

# ★ Special Dead Week Issue ★

## Daily Nexus

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University of California, Santa Barbara

One Section, 4 Pages

### Assistant Vice Chancellor Resigns; Probe Underway

By Steven Elzer  
Editor In Chief

County investigators are examining claims that Ted Towne, UCSB's chief Facilities Management administrator, may have misappropriated university property for personal use, the *Daily Nexus* has learned.

Santa Barbara County sheriff's and district attorney's investigators are conducting the criminal probe, which, among other charges, may involve landscaping done at Towne's Santa Barbara home, knowledgeable sources who wish to remain anonymous said.

The sources confirmed Towne is facing allegations that he authorized various landscape-oriented improvements made with university property at his 6 E. Constance Ave. home between 1982 and 1983.

County officials "have been aware of certain allegations made against Ted Towne and ... are presently involved in an investigation to determine if there is any criminal wrongdoing," Deputy District Attorney Darryl Purlin said.

Towne resigned from his \$72,000 per year administrative post Thursday, issuing a short written statement to colleagues in Facilities Management. "My decision comes at an appropriate time," the statement reads, citing

recent administrative recruitments for top Facilities Management positions.

On Friday, Towne granted the *Nexus* time for a Monday interview about his retirement. However, that meeting was cancelled hours before the appointment by a UCSB administrative representative.

After Towne learned about potential subjects of the pending discussion, he asked Public Information Office Director Margaret Weeks to cancel the interview.

The *Nexus* made several phone calls to Towne's on-campus office Monday, but none were returned.

Towne is retiring because "he is 61 and he and his wife want to go back to Chicago to be with their families.... When you get to be 61 years old, you get to have somewhat of a different perspective on life and sometimes people want to do things differently," he reportedly told Weeks. Towne also told her "it was a very good time to sell his house," she said.

Towne is the second Facilities Management administrator to be investigated by the county. Former Manager of Operations and Maintenance Holger Chris Ferdinandson was arrested last December after investigators discovered a widespread embezzlement/kickback scheme.

At the end of a months-long probe, several local business

people were arrested and prosecuted by law enforcement officials for various crimes, including engaging in unfair business practices.

Ferdinandson was recently sentenced to a four-year, four-month state prison term as part of a plea bargain negotiated with county officials.

Some observers are surprised by a new investigation into Facilities Management, because the department received a clean bill of health from the district attorney's office after the Ferdinandson investigation.

In a recent memo to the university, Assistant District Attorney Patrick McKinley advised the campus that the county investigation into Facilities Management was complete and that no further problems were apparent.

But, UC legal counsel brought the recent allegations to the attention of the district attorney's office after the campus uncovered the charges, said Robert Kroes, vice chancellor of administrative services. Kroes, who oversees Facilities Management, said he was unaware of the new county criminal probe.

"They gave us the impression that they weren't interested (in the allegations) originally," Kroes said after the *Nexus* informed him of the investigation yesterday.

Campus and systemwide officials, including university legal



Ted Towne, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Facilities Management is the subject of a county criminal investigation examining allegations that he may have appropriated university property for his private residence.

counsel Eric Behrans, have completed their investigation and determined that further probing is unwarranted at this time.

"In connection with procedural changes instituted in Facilities Management, some additional information concerning management problems in that unit has come to our attention," Kroes said in a prepared statement. "That information has been investigated. The conclusion has been reached that no further action

is required at this point. We are fitting Mr. Towne's retirement into our reorganization plans."

Towne came to UCSB in August 1977 after he was hired as director of physical planning. He was promoted to the position of assistant vice chancellor of Facilities Management in 1984.

(Editor's Note: The *Daily Nexus* will continue to provide in-depth coverage of this investigation when it resumes regular summer publication on June 22.)



Robert Huttenback and his wife, Freda, leave Municipal Court on Friday with attorney Russ Sorensen after pleading not guilty to 11 criminal charges. KEITH MADIGAN/NEXUS

### Huttenbacks Plead 'Not Guilty' in Municipal Court Appearance

By Doug Arellanes  
Friday Magazine Editor

Former UCSB Chancellor Dr. Robert Huttenback and his wife Freda pleaded not guilty to eight counts of tax fraud, two counts of misappropriation of funds and one count of insurance fraud Friday morning.

The Huttenbacks, in South Coast Municipal Court for approximately 30 minutes, were charged on the counts following investigations of alleged misappropriations and wrongdoings at their Mission Canyon residence.

The two will appear at separate preliminary hearings in Santa Barbara Municipal Court July 27,

with Judge Harry Loberg tentatively set to preside over the case. The hearings will determine if there is sufficient evidence to prosecute the two and are expected to take three days.

University of California President David Gardner will be called in to testify, Deputy District Attorney Darryl Purlin said, adding that the district attorney's office has not yet compiled a complete witness list.

"We've talked to him in the past. We were interested in Gardner since early on in the investigation. Gardner is a very important person, because Huttenback thought he had authorization (to spend university funds on his home)," Purlin said.

(See HUTTENBACK, p.3)

### Students Booked for Allegedly Selling Drugs

By Matt Welch  
Campus Editor

UCSB Police detectives arrested two San Nicolas Residence Hall roommates after an investigation revealed the pair were allegedly receiving stolen property. They were also charged with the sales, manufacturing, distribution, transportation and importing of marijuana and psilocybin mushrooms, authorities said Monday.

Freshman Jetan Sahni was arrested and booked on the charges Thursday. Police continued to search through the weekend for their principal suspect in the alleged crimes, his roommate, freshman William Leonard.

Leonard turned himself in to the police late yesterday and was additionally charged with burglary. He is being held on

"at least" \$10,000 bail, according to a spokesperson for the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department.

Sahni was released on his own recognizance Thursday after being held on \$2,500 bail.

Sahni was arrested in his dorm room when police, armed with a search warrant in Leonard's name, found backpacks believed to be stolen from the Ortega Dining Commons, textbooks that were possibly stolen, marijuana, psilocybin mushrooms and a car stereo, said UCSB Police Lt. Bob Hart.

Officials are unsure where the car stereo came from. "We don't know that it's stolen," Hart said.

As of press time, it was not known if the suspects had been expelled from UCSB, but a number of Sahni's acquaintances said he had told them that he had been kicked out of school.

It is also unknown whether the two have been evicted from the dormitory, according to Residential Life Director Everett Kirkelie, who explained that the Student-Faculty Conduct Committee may have already made this decision. "If matters are grievous enough in nature, then the dean of students has the power to evoke an immediate decision," Kirkelie said.

Before Leonard's arrest, authorities would not reveal specifics of the case because they did not want to jeopardize the investigation. Since he turned himself in late in the day, neither department spokespersons nor arresting officers Detective Rita Spaur and Sgt. Bill Bean could be reached for comment before press time.

(Editor's Note: Further coverage of the investigation will appear in the first summer issue of the *Daily Nexus* on June 22.)

# Local Fear and Loathing: Thompson at UCSB

By Patrick Whalen  
Sports Editor

Condemning George Bush as representing "all that is evil in people" and claiming that "acid is really the only honest drug there is around," Hunter S. Thompson, celebrated author, columnist and originator of the term "gonzo journalism," entertained a rowdy sold-out Campbell Hall crowd Friday night with his knowledge and insights into American politics and society.

Thompson, author of the cult favorites *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* and *Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail, '72*, repeatedly criticized Bush, the Republican presidential front-runner, while chain-smoking, sipping scotch and swaggering about the stage during a two-hour question-and-answer presentation.

"George Bush is the guiltiest man in politics," said Thompson. "If Bush does not get nailed in the (Iran-*contra*) hearings, he will be in the Gary Hart position.... All of a sudden, Bush is now the favorite."

The crowd broke out in laughter at many of Thompson's responses to their queries, calling on him to discuss topics ranging from the exploits of fellow Colorado resident Gary Hart to the PTL to his own fabled narcotic experiences.



Ex-UCSB student Chris Wright checks to see if Hunter S. Thompson is wearing a Rolex, before sharing a cigarette with him on stage.

RICHARD O'ROURKE/Nexus

"The best thing you could say about Gary (Hart) was that you could drink a beer with him before noon," said Thompson, who for many years was a political reporter for *Rolling Stone*

magazine and whose *Fear and Loathing on the Campaign Trail, '72* chronicles Hart's reign as campaign manager for then-presidential candidate George McGovern.

"That thing in the *National Enquirer* was too weird," Thompson said, referring to last week's edition of the paper, which contained photos of Hart with Miami actress Donna Rice on a boat cruise to Bimini in March. Hart, the former Democratic presidential front-runner, was forced to drop out of the race in the wake of charges of womanizing. "Gary has been my friend, my neighbor, my senator for a number of years and here he went nuts lately," Thompson said.

Throughout the evening, Thompson also blasted the Reagan administration, which has been embroiled in the Iran-*contra* scandal for several months. "Here we are and I'm apologizing for Gary Hart, and goddamn — the president's guilty.... The vice president should be arrested and Ed Meese, the attorney general, is the only person in history to be hit by two special investigators," Thompson told the audience.

He was not able to recall his "craziest experience ever" nor the number of times he has taken the mind-altering chemical LSD, but Thompson did make several comments on the cocaine-induced death of University of Maryland basketball star Len Bias.

"Everybody's into cocaine

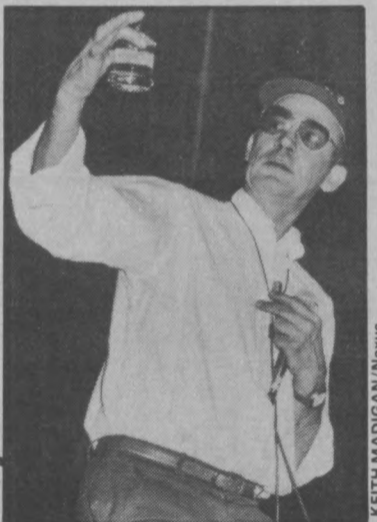
today, it's a big business, scary too," he said in response to a questioner who alleged that the United States government was involved in cocaine trafficking. Thompson, with some help from the audience, came to the conclusion that Bias was a "courtesy middleman" in the cocaine trade and added "That's what I've been all my life."

Switching to religion, Thompson said he would assume control of the PTL ministry if asked. The PTL's former leaders, Jim and Tammy Bakker, were forced to surrender control of the television ministry to fellow evangelist Jerry Falwell in light of a seven-year-old sex scandal.

"They can't get anybody to really lead them like Jim and Tammy could," he said, adding that Falwell was "an evil person and a politician, and a mean one ... and instead of beating on sinners, Falwell's beating on his former friends."

Referring to a recent ABC-TV *Nightline* that featured an interview between Falwell and *Nightline* anchor Ted Koppel, Thompson said that "when Falwell calls him (Koppel) a lying pig and an irresponsible bastard and he doesn't respond and then Falwell does it again ... I'd like to see Falwell's flesh painted and stripped."

The event was sponsored by the *Daily Nexus* and the Associated Students Program Board. Mediating the presentation were visiting political science professor and political consultant Pat Caddell, and Nexus Editor In Chief Steve Elzer.



Hunter S. Thompson drank scotch throughout his Campbell Hall talk.

KEITH MADIGAN/Nexus

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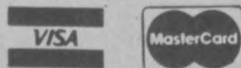
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# HUTTENBACK

(Continued from front page)

Although Gardner will testify in the preliminary case, other university officials will appear in the main trial later this year, he added. "There will be administrators and chancellors from other campuses," he said.

"We believe we have a very strong case against the Huttenbacks — each one," Purlin said. "Cases aren't won on prominence. They're won on evidence."

There are three aspects to the Huttenbacks' case — alleged insurance fraud and tax fraud are two, Purlin said. "Then, you have the third part, which is the (alleged) embezzlement. There are certain parts which have nothing to do with the university."

The prosecution's case may utilize the testimony of Holger Chris Ferdinandson, the former UCSB Facilities Management operations and maintenance manager found guilty of embezzling property and funds from the university, Purlin said. However, "the case does not stand or fall on Chris Ferdinandson," he explained.

"I would not call Chris Ferdinandson a crucial witness," Purlin said. "He was one of the many. The Huttenbacks felt that they could turn on the faucet and let it run as long as they wanted, spending money on their house."

"We are not treating this case any different than any other case we prosecute," Purlin said. "The approach taken in this case is constant with the approach taken by this office in all criminal cases — prosecution which entails a lot of preparation, involvement and hard work," he said.

Los Angeles attorney Anthony Murray of the Ball, Hunt, Hart, Brown and Bearwitz law firm will represent Dr. Huttenback. Murray, a former president of the California State Bar, has also worked as a spokesperson in last year's campaign to retain then-Supreme Court Chief Justice Rose Bird.

Mrs. Huttenback will be represented by Douglas Dalton of the Los Angeles firm Dalton & Godfrey.

Both Dalton and Murray failed to return several phone calls made by the Daily Nexus.

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
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