



True Life at Waist Height

Handicapped students on campus face numerous obstacles in their daily routine. *Nexus* writer tags along, poorly.

See Feature p.4



Gaucho Upheavel

Debby Caine will continue to play point guard as freshman Syretta Coleman is out for the rest of the season.

See Sports p.12

Tuesday

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Daily Nexus UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA



High: 7:15 a.m.

Low: 12:40 p.m.



Volume 81, No.67

One Section, 12 Pages

Planning the Newest UC: 5,000 Students by 2010

■ University Says Merced Campus Will Spur Growth in Valley



Part One of a Two Part Series

EDITOR'S NOTE -After two decades of searching, the University of California has settled on the location of its 10th campus: Merced, a city located in the middle of the Central Valley and home to just over 100,000 people. This article, the first in a twopart series, looks at the developments that led to the selection of Merced. Tomorrow's installment will examine what lies ahead in the construction process, which will proceed only over the objections of environmental activists.

By Brendan Buhler Staff Writer AND NICK PASCAL Reporter

By 2010, the University of California has estimated a need to accommodate 54,000 additional students from California's booming population.

There is not enough room for these students at nine UC campuses.

Enter 2,000 acres of cattle-grazing land in the San Joaquin Valley, six miles outside of Merced and two miles from Lake Yosemite Park — about 45 minutes from Yosemite National Park. Rolling hills are covered in grass, wildflowers and very little else. Most of the year, the land is dusty brown, as is the horizon. When the air is clear, however, the peaks of the Sierra Nevada

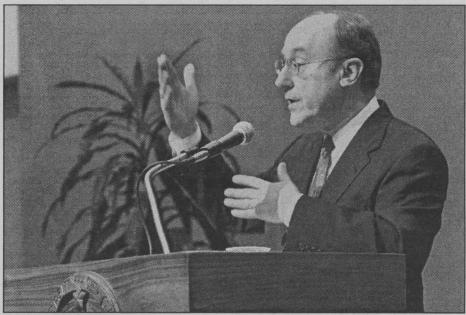
mountain range can be

This is the site of the 10th UC campus. Within the next 25 to 30 years, UC officials expect UC Merced to expand to accommodate 25,000 students. But to prepare it for 5,000 students by 2010 will cost \$400 million, according to University estimates.

UC planners expect the campus to open in 2004. Right now, UC Merced is one administrative office in a downtown strip mall. This summer, however, the university will open its non-existent doors to offer six to eight courses at small UC extension sites in Fresno, Bakersfield and Merced.

Three and a half million people live in the San Joaquin Valley, which

See MERCED, p.5



ALEX WARD / DAILY NEXUS

Dr. William Richardson, CEO of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, spoke about the state of healthcare in the United States to a full house in Corwin Pavillion on Monday afternoon.

Tanner Lecturer Speaks About National Healthcare Concerns

BY CHRISTINE BAI Reporter

Last year in the United States, 40,000 hospital patients died due to medical errors, Dr. William Richardson told a Corwin Pavilion audience Monday night.

"This is something we really need to get a grip on," Richardson said. "We need

to improve safety and quality for the patients."

Richardson, the chief executive officer of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and president emeritus of Johns Hopkins University, lectured Monday afternoon in Corwin Pavilion on the state of healthcare in the United States.

See RICHARDSON, p.9



I Spy a Band
Zig and Mardo, guitarists for the band "The Spies," play
Monday afternoon in Storke Plaza. ASPB presented the free
show, which was attended by approximately 100 students.

Housing Panel Reviews Future Urban Growth

By MATT SWEETLAND
Reporter

Upward instead of outwards should be the future of development in Goleta, local environmentalists said Monday night.

Santa Barbara residents gathered in the Schott Center at Santa Barbara Community College for the second installment of the three-part lecture series, "The Ocean in Trouble." This week's lecture, "Smart Growth," was presented by Lawrence Laurent, a marine ecologist and former San Luis Obispo County supervisor. He spoke on combating urban sprawl, defined by panel members as "lowdensity development beyond the edge of service and employment, which separates where people live from where they shop, work, recreate and educate - thus requiring cars to move between zones."

Laurent introduced a panel of speakers, including Santa Barbara County Planning Deputy Director Dan Gira, local architect Detlev Peikert and local homebuilder Bruce Giffin. Gira gave the audience a dim forecast on population growth projected in the county. "The housing demand in 2030 will be roughly five times the area of the vacant land that we have available in the Goleta Valley," he said.

The housing demand in 2030 will be roughly five times the area of the vacant land that we have available in the Goleta Valley.

- Dan Gira Santa Barbara County planning director

This growing housing demand could soon pressure landowners into developing the urban agricultural land present in Goleta today—land that acts as a filter for urban runoff, which flows into the sea. Development of this land would lead to an increase in pollutants already present in the ocean, Gira said.

"These lands were originally set aside so they could not be devel-

Gira gave the audience a dim oped for 10 years," he said. "That recast on population growth proted in the county. "The housing and the university are interested in them."

Laurent said a solution to the problem is a change in present growth patterns on the south coast, so dense development increases and growth is restricted laterally. "That way we have less developed areas that don't contribute to the runoff and other pollutants to the ocean," he said, "And also, people will be able to get to work by bicycle or by bus rather than driving

Peikert said a community effort is needed in order to find a solution to urban sprawl. "In a nutshell, I'd say the first thing that we need to do is get our heads out of the sand and stop simply reacting to the process of change and instead start developing the agents of the kinds of communities we can create," he said

UCSB environmental studies Professor Michael McGinnis will conclude the lecture series next Monday with a lecture on watershed at 7:30 p.m. in the Schott Center downtown.

of the News

Bush Opens Funding to Religious Charities



WASHINGTON (AP) President George W. Bush, challenging traditional notions about separation of church and state, opened the door for religious groups to receive government money for their work aiding addicts, prisoners, the homeless and more Monday.

"We will not fund the religious activities of any group, but when people of faith provide social services, we will not discriminate against them," the president said.

By his signature on a pair of executive orders, Bush created a White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives — with counterpart offices in five Cabinet-level departments - that will facilitate competition by religious groups and charities for a share of

might be considering.

for social services.

During a visit to northeast Washington's Fishing School, a spiritual youth center, on Tuesday Bush planned to unveil the legislation he will submit to Congress opening all federal grant programs to participation by religious groups. His proposals will also include tax incentives and liability protection to

the government pays out able to compete for funding on an equal basis and in a manner that does not cause them to sacrifice their mission."

Religious leaders of varied faiths and political backgrounds, including a Catholic nun in her blue habit, a Muslim imam in his turban, and an Orthodox Jew in his yarmulke, Bush for a smiling photo.

surrounded

Carol Porter, executive director of the Houstonbased Kidcare, a 16-yearold "meals on wheels" program for children, told Bush in that meeting that the only condition tied to federal money for religious groups should be: "No proselytizing."

"I don't think the religion of anyone should be shoved down anyone else's throat as a prerequisite for service. Jesus didn't do that," Porter told a reporter afterward.

The idea of religious participation is not entirely new. The 1996 welfare signed overhaul President Bill Clinton and implemented in Texas by then-Gov. Bush allowed religious groups to help the government move people off welfare and into jobs. Seventeen of those groups in Texas are now being sued by the American Jewish Congress and Texas Civil Rights Project challenging the constitutionality of such "charitable choice."

compete for funding on an equal basis ... - George W. Bush U.S. president

As long as there are secular alternatives,

faith-based charities should be able to

encourage more charitable

"Problems like addiction and abandonment and gang violence, domestic violence, mental illness and homelessness — we are called by conscience to respond," Bush said during Monday's signing ceremony in the White House's Indian Treaty Room.

giving, aides said.

"As long as there are secular alternatives, faiththe billions of dollars that based charities should be

WASHINGTON (AP) —

President George W. Bush

promised to "act boldly and

swiftly" to address the nation's energy problems and

directed Vice President Dick

Cheney to head a task force

to develop an energy strategy

White House Promises Action to Aid

them Among Christian ministers Walter Fauntroy and Floyd Flake, who are both prominent black Democrats.

In a private meeting beforehand, Bush, who was opposed by nine of every 10 black voters in November, assessed the group and, according to several participants, joked: "If this was about politics, this room would be kind of empty, if you know what I

from California's problems.

energy production for too long.

electric power plants.

Daily Nexus

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Monkey See, Monkey Do

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AP Wire Shorts

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) — DaimlerChrysler is eliminating 26,000 jobs at its money-losing Chrysler division in the most dramatic sign to date that the 1998 merger of the German and American automakers is not living up to its promise.

Concerned that California's power crisis could spread

into other states, Bush said he wanted a plan to address

both short-term and long-term energy problems. He

gave no clear indication of any short-term policies he

beginning to affect neighboring states," Bush said after a

meeting with Cheney and Cabinet members.

Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham.

"We're very aware ... that the situation in California is

Western governors are to confer this Friday in

These governors — both Democrats and Republicans

- have expressed concerns about soaring energy costs

and potential shortages this spring and summer.

Portland, Ore., at a meeting that also will be attended by

Under the plan announced Monday, Chrysler will cut one-fifth of its global work force over the next three years and idle six plants.

Dieter Zetsche, a German who was named Chrysler's president and chief executive in November to stem the losses, called the moves painful, but necessary in the face of "brutal" competition and slack U.S.

Chrysler posted a third-quarter loss of \$512 million and warned that its fourth-quarter loss could be more than \$1 billion.

The job cuts involve 19,000 hourly workers and 6,800 on salary. Zetsche said he expects a large part of the job-cutting to be done through retirement programs, with others phased out through layoffs and attrition.

TORRINGTON, Conn. (AP) — A 13-year-old boy was hospitalized with second and third-degree burns after mimicking an MTV personality who set himself on fire during a stunt show.

"They're deeply concerned about the situation spread-

Last week, the Bonneville Power Authority, which has

provided cheap electricity for decades to its Northwest

customers, said it is looking at a 60 percent increase in

rates over the next five years because of the ripple effect

problems of soaring electricity and natural gas prices and

longer-term energy supply problems, focusing on pro-

ducing more domestic oil and gas and building more

Gray Davis reached agreement on a tentative outline of a

plan to keep two financially strapped utilities from bank-

ruptcy. But the state continues to be threatened daily by

rolling blackouts, and consumers - promised lower elec-

tricity prices by deregulation — are now bracing for years

spread have provided momentum for Bush, a former oil-

man, to press his argument that the nation has neglected

California's energy crunch and the worries that it will

In recent days the California Legislature and Gov.

Bush said the task force will address both short-term

ing beyond California and so are we," said Bush.

Jason Lind was severely burned Friday night when he and a friend poured gasoline on his feet and legs and lit him on fire while imitating a stunt on MTV's highrated show "Jackass," police said. The fire grew out of control and burned the boy's legs and hands before it was extinguished, officials said.

Lind remained hospitalized Monday in critical condition in the burn unit of Shriner's Hospital for Children in Boston.

"Jackass" features an array of pranks and stunts. In Friday's episode, show creator Johnny Knoxville donned a fire-resistant suit hung with steaks. He then lay across a makeshift barbecue while his cast mates shot lighter fluid onto the grill to fan the flames.

One of the teens said Lind volunteered to re-enact the stunt.

the Daily Nexus.

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Weather

Some kid from Connecticut set himself on fire yesterday while trying to recreate the "Human Barbecue" episode from MTV's thought-provoking show "Jackass" (see story to left).

Congratulations, buddy. Your daddy's cousin (also your mother) said no one from your trailer park complex would ever amount to anything, but you've plum gone and showed her, haven't you? Who would have ever thought that people all across the world would be mentioning that show's name and yours in the same breath?

Funny thing about that though, champ ... people sure are saying your name, but somehow I don't think they're referring to the show when they say, "Jackass."

Tuesday's forecast: Partly cloudy, with a hot chance of folks in Connecticut erecting a "Home of the living Jackass" sign.

Piss With Glee on the SUV

At approximately 11:20 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 27, Isla Vista Foot Patrol officers patrolling the 900 block of Pardall Rd. observed an 18-year-old male urinating on a new Ford Explorer in the Burger King parking lot.

The suspect attempted to hurry off when he noticed the officers; however, they were able to detain him. The suspect admitted to urinating on the vehicle, which was not his own. It was clear to the officers the suspect could not answer the officer's questions due to his level of intoxication.

The suspect was arrested for public intoxication and urinating in public and transported to the Santa Barbara County Jail, where he was housed, pending sobriety.

Give Me That Baton, Big Boy

At approximately 12:20 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 27, IVFP officers patrolling the 6600 block of Del Playa Dr. were walking away from a male pedestrian when a 20-year-old female grabbed and pulled the officer's collapsible baton in its holster.

The officers contacted the suspect and began to issue a verbal warning for her poor sense of judgment. When officers asked where she resided, the suspect said she lived four houses down the street, on the 6500 block.

Due to the suspect's extreme level of impairment, the officers determined the suspect was unable to care for her own

The suspect was arrested for public intoxication and transported to the Santa Barbara County Jail, where she was housed, pending sobriety.

It's Just Safer Against the Fence

At approximately 2:30 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 28, IVFP officers patrolling the 6600 block of Del Playa Dr. observed a 21-year-old male leaning

against a fence.

When officers contacted the suspect and asked him where he was or how he was getting home, he did not know. When the suspect moved away from the fence, he was unable to maintain his bal-

ance by himself.

The officers determined the suspect was not a danger to anyone else, however could not care for himself. While at the IVFP station, the suspect vomited several times in a bucket and on himself.

The suspect was arrested for public intoxication and transported to the Santa Barbara County Jail, where he was housed, pending sobriety.

Regrets of an Underage Delinquent

At approximately 12:50 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 28, IVFP officers patrolling the 6500 block of Sabado Tarde Rd. observed an 18-year-old female holding a red plastic cup.

The suspect was standing in a public access parking lot and appeared to be under the legal drinking age. As the officers attempted to contact the suspect, she walked into the kitchen of an apartment and put her cup in a large popcorn bowl, and walked back outside.

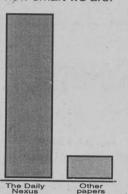
The cup was retrieved and the suspect was asked to sit on the curb. As the officers began to issue the suspect a citation for minor in possession of alcohol, she continuously tried to stand up and confront the officers.

The suspect began calling the officers names and refused to cooperate. Upon being arrested and transported to the IVFP station, the suspect continually said, "Where am I? What am I doing here? This isn't supposed to happen to

The suspect was arrested for public intoxication and transported to the Santa Barbara County Jail, where she was housed, pending sobriety.

-Compiled by Jennifer B. Siverts from Isla Vista Foot Patrol Reports

The Daily Nexus



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Feature

Rolling a Mile in Someone Else's Chair

A Nexus Reporter Goes Wheelchair Bound and Learns the Oxymoron of "Handicap Access"

BY JULIA RUBIN Reporter

"It can happen in a second," senior psychology major Erin Fowler tells me on the morning of our UCSB wheelchair tour. "The free para-gliding lesson was a present from a friend for my 20th birthday. Conditions were really bad.

The instructor never should have taken off."

A para-gliding accident in 1997 left Erin paralyzed from the waist down. She TRUC BUI / DAILY NEXUS came to UCSB in 1999

after realizing she was unable to return to her previous college and today she is my guide and mentor as I learn more about the daily life of a disabled student.

After borrowing a wheelchair from a commissioner for C.O.D.A., the Commission on Disability Access, we departed from the Educational Opportunities office. I soon encountered my first obstacle - the elevator in Storke Plaza.

Having only used the wheelchair for a short time, I crashed into the sides of the elevator door a few times before I got myself in. Figuring out how Erin and I would fit both our chairs into the elevator was also difficult, but finally worked.

Next, we headed toward the UCen. We approached the top of the hill and down below us lunchtime crowds filled the sidewalk as vendors sold posters and jewelry.

"OK, let's go," Erin said as she tore off down the hill and into the crowd. I hesitated. There seemed to be innumerable obstacles on the way down. I was sure I would take out a few pedestrians before capsizing in a bush somewhere. I swallowed my fear, and rolled the wheels forward. The rims were spinning through my hands as I attempted to go as slowly as possible down the hill.

As I sped down the hill behind Erin, the L.A. Times vendor yelled to me, "Just a close second!" and smiled, perhaps thinking he was being charming. I caught up with Erin. "Shit like that happens all the time," she said, remarking on the vendor's

On our way to the UCen, we ran into another commissioner for C.O.D.A., Justine Blevins. Justine has cerebral palsy and has always been in a wheelchair. She has her own story to tell:

> "One day, a few years ago, I was down by the UCen post office boxes. The alarm went off and my first thought was to get out as fast as possible; which was out the back way. After I had exited I realized I could only get about a foot away from the building. I had to decide whether or not I was going to

go up the stairs but I didn't want to do it if it was a false alarm because it would be exhausting for me.

"Then the alarms stopped and I knew it was a false alarm. I was pretty shaken up because if it had been a real fire, I would have been dead. When I went to Physical Facilities Management, they said that the procedure was to wait under the stairwell and that someone would come to get me. But, in my case, no one came. It was an affront to me as a student. No one else would have had to wait in the stairwell. The appropriate administrators ignored me."

— Justine Blevins

My next challenge came from the UCen doors. I grabbed the UCen door handle and tried to wheel myself backward to open the door. I could barely do it! The doors are so heavy that one has to use nearly all their strength to get the door open. I was holding the door open with my left arm, trying to figure out how I was going to roll forward and go into the building without letting the door close before I could get in. After an exhausting struggle, I made it inside.

Erin and I had talked about the UCen doors before, as they are one of the main projects on which C.O.D.A. is working. Of course, it is hard to understand the difficulty in simply opening a door when one is on foot.

We decided to go to Isla Vista, which meant we going back up the hill I had barreled down only a few minutes before. If I thought going down hill was difficult, going uphill was near impossible. Erin waited for me at the top of the hill as my

feeble shoulder muscles screamed and I gasped for breath. "How long have you been in the chair?" the photographer from the Nexus asked. "Oh, I don't know, I'd say about half an hour," I said.

The photographer looked at his watch. "It's been 15 minutes."

Navigating through campus is a cakewalk compared to I.V. The ground is incredibly bumpy compared to the smooth pathways of campus. Even the slightest bumps in the road make it more difficult for you to move forward. Nothing in your path goes unnoticed.

Erin took me to a section of sidewalk torn up by the roots of a tree. The sidewalk was totally destroyed, and completely inaccessible for wheelchairs.

I've walked over that piece of sidewalk before, and not really even noticed it. Now that I couldn't move forward and my independence was limited by my surroundings,

I was frustrated and annoyed that I.V. isn't better equipped for wheelchairs. We paused for a moment. "Down there a few blocks," Erin said, "there is no sidewalk at all. It is not safe to be in the bike lane because the cars can't see you. It isn't wheelchair accessible at all."

Right now, there are no sidewalks where there should be. We are going to encourage sidewalk development on Los Carneros.

- Mel Fabi co-founder Coalition for Disability Access

The co-founder of C.O.D.A., Mel Fabi, is also a member of the Isla Vista Community Relations Committee (IVCRC) and says the group is working on handicap access issues throughout I.V.

"Right now, there are no sidewalks where there should be," Fabi said. "We are going to encourage sidewalk development on Los Carneros"

"It's really hard to get around I.V.," Erin said. Last year, when Erin wanted to move off-campus into Isla Vista, she contacted a company that handles a number of apartments in I.V. "Not a single apartment was accessible. It's pretty difficult to find



TRUC BUI / DAILY NEXUS



Senior psychology major Erin Fowler's minivan equipped with an automatic roll-out ramp, swivel entry seat, and hand controls for gas and brake.

She chooses to live university-owned housing almost no housing in Isla Vista is wheelchair accessible.

Then there's I.V.'s sidewalks, or lack of

It's the kind of thing you never think twice about during a trip through the library.

"If you're supposed to use the stairs during a fire, what do you do if you can't use the

The answer is little more than wait and hope for rescue.

Several campus buildings leave no room in their emergency plans for the handicapped.

a place in I.V. I have to live in university housing."

Even though C.O.D.A. is only five months old, the group has already made huge strides in increasing accessibility on campus for disabled students. In their Mission Statement, they write, "C.O.D.A. shall outreach, network, and explore ways to increase retention and graduation rates, and promote social, educational, and academic programs regarding the disabled student community." C.O.D.A. is approaching their goals by making plans for automatic doors in the UCen, and holding weekly meetings to discuss access on campus. As Mel said, "This is an opportunity to promote change. Education is a right. This campus is for everyone."

When we reached our final destination I thanked Erin for her tour of campus and I.V. Not only is Erin both physically and emotionally strong on a daily basis, she's also the most positive person I have ever met. I told her the experience had been eye-opening and she said the ultimate goal is to increase awareness so every person is viewed equally by society. In a society full of inequalities, Erin is both a

noble and important teacher for all our school's students.

MERCED

stretches from Stockton to Bakersfield. A primarily rural area, it has not seen many benefits of the new, computer-based economy.

"This area desperately needs positive growth, a university, to spur economic and education access for local inhabitants," said James Grant, the director of communications for UC Merced.

"The San Joaquin Valley is a large area that has traditionally been underserved in many areas of education, healthcare, economic opportunity, Grant "Currently, high school graduates from the San Joaquin Valley attend the UC system at half the rate of the rest of the state. Building a major new research university here will help transform the educational and economic access for the entire region."

Compared to the rest of California, land in the valley is cheap. The average home in Merced costs \$120,000, compared to \$205,000 in Los Angeles or \$365,000 in the San Francisco Bay Area.

looking at 85 possible locations for a site in central California during the late 1980s. After environmental impact reports, the UC narrowed the field to three locations: Table Mountain in Madera, Academy Avenue in Fresno and the 2,000 acres of trust land by Lake Yosemite next door to Merced.

Worries about the water supply in Madera eliminated Mountain, Grant said, while Fresno, with its population of 755,730, would have been cramped and expensive. Merced, with a population of 198,450 and land that will cost the University next to nothing, was left. For 2,000 acres of grassland, the UC will pay the Virginia Smith Trust \$10,000.

The trust owns 7,000 acres of land around Merced and was founded by the estate of a wealthy California native named Virginia Smith to pay for San Joaquin Valley students to attend college. Terry Bates, the trust's operations director, said the trust would have "a mutually beneficial business relationship" with UC

The University began Merced. The university would increase property values around Merced and, possibly, lease some of the 2,000 acres back to the trust as grazing land, which would increase the trust's ability to fund scholarships.

> If the new university surrounding increases property values, they will go up slowly, said Augustus Strotz, a managing trustee of the Cyril Smith Trust, another Merced-area educational

> "There will be nothing appreciable for the next five to 10 years," he said. "This is a very long term planning endeavor."

> Anticipating an economic boom, Merced County is preparing for the newest UC by planning to expand its roads. In 1997, Rep. Gary Condit of California's 18th District requested \$55 million in congressional funds to build access roads to the university.

> Construction is scheduled to begin this summer. Gov. Gray Davis allocated \$162 million in the 2001-02 state budget to pay for the university's first three

> > See MERCED, p.8

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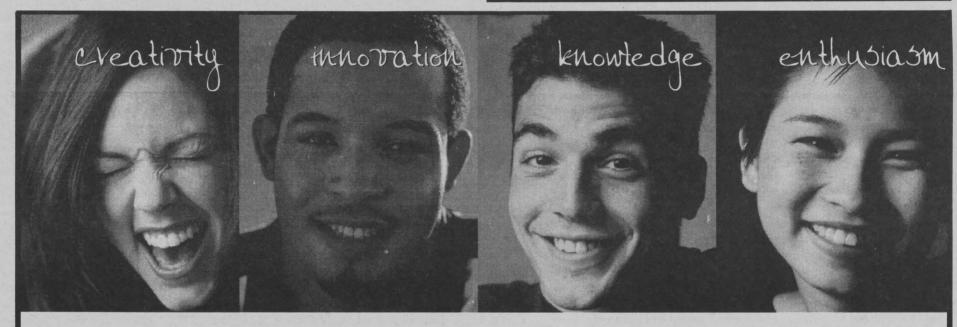
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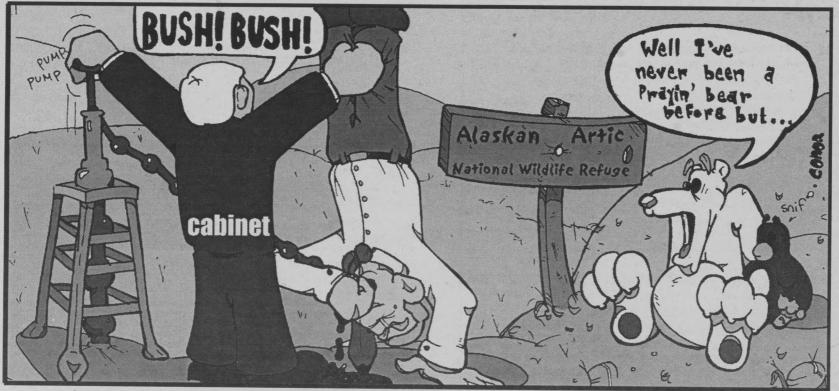
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Staff Editorial



CONNOR BUCKLEY / DAILY NEXUS

Aggressive Energy

Bush's Attempt to Capitalize on California's Power Crisis Highlights Right-Wing Statesmanship

eorge W. Bush campaigned for office on a platform that advocated, among other measures, tapping the Alaskan Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in order to bolster the nation's dwindling oil reserves. Now, as if California's Stage 3 energy crisis and rolling blackouts have not been troublesome enough, Bush is blaming the power shortage on the state's overly strict environmental standards. Consequentially, Bush and his cronies are illegitimately trying to capitalize on California's dilemma in an attempt to push through an aggressive national energy policy.

Although the new president has extended directives issued by Clinton that force out-of-state power suppliers to continue selling juice to California, the Bush administration has threatened to leave the state in the dark if the problem is not remedied as the White House sees fit. The governors of Oregon and Arizona have complained to Bush that the power crisis is "spilling over" into their respective states, and Federal Reserve Chair Alan Greenspan warned Congress last week that such energy woes could potentially have negative effects on the national economy. In response, Bush has created a new task force to study the problem, while Vice President Dick Cheney has placed blame on California's "flawed deregulation scheme" and overly restrictive environmental regulatory process. Loosening environmental standards, however, is a drastic and unnecessary response to what is, essentially, a short-term problem.

Most analysts predict that while utility costs may rise and no solution will be painless, California will eventually iron out its problems without federal intervention. Conservation is on the rise, gas prices are falling and the state government is entertaining a number of plans that would extend the public nd back into the utility industry to varying degrees. Facilitating regulatory approval for the construction of new power plants would certainly furnish California with much needed megawatts, but the plan has serious environ-

mental repercussions and does not address the inherent problems of what Cheney correctly identified as a "flawed deregulation scheme." If the energy crisis is to be resolved, the industry must be placed back where it belongs in the hands of state government. Unfortunately, Bush has a vested interest in exploiting California's predicament.

The Bush administration has utilized the state's Stage 3 energy alert to highlight a national power shortage. Essentially, the White House is attempting to use California as evidence that something needs to be done to increase resources coast to coast, and proposes removing the ban on exploratory drilling in the Alaskan Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as a solution. However, both energy officials and proponents of arctic drilling have admitted that this action would do nothing to assuage problems in the West.

California's dilemma will be short-lived. By the time exploratory drilling strikes oil and an underground pipeline is constructed to channel the black gold to local markets, the energy crisis in the West will be a memory. What, then, is the rationale for destroying pristine wilderness and taking such a drastic environmental risk?

It is true that the nation needs more power; it always has and it always will. The Clinton administration made significant headway towards achieving efficient, sustainable energy sources, yet Bush is abandoning this alternative. At the very least, "Dubya's" administration must come up with a more pressing and convincing reason than California's energy crisis if it wants to scrap important environmental regulations and tap Alaska like an Isla Vista keg. Bush's thinly veiled attempt to capitalize on California's energy shortage in order to push through an ill-planned and overly aggressive energy agenda must be recognized for what it is: one megawatt short of rational.

Preside

JOHN BI

What do you do with a istration figure that kept do housework? If you're appoint her to be secretary didn't know about Linda might have been able to to choice for secretary of labor raising the minimum wag is the head of the Dept. of supposed to enforce lab abroad, such as illegal in Chavez withdrew from t poor choice is another r about his politics. The D or destructive in our lives: mate example of how poli

The secretary of labor divisions within this vital Occupational Safety and (OSHA). The party in th if the DOL is constructi regard to our work and v mid 1990s, Business Week a story about the Reagan-"U.S. industry [had] cond most successful anti-un Along with giving manage Republicans weakened OS DOL. Even Business Week under Reagan and Bush agency." During those po average workdays lost to 58 to 86 per 100 worker DOL means weak unions benefits, less job security, 1 Business Week admits is "a rich and poor, which has dimensions."

In sharp contrast, President Family and Medical Lea employers to give worker leave to take care of their Coast spokesman for the Tino Serrano, told me, "V lies deserve fairer treatmen particularly low-wage w Family Act is one example Dept. of Labor under Cli

BILL FLORES &

Education has allowed s and others. The result has accept one another as divers the 21st century, there has a the pursuance of underre majors and minors are offe minority study, including A Chicano Studies, and East These fields of study, amon

It is estimated that app UCSB identify themselves queer (LGBT). This is appr total undergraduate popula at UCSB is 3 percent of to and the Asian-American po

ful at UCSB and at univers

The LGBT community minority that should be re there is currently no underg cial minor in LGBT Studie at many universities nations Los Angeles. A minor in L

The Reader's Voice

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION REALLY 'NEGATIVE ACTION'

Editor, Daily Nexus:

I'm writing in response to the letters submitted by Ray Smith and El Congreso (Daily Nexus, "Affirmative Action Brings Positive Consequences," and "Do Not Vandalize MLK Day With Racist Words, Deeds," respectively, Jan. 23) regarding the "Reverse Racism in Education" Jan. 16 opinion column by James Black.

El Congreso implicates Black as a racist, loosely using the term simply because his opinion doesn't parallel its own. Personally I give little value to claims unsupported by evidence, as was the case in point. In fact, Black is calling for unbiased equality in admission decisions, whereas El Congreso is hypocritically begging for decisions based on race. Now who's the bigot?

My main concern in writing this letter, however, is to address Smith's self-degrading arguments regarding Affirmative Action. Smith contends that Affirmative Action doesn't let unqualified students into the UC system, which is true. However, what it does do, is let less qualified students take the place of more qualified students based solely on race. This is fundamentally wrong and practically defines the

Smith's next argument regarding who Affirmative Action will allegedly help the most white women — is off topic and irrelevant. Just because it would allegedly help white women more than minorities doesn't make it any more moral or right. Smith's very own "lamest of the lame" comment should be applied to his own argument.

I agree that simply switching schools isn't quite as easy as Black makes it out to be. That's like saying just switch your social class. I fully understand

Letters to the editor MUST include the author's FULL name, phone number, year and major.

that the lower class isn't given the same opportunities in education as the upper class, but there are white kids in the lower class and black kids in the upper class. Because this is the case, shouldn't we change Affirmative Action so it helps the underprivileged, rather than using arbitrary racial guide-

The bottom line is that life isn't fair, nobody ever claimed it was. Some people will be inherently disadvantaged, so why make it less fair by judging someone's potential based on the pigment of his or her skin — two wrongs most certainly don't make a right. I say that the UC shouldn't even ask what ethnicity you are on the application. If your ultimate goal was equality, why on earth would you try to achieve it with a racist plan dressed up in the name of Affirmative Action? At least be honest and change the name to "negative action."

SCOTT W. MITCHELL

etters:

ubmissions, but please include your name and phone number. For columns, maximum ree pages, typed and double-spaced; for letters, one page. All submissions become the property of the Daily Nexus upon being turned in and are edited for length and clarity.

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dential Cabinet Forms Bastion of Conservative Policy

IN BENNETT

o with a former Reagan adminat kept an illegal immigrant to you're George W. Bush, you ecretary of labor. Granted, Bush Linda Chavez's worker, but he ble to tell that she wasn't a wise of labor from her opposition to ım wage. The secretary of labor Dept. of Labor (DOL), which is rce labor laws at home and legal immigration. Thankfully, from the position, but Bush's other reason to be concerned The DOL can be constructive ir lives and work, and is an intiow politics touch us all.

of labor appoints the heads of is vital department, such as the ty and Health Administration ty in the White House decides nstructive or destructive with

k and well-being. In the ss Week magazine printed Reagan-Bush years, when d] conducted one of the anti-union wars ever." management free reign, ened OSHA through the ess Week stated, "[OSHA] d Bush was a hands-off hose poorly lit years, the lost to injury grew from workers. A conservative unions, leading to fewer curity, lower wages and what its is "a widening gap between ch has reached Depression-era

st, President Clinton signed the cal Leave Act, which requires workers 12 weeks of unpaid of their family members. West for the U.S. Dept. of Labor, me, "Workers and their famireatment from their employers, vage workers," and that the example of how the Democratic der Clinton has acted on that belief. However, even with this Democratic breakthrough, the leave U.S. parents get (including the more affluent ones) is far shorter and less beneficial than that of other industrialized democracies. After the Family Act, U.S. full-time workers got only 12 weeks of unpaid leave compared to, for instance, England, Japan and Sweden, which average 26 weeks of leave at 80 percent of their full pay.

The much-needed Family Act was passed over strong Republican opposition. The GOP called the act "yet another example of intrusive govern-

ment." Such a declaration shows just what their "family values" are sion, which would slow and keep prices for premade of. Based on his scription drugs unbearably high. As attorney genparty's past behavior, Bush's government, CABINET be responsi-DOL could jolt our fair government away from the

healthy direction it was just beginning to move in. Far from defending our interests, the only requirement for Bush staffers is devotion to the corporate community. Case in point is attorney general nominee John Ashcroft.

In the last election, Ashcroft was rejected by the voters of his own state because of his rightwing, anti-choice and pro-gun stands. He is a member of the so-called Christian right, which recently waged a holy war against the heathen Teletubbies. The New York Times editorial board

warns, "Mr. Ashcroft supports a constitutional amendment that would outlaw abortion even in cases of incest and rape and that would criminalize several commonly used forms of contraception." Even more frightening than his stance on social issues is his bond with the corporate com-

For example, Ashcroft took \$50,000 from Schering-Plough, the company that makes Claritin. Ashcroft took this legalized bribe as chairman of the Senate committee in charge of patents. Schering-Plough wanted a patent exten-

eral, the chief lawyer for our Ashcroft

ble for ensuring competition SHADI MUKLASHY / DAILY NEXUS among corporations so that monopolies don't develop. Accepting money from the Claritin manufacturer shows an inability to take a principled stand against monopolies. From labor to law to the environment, Bush's nominations are a troubling reminder of the crucial differences between the two parties. Bush's own record was our first warning sign.

In Texas, Bush appointed only businessmen to three-man Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) - the state's environmental agency. One was an agribusinessman, the second was an oil expert for a corporate law firm in Dallas and the third was a 30-year executive of Monsanto Chemical Corporation. Bush's TNRCC claimed that they decreased pollution, but the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) found the opposite. Bush's nominations thus far have been consistent with his anti-environment record. For instance, take a look at his choice for EPA director, New

Jersey Gov. Christine Whitman.

Whitman was praised by her state's businesses for her "laissez-faire approach" to the environment. For me, the most disturbing part of Whitman's record is her belief in "voluntary compliance," which means letting big polluters decide whether or not they'd like to abide by environmental rules. The results are predictable, as Whitman's New Jersey shows. The Washington Post notes Whitman's Dept. of Environmental Protection "collected far fewer fines and filed far fewer lawsuits, relying heavily on the polluters themselves to monitor their own emissions, even approving a 'grace period' for businesses caught out of compliance." Bush shares Whitman's belief in voluntary compliance, along with his pick for secretary of the interior, Gail Norton, who said states "lost too much" when the South lost the Civil War.

Norton is a lobbyist for a major manufacturer of lead-based paints that is being sued in numerous lawsuits for toxic waste dumping. Like Norton, the rest of Bush's cabinet will faithfully represent the corporate community. Campaign chair Don Evans is the chief executive of a Texas oil and gas company, Office of Management and Budget head Mitch Daniels is a senior VP of the drug giant Eli Lilly and Co., and National Security Adviser Condoleeza Rice has a Chevron oil tanker named after her. But, like Eeyore says, there's warm sun behind every cloud.

Bush's staff will be gone in four years, and I'm content that a majority of Americans supported Al Gore. The more lasting problem with Bush will be his Supreme Court nominees, which we'll live with for the rest of our adult lives. Because a majority of our country refused Bush, he can't even whisper the word "mandate" honestly. If he respects the will of the people, Bush must begin to make more moderate decisions by the time a

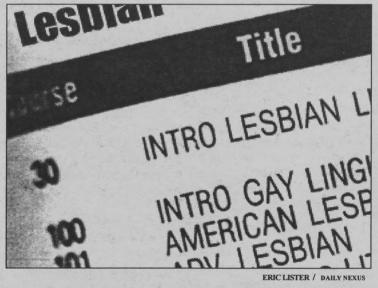
John Bennett is a senior English major and history major, a member of the Campus Democrats and a

Promotes Study of Underrepresented Minority

RES & ELIZABETH VAN DYKE

llowed students to learn more about themselves sult has motivated society to move forward and as diverse fellow human beings. As we move into ere has never been a better opportunity to ensure underrepresented minority access. Currently, are offered in many fields of underrepresented luding Asian-American Studies, Black Studies, nd East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies. ly, among others, have proven extremely successuniversities throughout the United States.

that approximately 1,600 to 2,500 students at mselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or s is approximately 10 percent to 15 percent of the population. The African-American population ent of total undergraduates (about 424 students) erican population is 16 percent (2,579 students). mmunity at UCSB is another underrepresented ld be represented in a field of study. However, o undergraduate department that offers an offi-Γ Studies. Minors in LGBT Studies are offered s nationwide, as well as at UC Berkeley and UC nor in LGBT Studies is long overdue at UCSB



and would be an asset to our campus, setting a new standard for minority studies as it has done on many other campuses. Students at universities around the world will be called upon to be leaders in the near future. Therefore, it is necessary that we learn about each other.

Courses available within the LBGT Studies at UCB and UCLA include UGIS 20AC: Alternative Sexual Identities & Communities in Contemporary American Society, UGIS 147B: Sexuality, Culture and Colonialism, LGBTS M115: Lesbian and Gay History in the U.S., and LGBTS M133: Chicana Lesbian Literature. These are just a few of the courses addressing this underrepresented minority community and there are already many courses existing within the UCSB curriculum that could be applied to LGBT Studies, such as Asian-American Studies 135: Asian-Pacific American Queer Issues, English 129: Queer Textuality, Sociology 152A: Sociology of Human Sexuality, and Sociology 159LG: Sociology of Lesbian and Gay Communities.

Supreme Court justice retires.

Establishing a minor cannot be accomplished without student support. Without this support, minors would not have been recognized on diplomas and many fields of study would not be in existence. We have the power to create the solutions to our own needs, but only with our loud voices can we create this progressive field of study that will benefit all students.

We have created a survey on our Associated Students Leg Council website (www.asucsb.org) where each and every student can give her or his input in creating this new minor. We also plan to hold a public forum on this issue in the near future and there will be a workshop on LGBT Studies at the UCLGBT Conference (UCSB, Feb. 16-18, 2001). We welcome any and all comments on this important matter. For further information, contact Bill Flores at

dillf@as.ucsb.edu> or Elizabeth Van Dyke <qelizzy@umail.ucsb.edu>.

Bill Flores is a junior political science and sociology major and A.S. Off-Campus Rep. Elizabeth Van Dyke is a sophomore political science major and A.S. Rep-at-Large.



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Today's Birthday (Jan. 30). Others marvel at your prowess this year. Don't hold back; strut your stuff. You didn't get this good by accident; you worked at it! A friend provides the clue that solves the riddle in January. Be confident in February and get the raise you've earned. New responsibilities require a new role in April. You're a natural! Count your blessings and your winnings in May and share with your loved ones through June. Go back to the drawing board in July to perfect your routine. Make corrections in August and build a strong foundation. Hire an errand-runner in October and take some time off. Be respectful in November, but not intimidated. Encourage a friend's transformation in December

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is an 8 - New developments

may confuse you, but not for long. If you and your friends keep talking, you'll all understand soon. The lesson is partly technical and partly spiritual. You can find a way to do whatever's necessary, with

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 5 - You're being asked to work to tight standards. Trouble is somebody else came up with the rules. Stifle your opinion. By using your experience, or calling somebody who has experience, you can meet and exceed all expec-

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 9 - You and your buddies have plans already made. Give this race everything you've got, and you could beat your old record. Go for the gold! Everybody's root-

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 6 - You might want to try for more pay for the job you're doing. If you're serious about this, find what you want, know how much it costs, and where to get it. Put the paperwork under your boss's nose, and odds are good he or

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is an 8 - Meet with a person who can help you achieve a long-term goal. This has to do with vacation or travel. Today if you get together with the right person, you can make it happen. Why not? What else are you doing with the rest of

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 6 - You've put up with quite a lot lately, just to get a paycheck. Although it's hard to get a raise in your allowance now, you might be able to wrangle some time off. Tomorrow would be good. Finish something your boss

0

doesn't want to do and then ask Libra (Sept. 23-Oct 22) - Today is a 10 - Getting your regular work done may be hard. You're too busy planning your next big project. You're looking great, and everybody around you is happier for knowing you. Luckily, nobody will notice if you don't get your reg-ular job done, anyway.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 6 - You may feel like you're sitting on hot coals. Don't lash out at the person who's causing you this consternation. Thank them, instead, for motivating you.

That will really take them by surprise.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 9 - Do you go for the passionate or the intellectual type? Right now, a passionate intellectual has got your attention. You have somebody enthralled, too, not only with what you know, but also with what you're doing.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 6 - Are you changing things around at your house? Don't stop, even if this project is becoming more expensive than you thought it would be. You can scrimp on something else, later. Do it right, so you won't have to go through this again.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 9 - You'll need to move quickly. The competition's putting on pressure, but it's nothing you can't handle. They don't know about your secret weapon. You don't know what it is, either. You'd better get busy and discover it.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 7 - Are you spending money like it's water? If you're paying bills, that's OK. After, if you have money left, take your sweetheart out to the finest place in town. If you don't have any money left, your place will do fine. Your cook-

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MERCED

Continued from p.5

buildings: an office building, a science and engineering building and a high-tech library.

Planners expect the buildings to be complete by 2004. By that time, Grant said, the university is scheduled to admit its first 1,000 students. Enrollment is predicted to increase at a rate of 800 per year, reaching 5,000 students by 2010.

The UC is planning to build the campus over 910 acres, holding 340 acres in reserve for future development and saving 750 acres as a natural preserve.

But there are a few bumps in the road. The 2,000 acres the UC plans

to build on are pocked with puddles and swamps called vernal pools, home to endangered microscopic life forms, such as the fairy

Vernalpools.org is a website maintained by environmentalists opposed to building UC Merced.

"The proposed project will have major unmitigatable impacts on endangered species, unique natural landscapes, important wetland habitats, and our irreplaceable natural heritage," reads the website.

Despite opposition, Grant maintains that UC Merced will be built on

Tomorrow's article will focus on the environmental debate surrounding the new university.



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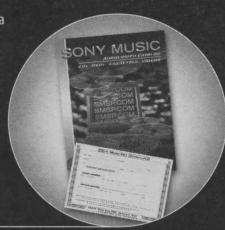
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RICHARDSON

Continued from p.1

Richardson spoke of the changes in healthcare relationships and the degree of organizational rearrangements Americans might need. He discussed medical errors such as illegible handwriting and botched prescriptions and what can be done to try and prevent

Richardson said the results of the patient-death study ranked medical errors as the 8th leading cause of death in America.

"For many years, it has been assumed that whatever errors that have occurred was because of clinicians." impaired practitioners, physicians, nurses and others, but this is not the nature of the problem here. Fundamentally, it was the system's problem; the problem of a culture within institutions that did not lend itself to a safe environment," he said. "We need to tackle these problems. We recommend that we have a mandatory reporting system to track these problems down, and take immediate reaction to fix them."

Richardson listed a number of methods in redesigning the healthcare system, such as rapidly expanding knowledge and advancing in information and technology.

"In order to accomplish all of these things, we need self-organization, Richardson said. "Care should be based on continuous interactive relationship between the patient and the practitioner, customization systems should be designed having time available to clinicians, patients should be given necessary information and there should be an idea of cooperation among the

Richardson's lecture was part of the Tanner Lectureship, a nonprofit corporation established in 1978 to advance and reflect upon scholarly and scientific learning relating to human values. The University of California is one of only nine institutions in the world to have an established Tanner Lectureship.

"We are proud to welcome our distinguished speaker guest Dr. Richardson, who is a lead-

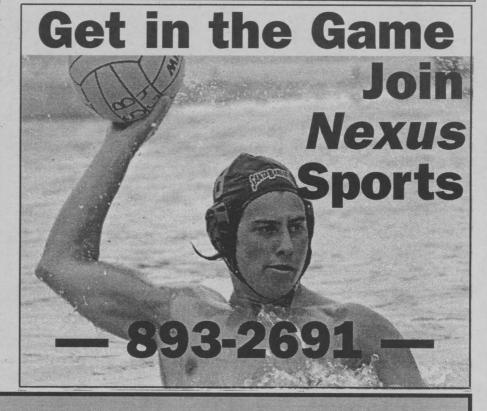
Though Richardson brought with him an extensive medical background, some students disagreed with parts of his lecture and said he left many topics untouched.

"I think Richardson lacked some information. I think there's a really big need to look at the immigration establishments. These problems are much more complicated than the things he has mentioned," sociology grad student Anna Sandoval said.

"I thought it was a good lecture but it doesn't hit the problem," senior sociology major Isidro Pineda said. "I think it really starts" in medical school. These people are putting their priorities over their patients. I think he could've shown more statistics and where he got them from."

ing expert on health policy issues," Chancellor Henry Yang said. "I just wanted to say how pleased we are as the University of Santa Barbara to be this year's host for the entire University of California's Tanner Lectures."



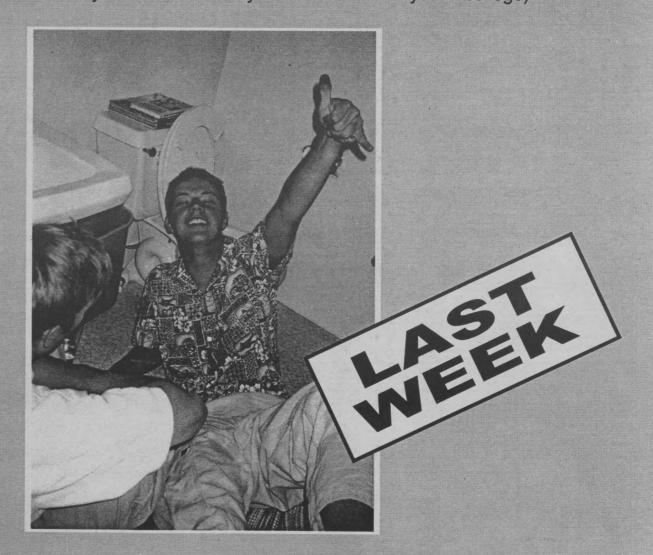


It puts the Nexus in the bin or else it gets the hose again.

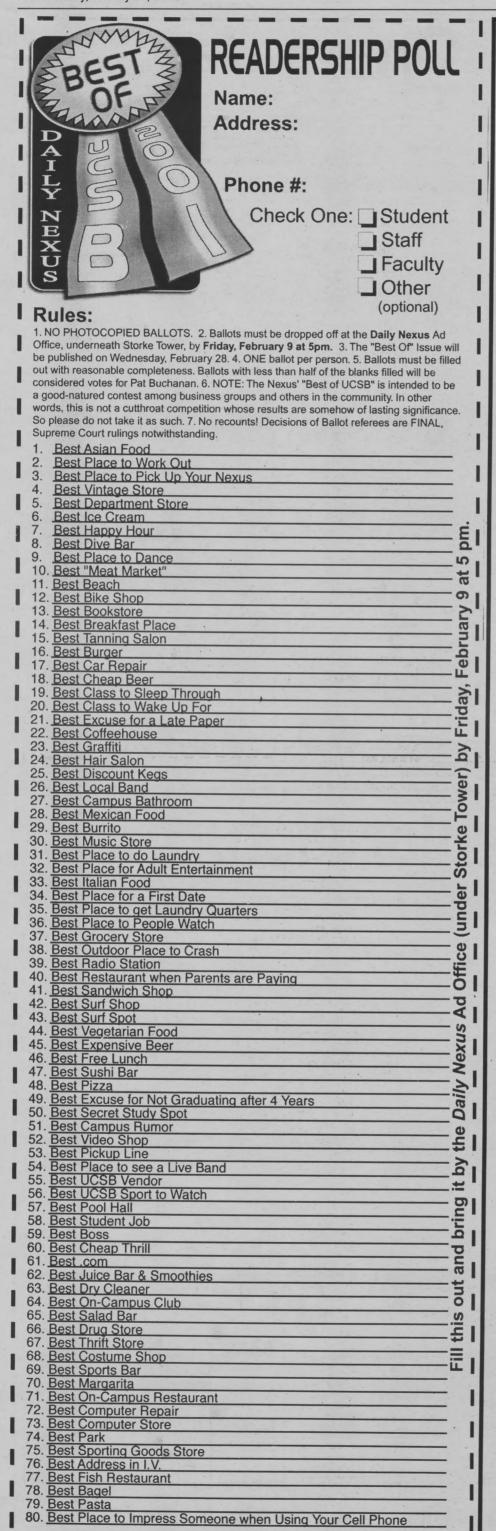


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They're counting on you to keep up the UCSB tradition. Everyone wants a Nexus Valentine, even when they won't admit it.

"Nexus Valentines" is one of the most-read sections of the paper, the ingenuity and creativeness is amazing. All because we provide a border, but you provide the message and/or pictures, in your own handiwork. You don't need to be an artist to see your work in print!

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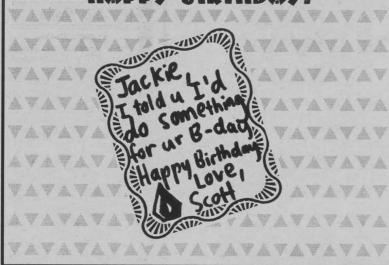


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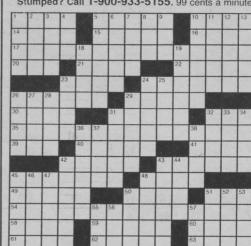
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Sports

Coleman Out for Rest of the Season

By MATT HEITNER
Reporter

Expectations were high for star basketball recruit Syretta Coleman entering the season. Coleman, a second team All-American her senior year at Chandler High in Arizona, was expected to join former high school teammates Jessica Combs and Lindsay Taylor. The UCSB women's basketball team lost Stacy Clinesmith to the WNBA, and Coleman was expected to contribute immediately at point.

Instead of leading the charge for UCSB, Coleman will sit out the rest of the season due to multiple setbacks.

Coleman ran into trouble before the season started, getting arrested for shoplifting, and consequently, being suspended for the Gauchos' first 13 games of the season. Taylor, a redshirt freshman center, was saddened when hearing news of Coleman's initial suspension.

"She is such a good point guard and sees the court really well," Taylor said. "I was definitely disappointed that she wouldn't be with the team this season and be able to help us

When Coleman was finally cleared to return by Athletic Director Gary Cunningham, she played sparingly, averaging 14 minutes of action in two games. UCSB tried to work her back into its playing rotation, but with sophomore guard Debby Caine playing well, minutes were hard to come by for Coleman.

At that point in her turbulent season, Coleman was still struggling to find her place on the



Syretta Coleman

team. The guard was constantly feeling sick and throwing up regularly, according to UCSB Head Coach Mark French. Team doctors diagnosed her with a severe case of the flu, but after several weeks with no improvement in her health, more tests were run. This time the doctors made a new diagnosis: Coleman had a bacterial infection that causes an ulcer, most likely caused by

extreme stress.

Coleman still wanted to play and be a part of the team, yet the entire situation became a distraction and French was forced to make a decision.

French finally settled on sitting out Syretta Coleman for the rest of the season and appealing to the NCAA for a medical redshirt. French said that it was a difficult decision to make, and added that he expects Coleman to be back next season.

"My expectations for Syretta, if she's healthy next year, is that she'll be one of the best guards in the country," French said. "I think she has the chance to be one of the best players in the history of our program."

For the rest of the year, Santa Barbara will rely on sophomores Caine and Jess Hansen to fill the point guard duties.

All the while, the Gauchos have remained the team to beat in the Big West, going undefeated in conference games thus far.

"We've been playing with the same 10 players for the vast majority of the season," said junior Kayte Christensen, the team's leader. "And I think with those 10 players we'll finish the season playing excellent basketball."



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS FILE

Sophomore Debby Caine will continue her duties at the point for UCSB, with freshman point guard Syretta Coleman taking a leave of absence.

Santa Barbara Cruises Over Foes; Bagg, Arneson Highlight Meets

By Brooke Roberts
Staff Writer

The UCSB men's and women's swim teams were on clean-up duty this past weekend, sweeping up the competition by winning all four scheduled meets in their home pool.

The women's team went head-to-head with Cal State Northridge and the University of San Diego last Friday afternoon, winning both meets, 181-62 and 155-94, respectively.

The men's team confronted Northridge on Friday, and Cal Poly on Saturday. The Matadors fell to the Gauchos, 129-71, while the Mustangs suffered a similar fate, losing 107-84.

Santa Barbara received notable performances on both sides. Senior co-captain Suzy Bagg notched first place in the 50-meter free, with a time of 24.6 seconds. Sophomores Danielle Steadman, Romina

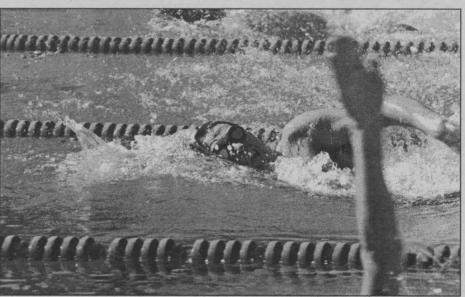
Mosquera, and Julia King dominated their events and helped UCSB rack up more first-place points.

Steadman took over the 100-meter free, winning in 52.8 seconds. Mosquera won the 200-meter free, crossing the finish line at 1:54.98. King swam for a first in the 100-meter backstroke, 58.92.

"[USD and Northridge are not] our top competitive teams," junior Karin Finger said. "We played around with our events. Shelby [Chandler] and I both swam 500's, which we don't usually swim. I think we all enjoy switching it up."

Gaucho men's standouts included juniors David Arneson and David Maddan. Maddan swam the 1000-meter free, with a first-place time of 9:46.12. Juniors Seth Derrick, Chris May, and Ethan Hall also came up with first-place finishes in their events.

Derrick turned in a time of 1:42.75 in the 200-meter free, while May swam a 2:08.95 in the 200-meter breast. Hall



TRUC BUI /DAILY NEXUS FILE

The UCSB men's and women's swim teams romped past their opponents in all four weekend meets. The women beat USD and CSUN; the men went by Cal Poly and Northridge.

took his first in the 200-meter IM, clocking in at 1:58.71.

"Seth Derrick and Chris May have been swimming really fast," Arneson said.

The Gauchos were satisfied to have a positive weekend at home. After compet-

ing against top caliber squads like USC, Pacific, and UNLV in consecutive weekends, they were ready for a change of pace.

"It was a relaxing weekend," Assistant Coach Andy Bashor said. "We came off three tough weekends in a row."

UCSB Prepares for a Strong Season Despite Not Getting Any Respect From Critics of Team

SEASON PREVIEW

BY JOHN LIU
Reporter

The UCSB men's tennis team has set a lofty goal for this new season: win a Big West championship.

Second-year Head Coach Marty Davis leads a Gaucho team of talented freshman and tested veterans into the 2001 campaign. Santa Barbara's quest for a Big West tournament title will make this an exciting season to come, while the youth movement merges with the grizzled veterans.

"We're very pumped up for this year," junior co-captain Marcio Pepe said. "We have great chemistry on the team."

Santa Barbara comes into the season as underdogs in its conference. Pre-season rankings placed the Gauchos fifth in the conference.

Being underdogs in the conference has not affected the Gauchos' concentration on their season goal of becoming champions. Pepe believes that being seen as an underdog will help the team maintain the competitive edge necessary to earn respect.

"Everyone will have to play solid," sophomore J.J. Stewart said. "As much as it's an individual sport, it's really a team effort."

UCSB will look for junior co-captains Pepe and Marcin Kosakowski to provide leadership and freshmen Scott Schnugg, Alex Yaftali, Mike Placek, and Jerome Chan to provide consistent heads-up play in singles and doubles matches. Though this season's team is young, the team will be deep. It will not be unusual for Santa Barbara to field three freshmen in singles play, and two all-freshmen doubles teams.

"Our team is young," Kosakowski said. "But we'll get some great individual performances. We have some outstanding new freshmen."

The road to a Big West title will not be easy for the

Gauchos. UCSB's schedule is filled with numerous ranked opponents from both the Big West Conference and the Pac-10, including a tough game Tuesday against #13 USC at Los Angeles.

"We'd love to get a bunch of Gaucho Locos out for that match," Davis said.

Pepe expressed how much he enjoys playing against Irvine, but he underlined the fact that Irvine is always a tough match.

"It's very fun," Pepe said. "But we just hate them. We don't like their coach and we don't like their team."

"We will play hard in the early games," Pepe said.
"But by April we want our play to be peaking."

The Big West Championships begin on April 26. Santa Barbara should be playing the best tennis of its season going into the tournament.

"This is the year," Pepe said. "I can feel it. This is the year to step it up."