

# Sports *TUESDAY*

## 22 Big West Titles in a Row for UCSB

BY ZACK O'NEILL  
Staff Writer

In 1978, Jimmy Carter was president, L.A. sports teams were still good and most of UCSB's current students weren't even born yet. And oh, by the way, that was also the last time the UCSB men's swim team failed to win a Big West Championship. This past weekend in Long Beach, the Gauchos ensured that the streak will remain alive for another year, capturing their 22nd consecutive Big West crown by defeating conference rival Pacific, 625.5 to 497.5.

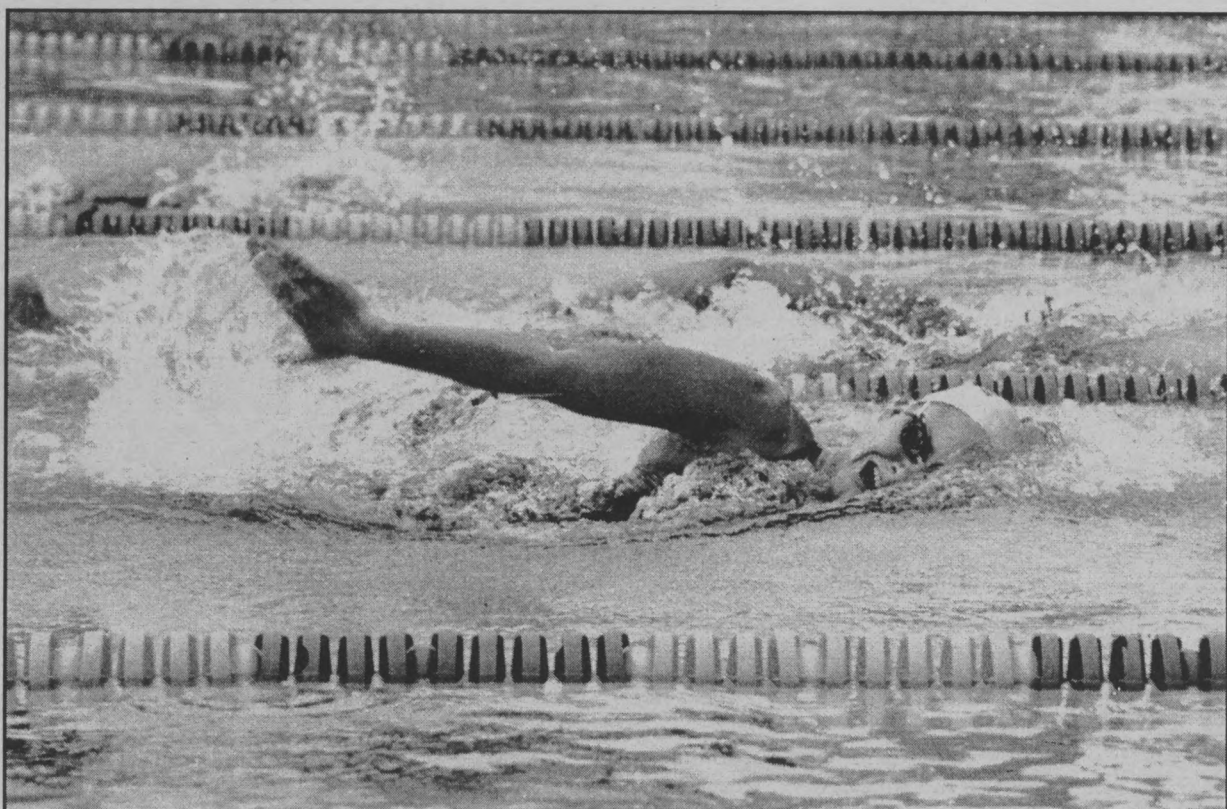
"We finished just about where we thought we would," said UCSB Head Coach Gregg Wilson, honored as the Big West women's coach of the year after the meet. "Maybe

even a little better. We had our disappointments, but very rarely do you have everything perfect."

Freshman Matt Wheeler was one of the many UCSB swimmers who carried the Gauchos to victory, breaking a Big West record in the 400 IM Friday with a time of 3:51.90. For his efforts, Wheeler was named co-"Swimmer of the Meet."

"I didn't know how I was going to do," Wheeler said. "But I was pretty pleased with my performance."

Other top Gaucha swimmers included junior Ryan Koch, who took two events Saturday, the 1650 with a time of 15:35.96, and the 200 butterfly with a winning time of 1:50.33. Perhaps the most important swim of the meet came from senior Mike Scarcelli, who swam the



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS

**UNSINKABLE:** The UCSB men's swim team drowned its Big West competition in Long Beach from Feb. 17-19 to capture its 22nd straight conference title. The Gaucha women fell short of their crown, however, losing to University of Nevada.

final leg of the 400 freestyle relay in 43.8 for the Gauchos.

"I was really disappointed in Friday's relays," Wilson said. "And I said to the team on Saturday, 'We

need to finish this meet on the up.' When Scarcelli dove in he was behind, and he went after it, and just mowed everyone down. I've had maybe six to eight kids in my 24 years here go

that fast."

On the women's side, UCSB was unable to overcome its lack of a diving program and lost to the University of Nevada, 821-754. The Gauchos lost 141

points in diving and weren't able to overcome the deficit, earning their fifth consecutive second-place finish.

See GAUCHOS, p.3A



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS

**NUCLEAR ROHR:** Senior forward Kristi Rohr broke the all-time scoring record for the UCSB women's basketball team on this shot. Rohr is trailed closely by junior guard Erin Buescher.

## Big West a Small Challenge for Gauchos

BY MATT HURST  
Staff Writer

The verdict is in: Blondes do have more fun.

And, the #10 UCSB women's basketball team can definitely vouch for that. Head Coach Mark French, displaying his new 'do last weekend to the Santa Barbara crowd, wasn't the only blond having a good time vs. a pair of Big West opponents. Guards Erin Buescher and Jess Hansen — both blond — were leading UCSB on the floor when French was leading them from the sidelines.

In the Gauchos' Friday night game against Pacific, French debuted his new look, and Buescher lit up

the Tigers and the nets for a season-high 34 points in Santa Barbara's 79-62 victory. French still had his golden locks on Sunday, but true blond Hansen led UCSB to a crushing 92-61 win over Long Beach with 19 points. The two wins give UCSB the nation's longest winning streak at 19 games, and the Gauchos have now won 24 straight at home.

Friday's game was definitely a shocker to the 4,108 that gathered at the Thunderdome to see French's hair after he made good on a promise that if the team broke the previous attendance record, he would dye his gray hair platinum blond. But, it was UOP that received all the attention. The Tigers canned six three-pointers in the first half, taking a 43-40 lead at the half. Sophomore point guard Selena Ho had 15 at the half after nailing a trey in the final seconds to give UOP its lead.

"Pacific was more prepared for us, and I have to take some responsibility," French said. "Maybe [the hair] was a distraction for

the team, all the antics. But the team has to take responsibility too for not blocking those things out."

UCSB must have blocked it out in round two because it outscored Pacific 39-19, led by Buescher and senior Stacy Clinesmith's defense. When Ho took a breather with UOP up 54-47, Clinesmith pressured backup Allison Luckey into two turnovers to ignite a 7-0 Gaucha run.

"Early in the season [vs. Georgia], we panicked, yelling and frantic," senior Kristi Rohr said. "This time we stayed calm. We decided to start playing defense."

That's exactly what the Gauchos did, holding Ho scoreless in the second half and forcing 15 total Pacific turnovers. Clinesmith finished with 11 points and five assists and junior Rachelle Rogers had 13 to compliment two steals. Buescher wasn't only a scoring machine — even though she hit 13 of 16 shots from the field — grabbing 14 rebounds and

See UCSB, p.3A



Erin Buescher

### Sporting Events Calendar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
No events scheduled	Baseball @ Westmont 2 p.m.	Men's basketball vs. Cal Poly Thunderdome 7:30 p.m.  Men's volleyball vs. Loyola Marymount 7 p.m.	Golf @ Long Beach State Invitational (Thu-Fri)  (Friday) Softball hosts UCSB Invitational (Fri-Sun) Men's tennis vs. Santa Clara Rec Cen Courts 1:30 p.m. Women's tennis vs. LBSU Rec Cen Courts 2 p.m.	Baseball vs. Pepperdine 2 p.m. Women's basketball @ Cal Poly 7 p.m. Men's gymnastics @ Cal 7:30 p.m. (Saturday) Women's water polo vs. UC Davis 4 p.m.	Baseball @ Pepperdine 1 p.m. Women's tennis @ Fullerton noon. Men's basketball @ Boise State 6:30 p.m. Women's water polo hosts Gaucho Tournament (Sat-Sun) Saturday cont...	Men's volleyball vs. Pepperdine 7 p.m. Women's gymnastics vs. Fullerton 7 p.m.  Baseball vs. Pepperdine 1 p.m. Women's basketball vs. Nevada 2 p.m. Men's tennis vs. Fresno State noon



## UCSB Derailed on Road to First Place; Lowly Anteaters Squeak Out Victory

By MARVIN GAPULTOS  
Staff Writer

The surging Gauchos juggernaut came to a halt Saturday evening as the UC Irvine Anteaters snapped the UCSB men's basketball team's five-game win streak, defeating Santa Barbara 61-58 in Irvine.

The Gauchos (11-12 overall, 7-5 in the Big West) were down by as much as 19 points with just over 11 minutes left in the game, but refused to give in to the Anteaters (11-12, 4-8). Santa Barbara closed the game with a 24-8 run to come within two of the Anteaters. Junior guard LaRon Bryant, who scored 10 points, shot the Gauchos back into the game as he dumped in eight points in the final 4:47.

"LaRon's a shooter, so we got him in," UCSB Head Coach Bob Williams said. "He gets 10 points when we were really struggling offensively."

Shooting 33.9 percent from the floor was the

extent of the Gauchos' offensive struggles. UCSB's usual one-two punch in senior guard Erick Ashe and junior guard Brandon Payton scored just eight and seven points, respectively.

"Erick had as bad a game as he's played all year," Williams said. "But he'll bounce back and have two great games this week. It's the nature of the game."

With just five seconds left in the game and down 60-58, Ashe had a chance to win the game for the Gauchos. Following a time out, Santa Barbara worked a play that got the ball in Ashe's hands behind the three-point arc. However, Ashe's shot bounced off the heel of the rim and UCI's Ben Jones pulled down the rebound and was fouled with 4.2 seconds left.

"When that ball went up and he missed it, I was like, 'Oh ... He actually missed it,'" UCI Head Coach Pat Douglass said of Ashe's miss. "We deserved to have a game like this. We haven't had too many breaks."

There was still hope for the Gauchos though, as Jones made the front end of his free throws for the Anteaters, but missed the second one — giving UCI a three-point lead. Senior guard Larry Bell pulled down the ensuing board, raced down court, and pulled up for a final three-point attempt that rimmed in and out as the horn sounded, ending the game for the Gauchos.

"I don't think we were as ready to play tonight as we were the past five games," Williams said. "We talked afterwards that we just don't have the luxury to come out and play 70 percent of a game. We don't have that ability."

Leading the way for UCI was Marek Ondera, who had game-highs in points and rebounds with 23 and 13, respectively. Malachi Edmond, who scored 17 in the first half, finished the game with 20 for Irvine.

"Santa Barbara's a good team, and they like to pressure," Edmond said. "They're the type of team that can get you rattled."



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS

**I THOUGHT YOUR HEAD SAID "SPALDING":** The UCSB men's basketball team rallied from 19 points down against UC Irvine on Saturday, but ran out of time and lost by three points.

Junior forward Adama Ndiaye led the way for UCSB as he scored 11 points while pulling down seven boards before fouling out with 6:35 left in

the game.

Freshman forward Mark Hull added 10 points and seven boards as well.

Santa Barbara, who

remains in second place in the Big West Western Division, hosts Cal Poly this Wednesday in the Thunderdome at 7 p.m.

### ATTENTION GAUCHOS:

Tickets for the UCSB men's basketball game against Cal Poly will be distributed Wednesday at noon in Storke Plaza. Bring a valid UCSB I.D. and get two tickets. Doors to the Thunderdome open at 6 p.m., and students with a ticket and I.D. will be admitted on a first-come basis. Remaining tickets are available beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Thunderdome.

## Defensive Errors Hurt Santa Barbara

By ZACK O'NEILL  
Staff Writer

In Vegas, you just can't quit when you're ahead.

After taking two of its first three games at the UNLV Tournament in Las Vegas this past weekend, the UCSB softball team crapped out, dropping its last two games to Notre Dame and Portland State. The Gauchos (5-4) were done in by poor defensive play throughout the weekend, committing 13 errors in their three losses.

UCSB started tournament play by blanking Virginia University 3-0, largely on the strength of freshman Loren Thornburg's performance. The Gauchos were unable to muster much offense against the Cavaliers, but behind Thornburg's four-hitter they rolled to victory to send their record three games above .500 at 4-1.

Santa Barbara's excitement was short-lived, however, as the #13 Cornhuskers of Nebraska blitzed the Gauchos in game two of the tourney, scoring seven runs in the first two innings of an eventual 9-0 defeat for UCSB. The Gauchos committed six errors in the loss, their second of the season.

"[Errors] had a lot to do with losing," junior pitcher Erika Koivula said, who picked up her first loss of the year against Nebraska. "It wasn't just that, but that was a big part of it, and we knew it. Nebraska didn't hit the ball any harder than any other team; I think they only scored one earned run off me."

On Saturday, the Gauchos kept the

errors to a minimum in their first game against Florida International, and slugged their way to a 9-5 victory. Against the Golden Panthers the tables were turned, so to speak, when UCSB scored four unearned runs on five FIU errors.

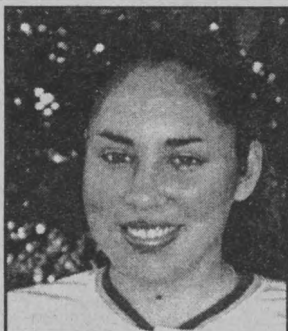
Unfortunately, Santa Barbara's bats decided to take the rest of the day off, forgetting that they still had a date with Notre Dame late Saturday afternoon. The Fighting Irish avenged a 6-2 loss to the Gauchos last year, holding UCSB to three hits in a 3-0 victory. Junior pitcher Abby Murphy scattered 14 hits for the Gauchos, but suffered her second loss of the season despite a complete game effort.

"[Notre Dame's] pitching wasn't that extraordinary," freshman leftfielder E.J. Lauchland said. "We just couldn't produce like we should have. We should have beat them, and Nebraska should have been a closer game. They're not nine runs better than us."

UCSB suited up one last time Sunday for its lone game with Portland State. Despite taking a 4-2 lead into the bottom of the fifth against the Vikings, Santa Barbara once again suffered at the hands of its own defense, allowing three unearned runs in Portland's half of the fifth.

UCSB ultimately lost 5-4, and all of Portland's runs were unearned as the Gauchos committed five errors on the day.

"I think overall it was a good weekend for us," UCSB Head Coach Liz Kelly said. "All the games other than Nebraska were winnable games, [but] errors just killed us."



Erika Koivula

## Only the Rain Can Stop Gauchos From Sweeping Cal State Northridge

By BRIAN CHONG  
Reporter

The important fundamentals of baseball: offense, defense and pitching. A combination of all three is essential to produce a win, and the UCSB baseball team did just that twice this past weekend in an abbreviated three-game series against Cal State Northridge, in which the Gauchos took two of two to bump their record over the .500 mark.

The Gauchos (6-4 overall) traveled south to face the Matadors (4-5 overall) Friday, came back home for the second game Saturday and were rained out for Sunday's finale back in Northridge. Both games were taken by Santa Barbara, which was denied a series sweep by the inclement weather



Gabe Neboyia

Sunday.

On Friday, the Gauchos bats proved to be the key in the 12-4 victory over CSUN. The high-powered offense produced 16 hits in the eight-run rout. The parade was led by sophomore outfielder Andy Campanella, who went four for five with a double and three runs scored.

"I really felt comfortable," Campanella said. "I was seeing the ball really well and everything else just seemed to work out from there. I think I was really comfortable down in Northridge because I used to play club ball down in Northridge."

While the Gauchos bats were on fire, the strong pitching of junior Rylie Ogle halted the Matador offense. Ogle, despite being hit on the shin by a sharp line drive, went six and two-thirds innings to pick up the win and improve his record to 2-0.

"My curveball was on today," said Ogle, who fanned six and walked one. "I throw a lot of first-pitch strikes and I threw a lot of first-pitch curveballs because that was working for me. Then I came back with my fastball to keep them guessing."

Saturday's game proved to be no different for the Gauchos as more impressive hitting and outstanding pitching resulted in a 6-2 victory at home. The answer for Santa Barbara came from its ace, senior right-hander Gabe Neboyia.

"Neboyia really led the way for us today," UCSB Head Coach Bob Brontsema said. "He set the tone and kept us in on offense where we could get the timely hits and put runs on the board. The game started and stopped with the pitching of Gabe today."

Neboyia stopped the CSUN bats by striking out an impressive 13 batters while only allowing one walk to record his first win of this season.

"Everything felt good and I felt fine going into the game," Neboyia said. "My fastball was working great and I was hitting my spots. Basically, I was working ahead of the batters."

The Gauchos will be busy preparing for a make-up game against Northridge tomorrow at CSUN and a game against rival Westmont later this week.



## UCSB

Continued from p.1A  
nabbing three steals.

"They're like a garden hose with holes in it," UOP Head Coach Sherri Murrell said. "If you stop one up, it starts shooting out somewhere else. We stopped Rohr and there's Buescher."

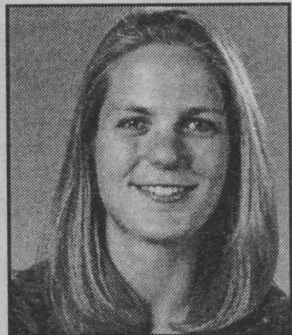
Sunday's game was supposed to be the showdown of the big guns in the Big West's Western Division as Long Beach State came into the 'Dome in second place in the division. But, UCSB had a machine gun compared to the 49ers' six-shooters, and murdered LBSU 92-61.

Rohr, who finished Friday night 10 points behind the school record for points, broke the record early in the second half. French called timeout and presented the game ball to Rohr in front of a standing ovation of 4,029.

"I wanted the record just for five minutes," Rohr said. "I want to tell the grandkids I held the record for five minutes."

Buescher, who was determined to get Rohr the ball, said, "I told her, 'I'm going to give it to you every time so you can shut everybody up.' ... Kristi doesn't get the glory. She's diligent. She does the dirty work under the hoop against bigger, stronger girls."

In the game, however, it



Kristi Rohr

wasn't close. Santa Barbara purely dominated, taking a 40-18 lead into the half after a 24-4 run over the final 6:45 in the first half.

During that run, Hansen scored 14 of her career-high 19 points, and on the day, the freshman from Oregon City, OR., went 4-8 from the floor, 3-

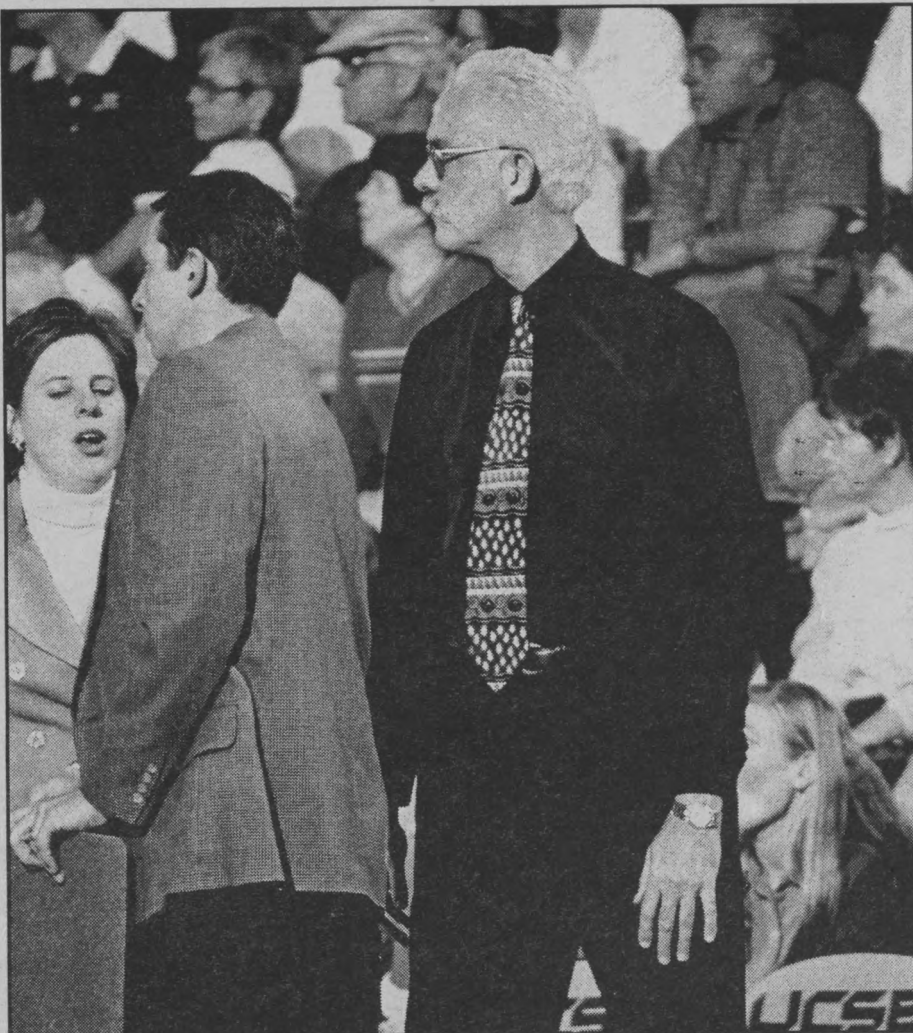
4 from downtown and was a perfect 8-8 from the charity stripe.

"It was very frustrating," LBSU Head Coach Dallas Boychuk-Bolla said. "Hansen is a great shooter. She's a spot-up shooter and we talked about it in pre-game so it is frustrating that we didn't get a hand up on her."

French, who wasn't sure how long he would keep his goldilocks, is pretty sure he will keep the "aging rock star" look, as he likes to put it, for at least another week when UCSB faces Cal Poly in San Luis Obispo and then again Sunday when Nevada comes to the Thunderdome.

"The hair is a clever ruse for a mid-life crisis," he said. "Next year I'll say I need a red convertible."

"He likes it," said Rohr, who has 1,590 total points. "He's just using our winning as an excuse to keep it."



JASON SCHOCK / DAILY NEXUS

**BLOND AMBITION:** UCSB Head Coach Mark French lived up to his promise to dye his hair platinum blond if the UCSB women's basketball team broke its attendance record.

## GAUCHOS

Continued from p.1A

"We couldn't overcome the diving," Wilson said.

"We lost 141 points from the diving, and 32 on a relay where we got disqualified, and we only lost the overall meet by 67. We definitely out-swam Nevada."

Among the Gaucha women who swam well was freshman Kristal Haesler,

who won the 400 IM with a time of 4:23.26. On the final day, UCSB's women finished no higher than second place. In the 1650, freshman Romina Mosquera finished at 16:58.78 — good for a second-place finish — and sophomore Karen Snyder took second in the 200 butterfly.

"I'm not disappointed," senior Amanda Rose said. "To win would have been nice, but I had my best meet in a couple years, so I'm glad to end on a high note."

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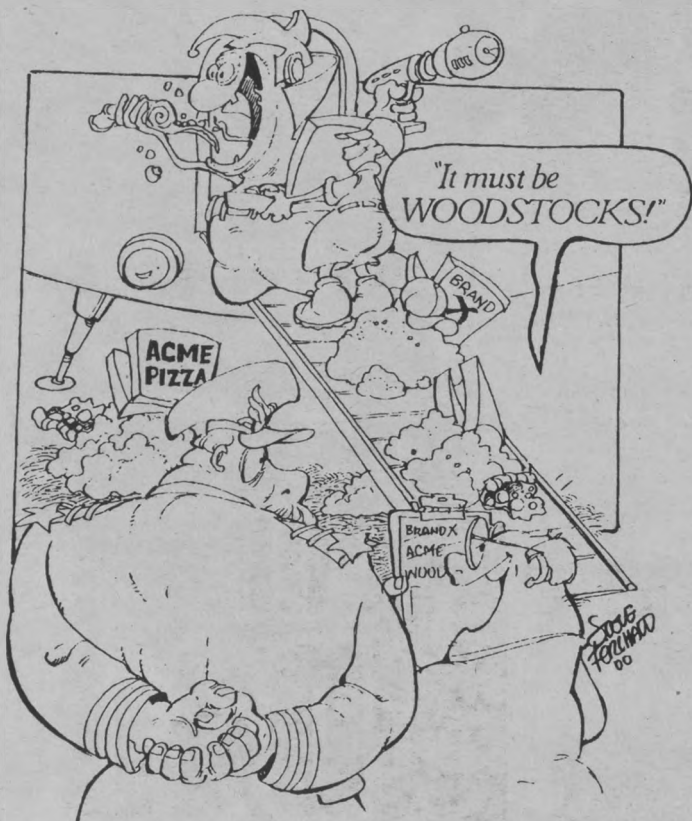
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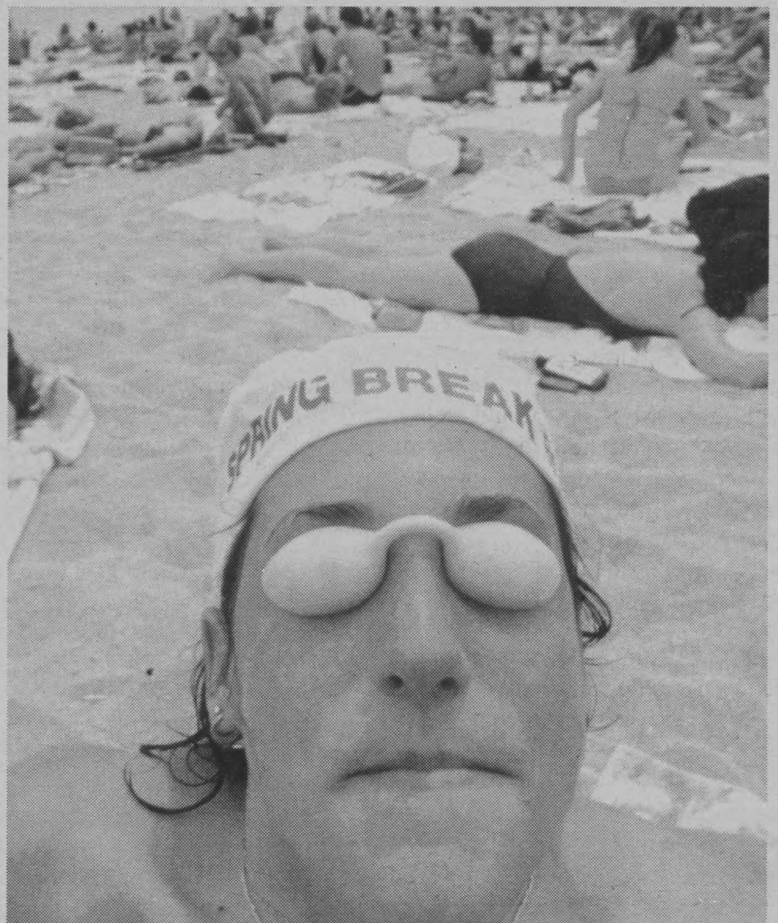
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## The Daily Nexus

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## UCSB MEN'S BASKETBALL

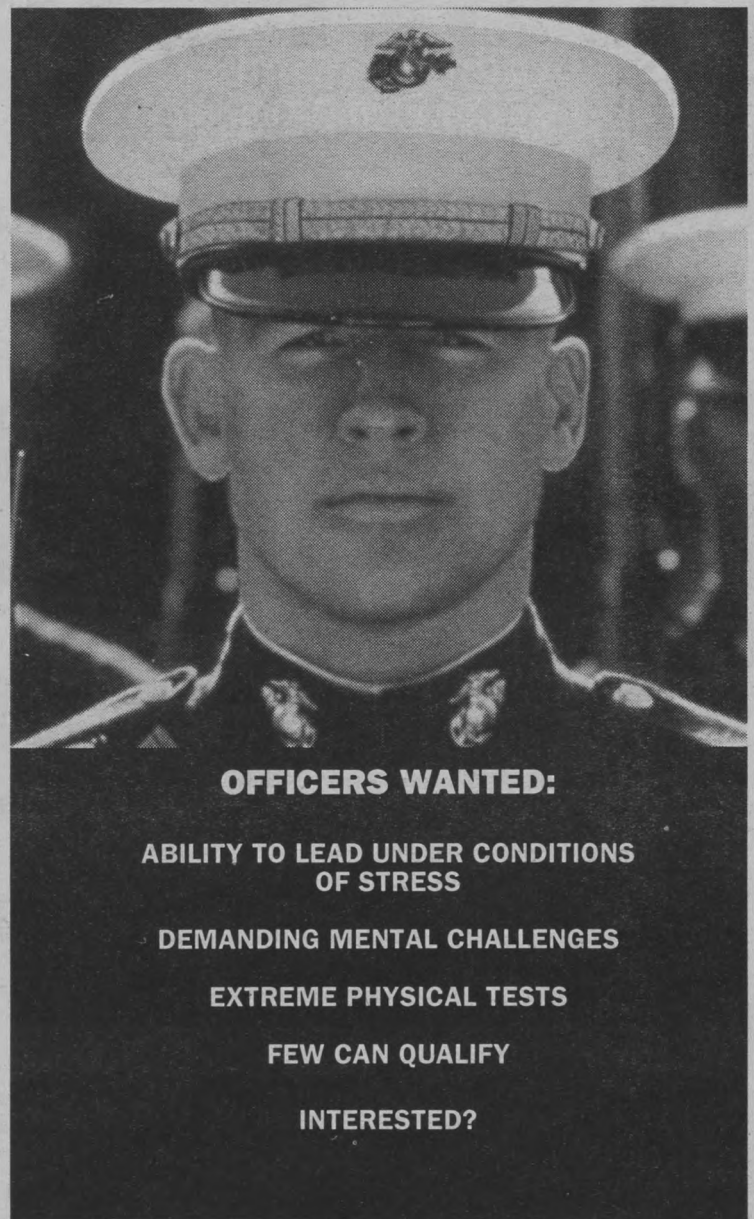
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