. I will address Mr. Garcia first.

Mr. Garcia: In your article you attempt to portray the remembrance of the Holocaust as an event which tried to block out all other genocides and is "thrust into the public's face." You compare the situation in the modern Middle East to that of Nazi Germany and add that anyone who criticizes the nation of Israel is labeled anti-Semitic. I'd like to address the above-mentioned comments without you cowering in your fear of my labeling you anti-Semitic.

First off, Ms. Forness never even suggests that the Jewish Holocaust is in any way the only holocaust to have ever occurred. Where did you get this foolish idea that those who support Holocaust remembrance are trying to draw attention away from other holocausts? Since you obviously are very uninformed about this entire subject, let me give you a little history lesson. The main purpose behind the establishment of a Holocaust remembrance day in the first place was to ensure that this sort of horror never occurs again — to ANY RACE, ANYWHERE. Even though widespread violence still occurs today, it is only through knowledge and tolerance that mankind can hope to prevent these horrors from being even more prevalent than they already are. To assume that because Jews focus on their own disaster means that they do not care about the holocausts of others is ludicrous.

You mention other massacres in your article, such as the bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. You ask why the Jewish Holocaust is "thrust in the public's face" while other tragedies are not. Do you know even the slightest amount of our nation's history? The Japanese, for whatever reasons they may have had, declared war on the United States! Let me explain to you what this means, since you obviously have a very poor understanding of the difference between a war and a holocaust. I am in no way saying that any loss of life should be condoned, but do you honestly believe that a nation defending itself during a war is the same as a nation which selects a group of people for systematic extermination based on their ethnic origins?

You blatantly display your ignorance for us when you mention a "holocaust of Palestinians by Israelis." It would appear that you are also very ignorant of affairs concerning the Middle East as well. Jewish extremists, Hamas and Hezbollah have created a situation where both sides have blood on their hands. I'm not going to speak for the Palestinian people or for other Jews, but I believe that both groups disapprove of the actions of the above-mentioned minorities. (Thank you Renaud and Rodriguel!) Once again, how can you compare a situation like this to that of Nazi Germany? In short, *do you even know what a holocaust is?*

As far as your comment about being labeled anti-Semitic, I am not labeling you at all (but I seriously doubt if this label is something that is as feared in this nation as you would have it be), and I have never labeled anyone who disagrees with the actions of the state of Israel. I am simply trying to strip away your ignorance, which seems to be a protective shield for you, just as I'm sure it is for the Ku Klux Klan.

The second part of this letter is addressed to Scott Gutterman's response to the letter sent in by Eric Shapiro (and can also be applied to the letter sent in by Joshua Frey).

Mr. Gutterman: As you can see from the first half of my letter, I am not as talented a writer as Mr. Shapiro and Mr. Frey are, and I also do not have the patience that they do. By the way, their letters were informative, neutral and maintained a classy, formal tone throughout. Your letter did not, so my response to your letter also will not.

You call Mr. Shapiro a fool, and if he is in fact a huge fool, then this is definitely a case of the pot calling the kettle black. Mr. Shapiro in no way stated that the Jewish Holocaust should overshadow the tragedies of other ethnicities. Mr. Shapiro also did not say that the victims of our atomic bomb were any less unfortunate than the victims of the Jewish Holocaust, and neither did I. The point is that in a wartime situation, the United States (and probably every other nation on the planet) maintains an attitude of "I'll do whatever's necessary" to avoid being destroyed. No one's saying that the death of almost 300,000 Japanese civilians is not tragic, but in order to save those lives, the United States might have put the lives of our own civilians at risk. Do you really think that European Jewry posed a threat to the national security of the state of Germany? I suppose someone with your attitude could make this threat up, just as you made words up and put them in Mr. Shapiro's mouth.

Why are you in such a hurry to forget the Holocaust, Mr. Gutterman? You say that for you, the Holocaust represents "the tiniest part of being a Jew." It seems that you are the one who feels some sort of guilt or shame over this tragedy. You have a complete misunderstanding of what the purpose is behind the remembrance day, and to misinterpret it in such a negative way is to put down the intelligence and attitude of your own race. If you really think that other Jews are trying to pass down "hatred and pain" to their children, YOU ARE THE FOOL. If this is what you believe it means to be a Jew — to be someone who thinks in this manner — you should not want to be a Jew in the first place. For that matter, no group of people would want to be members of a culture based on hatred in the first



DAVE KERRMAN/Daily Nexus

place.

Mr. Garcia, in his letter, was talking about events and people which he clearly knew very little about. Since he is not a member of this ethnicity, his ignorance can be seen as something which needs to be corrected, as Mr. Shapiro and Mr. Frey attempted to. Mr. Gutterman, you have no excuse. Have you ever listened to a Holocaust survivor speak? The ones I have heard all agree that remembering and recognizing the Holocaust is the best way to heal the pain of it. For you as a Jew to believe that your own race is full of hatemongers and people who are trying to manipulate the Holocaust for their own benefit makes me wonder why you *want* to consider yourself to be a Jew in the first place. There is one thing I really like about you: Many people maintain a stereotype that all Jews are smart and will grow up to be businessmen or lawyers. Thank you for proving them wrong!

ANDREW HARRISON

Okay, here's the deal: We love to read a whole bunch of stuff on a wide array of topics. That means if you feel like responding to someone else's response to your original response, exchange phone numbers and talk amongst yourselves. Or think of something new to write about and drop it on by Storke Tower.

TRIAL: Interest Conflict, Perjury Charge Possible

Continued from p.1
Duffy Littlejohn, claims his client's original plea came solely as a result of Carty's ineffective assistance.

"I believe that Panizzon was misrepresented," Littlejohn said. "Panizzon was coerced by Carty into pleading no contest and to give up his appellant rights. We're charging that Carty failed to examine the physical evidence, failed to interview witnesses and failed to prepare for the trial."

Panizzon took the stand before Santa Maria Judge Rodney S. Melville on April 25, testifying that

Carty's problematic counsel forced him to accept the plea bargain. However, Carty has called Panizzon's charges "lies" in court.

Littlejohn cited a possible conflict of interest as the reason for the alleged misrepresentation.

"Michael Carty holds the county contract as CDA, or conflict defense attorney, and is the one who steps in when a public defender cannot handle an indigent client because of a conflict of interest," he said. "Since Carty has to work with the same prosecuting attorneys and judges over and over

— “
Panizzon's claim of being inadequately defended is not surprising.

Jerry Franklin
Santa Barbara County deputy district attorney

again, he does not want to come in on this case with his guns blazing. I definitely see a possible conflict as a result of his CDA contract."

The prosecutor in the hearings, Santa Barbara County Deputy District Attorney Jerry Franklin, noted that Panizzon's

conviction came as the result of his own plea.

"Panizzon's claim of being inadequately defended is not surprising," Franklin said. "It's not uncommon for someone in his position to say that his lawyer either did something that he shouldn't have or didn't do something he

should have. However, it is important to keep in mind that in this particular case the defendant has already pleaded guilty to the charges."

Franklin is considering pressing perjury charges against Panizzon, which, under the "three strikes" law, would qualify him for another life sentence to be run concurrently with his present term, according to Littlejohn.

"We're not really concerned, as Panizzon hasn't perjured himself at all," Littlejohn said. "Use immunity has been granted for the entire hearing so that everyone can testify openly without fear of further retribution in the

future."

Without specifically commenting on Panizzon's case, Robert Van Sickle, undergraduate advisor for UCSB's Law & Society program, said that similar claims are often unsuccessful.

"It's not uncommon in any state for claims of *habeas corpus* to be filed," Van Sickle said. "Many times, a prisoner will claim that his right to a fair trial under the Sixth Amendment was violated because he was not provided with adequate counsel; it's a federal claim under the Bill of Rights. It is, however, rather uncommon for these claims to be successful."

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Rec Sports Update

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Sport Clubs:

- 5/13-14 Cycling @ SLO
- 5/13-14 Water Ski @ U of Washington
- Crew- Men's Varsity 8, came in first place @ Newport Regatta on 5/7 (women did not play)
- Triathlon- overall Team placed 3rd at Wild-Flower Triathlon, Collegiate Division
- Women Lacrosse- Placed 4th in playoffs
- Ultimate Mens = Regionals 4th (no nationals)
- Women = Regionals 3rd place (no nationals)

- 22nd Annual Student/Alumni Flag Football Tournament on May 20th & 21st.
 - Evian Spikefest Tournament on May 20.
- SIGN UPS FOR BOTH END ON MAY 18 @ 5 PM.



Congratulations to the winners of the Wrestling Tournament this past weekend. Jaime Castillo, Ati Conner, and Randy Gorman. Great job guys!



A friendly reminder: Mother's Day is Sunday, May 14!

The Rec Sports Staff would like to thank all those who supported the HOPE Fund by running in the 5K/10K Run on Saturday May 5th. A special thanks to all the staff who volunteered at 7 am to set up for the Run. Great Job to all those who participated.

REGENT: Business Contracts Undergo Scrutiny

Continued from p.1
vised him he could claim 51 percent ownership for the purposes of the contract bid forms. State law requires that at least 51 percent of a firm must be owned by a minority to certify as a minority-owned firm.

At the same time, Connerly said, he declined to include Connerly and Associates on a list of the Energy Commission's certified minority contractors.

"Since I am a minority — I don't deny that — I

don't go out and find another minority," he said.

The non-profit association of city and county building officials "had been receiving contracts with the Energy Commission since 1979 with no reference at all to the race or ethnicity of our firm," Connerly said. "Those contracts were flowing for eight years prior [to his designating his firm as minority-owned], and I had nothing to do with it."

Since the minority certification program began,

Connerly's firm won Energy Commission contracts for the building officials association for \$1.1 million in 1989, \$105,227 in 1992 and \$35,000 in 1994, according to state records.

Connerly said the suggestion that he is being hypocritical in his opposition to Affirmative Action so angers him that he'll refuse to fill out the form relating to minority contracting goals when the contract renewal comes up next week.

"If you don't fill out the form you are prohibited from bidding," he explained. "We're going to refuse to fill out the form, force the Energy Commission to reject us and we're going to take them to court because I'm really tired of this crap," Connerly said.

Wilson spokesman Paul Kranhold said the governor "thinks [Connerly's] motives are pure and that he makes a good case for ending racial and gender-based preferences in state government."

EXXON

Continued from p.1
area via pipeline," he said. "The oil companies are hard pressed to make a case to us that they need to tanker."

A structured appeal sys-

tem might have led to a protracted conflict between the parties involved and possible legal action by Exxon, according to Romero.

Company officials and representatives of various government agencies will now attempt to hammer

out a resolution to the shipping debate.

"If we feel that some progress has been made [after 30 days] ... we have an option to enter into a 15-day extension, and all parties have to agree upon that," Romero said.

With help from mem-

bers of the county, CCC and MMS, an agreeable settlement with Exxon can hopefully be obtained, according to Romero.

"We're going into this very optimistically," he said. "We would like to continue to work with all parties on this."

The Gum Pledge

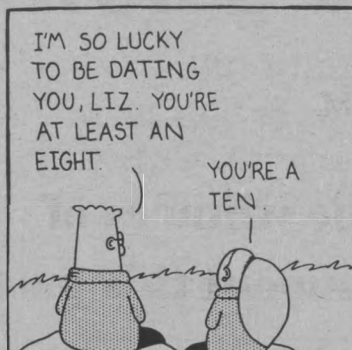
Zack Grossman



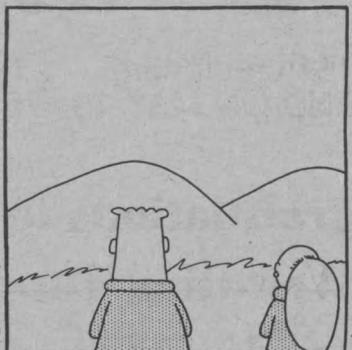
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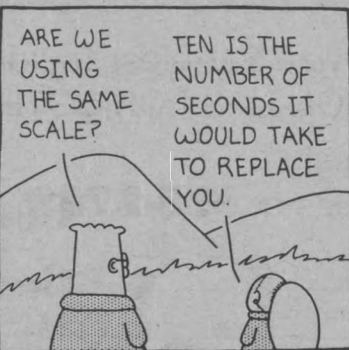
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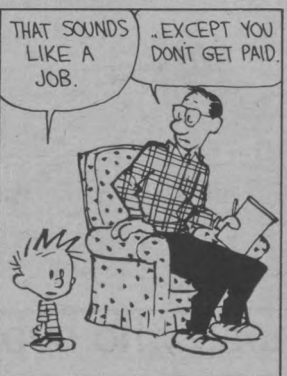
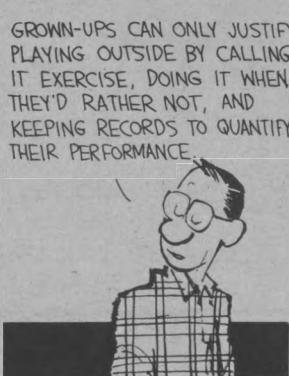
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Edited by Trude Michel Jaffe

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15 Greek Stoic
16 Wile E. Coyote's nemesis
18 Give forth
19 Church area
20 Omani money
21 Schemes
22 Old World herb
23 Mozambique port
24 Caucasus range peak
28 Vim and vigor
30 Insert sign
31 Redacts
32 "The — is a ass, ..."
35 Egg-shaped
37 Sacred music
39 Youngster
40 Nutcracker's nest?
42 Girls in Granada
43 Creed of the "Rocky" films
45 Having rhythmic flow
46 Feather
47 Libra's stone
49 Fall foliage stand-out
50 Betelgeuse, e.g.
51 Charitable contributions
55 Tax deduction aids
56 Lap of luxury
58 Note
59 Nobelist Wiesel
60 Potts or Oakley
61 Tough, elastic wood
62 Wolfish look
63 Cen. Netherlands commune

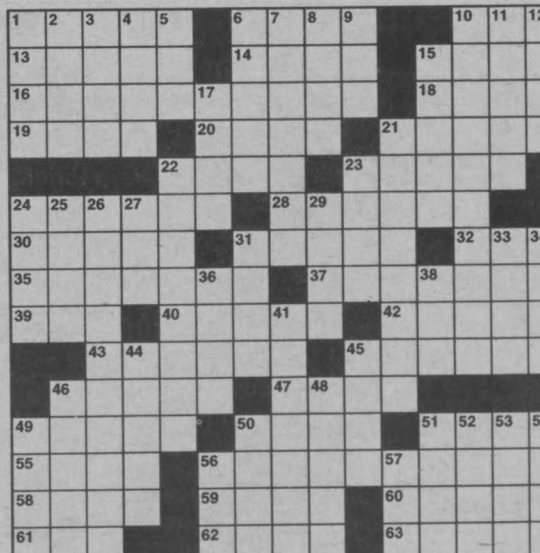
DOWN
1 Eleanor's mother-in-law
2 Cigar for Burns
3 Down with, in Paris
4 Went by rail
5 Bobble the ball
6 PGA's Palmer
7 Contributed
8 Son of 6 Across
9 Debussy subject
10 Road of reminiscences
11 Author Loos
12 Kettles
15 Allen/Farrow flick
17 Vases
21 Distinctly private
22 Chromosome relative
23 One of the Little Women
24 Green subj.
25 Etna emission
26 Way to the altar
27 Ath. arbiter
29 Pleasant

31 Actor Jannings
33 King of comedy
34 One of the Virginias
36 — of thumb
38 Freed, with "of"
41 Hoffman hit
44 Beat
45 Geos and Reos
46 City on the Seine
48 Tax taylor
49 Mineral
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51 River at Florence
52 Emcee Jay
53 Bergman TV movie role
54 British gun
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57 See 39 Across

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5/9/95



By Sidney L. Robbins
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5/9/95



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SB Lacrosse Loses Twice at Final Four

Gauchos Unable to Advance to Finals After 11-3 Loss to UC Davis in Semis

By Michael Cadilli
Staff Writer

With a perfect 9-0 conference record, earning the #1 seed in the Western Women's Lacrosse League's Southern Division, the UCSB lacrosse team headed to UC Davis to take on the two-time defending champion Aggies in the WWLL semifinals.

However, the Gauchos had to make the long trip without two of their top players — center Erin Cook and first-home Audra Metzger. Cook was hospitalized with an internal abdominal problem last week but is in stable condition, while Metzger had her jaw wired shut after breaking it in a bicycle accident.

The result was a sound 11-3 Santa Barbara defeat at the hands of UCD on Saturday, which went on to lose 11-9 to Stanford in the finals.

Even if UCSB had the two players, the outcome may have been the same, with Davis (8-1), the North's #2 seed, having already beaten the Gauchos twice this season, 8-5 and 10-3, in two separate tournaments.

"We missed [Cook and Metzger]. But if we played with them, playing the way we did, maybe we still would have lost," said defender Karen Wood. "We thought they were beatable. We just weren't on, but I think we could have beaten them on a good day."

The three Santa Barbara goals were scored by Rhianen Demery (who was brought up from junior varsity to play first-home in place of Metzger), center Jennifer Ross (Cook's replacement) and third-home Joy Pehlke. The lack of scoring wasn't exactly the offense's fault, having few attempts to get into its game.

"We didn't have a lot of chances on offense. We only set it up about three times," said Pehlke. "We were forced to change our game. Their defensive players came up to the 50 line and forced us to work harder, and it worked for them."

UCSB found itself down 6-1 at halftime and had a difficult time helping out goaltender Angela Bernal throughout the afternoon.

"They move the ball well and to lose to a team like that isn't too bad because they were awesome," Pehlke added. "Davis was a great team — they just beat us."

The Gauchos came back on Sunday to take on #2 Southern Division seed University of Arizona for third place. With a 9-6 lead at the half, UCSB thought they were in the driver's seat. However, the Wildcats came back to shut down Santa Barbara in the second half to win 12-9, handing the Gauchos fourth place.

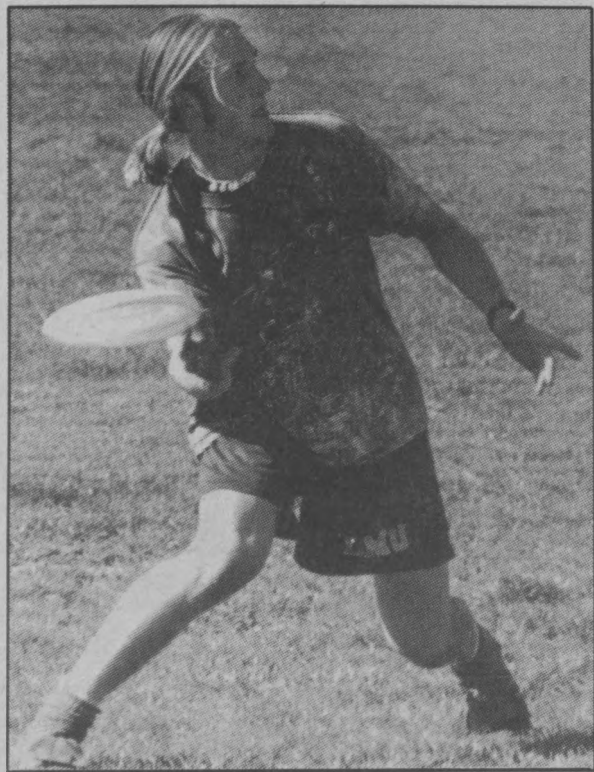
"We just shut down — I don't know what happened," Wood explained. "Maybe we got too comfortable and thought we had it wrapped up already."



J.E. ANDERSON/Daily Nexus

Missing two of its key players, the UCSB women's lacrosse team was outscored by a combined 23-12 in a pair of losses to UC Davis and the University of Arizona. The losses resulted in a fourth-place finish at this weekend's Western Women's Lacrosse League final four at UC Davis.

Ultimate Ends Season at Western Regionals



J.E. ANDERSON/Daily Nexus

UCSB's Black Tide ultimate team lost narrowly to Las Positas College in the semifinals, 11-10.

The UCSB men's and women's ultimate frisbee teams ventured north to UC Santa Cruz for last weekend's Collegiate Western Regional tournament in search of a berth in the Ultimate Collegiate National Championships.

While the Black Tide suffered a heartbreaking 11-10 loss to Las Positas College in the semifinals, the Burning Skirts were also narrowly defeated by Stanford University in the finals, 15-12. Both losses put an end to Santa Barbara's respective seasons in a disappointing fashion.

After beating Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in its quarterfinal match 15-8, the Black Tide headed into Sunday's semifinal contest against LPC with all the confidence needed to win the whole tournament.

Yet, with game point on the line, the Tide failed to convert on their offensive attack, turning the frisbee over in the waning minutes. Capitalizing on the Tide's untimely error, Las Positas

College scored the go-ahead and eventual winning point only moments later.

"It was a tough game, a tough weekend," Gauchito John Shelton said. "We're just not used to losing. Next year we'll be hungry and bitter."

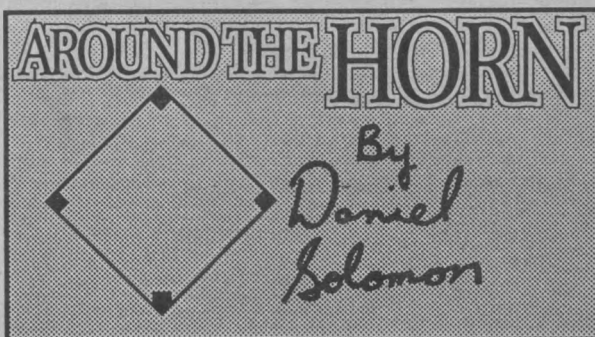
Following a victory over the University of Oregon in the semifinals, 15-13, the Burning Skirts were looking to advance to the national tournament with a win over Stanford.

Tying the game at 12 with only minutes to spare, the Skirts were unable to take advantage of the change in momentum, giving up the next three goals to the Cardinal.

Despite the loss, many members remained positive about their performance over the weekend in Santa Cruz.

"I think we never played better in any other tournament," said Gauchito Cathy Erickson. "We improved so much over the year."

—Brett Lindstrom



Call me a cheater if you want, but with the 1995 major league baseball season exactly two weeks old, here's my chance to present my Third Annual MLB Predictions. So without a moment's delay, "Welcome to the show."

Starting in the senior circuit's division that is closest to the heart of most baseball fans here at UCSB, SoCal will prevail over NorCal in the NL West, with the Los Angeles Dodgers and the San Diego Padres finishing one-two ahead of the Colorado Rockies and the San Francisco Giants. The Dodgers clearly have enough offense in Mike Piazza and Raul Mondesi to go along with their solid starting pitching and questionable bullpen. The Padres and Rockies have made vast improvements on offense and defense, while the Giants possess the division's best offense on a team that has no quality pitching whatsoever.

In the NL Central, expect the Cincinnati Reds and Houston Astros to stage one of the most exciting divisional races in the history of the game. With the likes of Deion Sanders, Bret Boone, Barry Larkin, Ron Gant and Hal Morris, the Reds have the best top-to-bottom lineup in the NL. Houston is Jeff Bagwell. If the reigning MVP is producing, then so will Craig Biggio, Derek Bell and the rest of the crew. Picking the Astros as the division winner is a coin-flip decision, but the Reds will also make the playoffs as the wild-card team.

The only thing holding the Atlanta Braves back from baseball's best record in 1995 is baseball's worst manager, Bobby Cox. Their starting pitching, led by three-time Cy Young Award winner Greg Maddux, is the best of this generation. Not even Dwight Gooden or Roger Clemens in the late '80s dominated the game like Maddux, who will win his fourth straight C.Y. honor and move into the Jim Palmer-Tom Seaver class of pitchers. While the Florida Marlins might have the best offense in the division, MVP selection Fred McGriff, Dave Justice and Marquis Grissom have quite enough to get the job done.

The Orioles, Blue Jays and Boston Red Sox should all be jockeying closely for the wild-card spot, but for no other reason than it's Cal Ripken's year, give the nod to the Orioles.

Moving to the land of the designated hitter, the Seattle Mariners will take the AL West (Worst) Crown, as if that means anything. They have the league's most dominating pitcher in Randy Johnson, and Ken Griffey Jr. will ruin Chicago White Sox power hitter Frank Thomas' bid at three straight MVP awards with the first of his young career.

Two years ago, I thought the two-time defending World Series champions Toronto Blue Jays had one of the best starting nine that I had ever seen. Last year, I thought the Baltimore Orioles had enough to match the Jays. This year, one look at the Cleveland Indian lineup throws all of that out the window. If I was starting a team, I would start at the top with the game's best leadoff hitter in Kenny Lofton. The closest thing to a weakness in the lineup is #2 hitter Omar Visquel, whose stellar defense in the field more than makes up for his decent hitting. Carlos Baerga is the game's best offensive second baseman, and Albert Belle is right there with McGriff as the most perfect cleanup hitter in the game. Scrambling Eddie Murray, Jim Thome, Manny Ramirez, Paul Sorrento, Dave Winfield and Sandy Alomar Jr. in the remaining spots makes the Indians an easy lock for the AL Central title.

In the AL East, the New York Yankees have all the tools to bring Donny Baseball to his first postseason. Along with an excellent offense and defense, as well as strong starting pitching from Jack McDowell and Jimmy Key, the Yanks have a key intangible with the veteran leadership of Mattingly and Wade Boggs. As well, among the slew of off-season trades and free-agent signings, the acquisition of John Wetteland will prove to be the best that any team in baseball made when he wins the Cy Young Award.

The Orioles, Blue Jays and Boston Red Sox should all be jockeying closely for the wild-card spot, but for no other reason than it's Cal Ripken's year, give the nod to the Orioles.

The National League pennant will be a battle between former NL West rivals Atlanta and L.A., and if Cox just lets his pitchers do their job, the Braves will prevail.

The American League pennant could be one of the most exciting ever, pairing the Yankees and the Indians. If the Yankee pitchers can tame the Indian lineup for a seven-game series, the Yanks will go to the World Series.

Last year, my prediction of the Braves winning it all went unfulfilled because of the strike. This year, only another strike could stand in Atlanta's way.