



'Gong Xi Fa Cai'

The Chinese American Association welcomes the year of the snake tonight with a celebration at 9 at the Ming Dynasty. General meeting in HSSB 1173, 7-8 p.m.



Endless Summer

Gov. Davis' proposal to tack on 30 days to middle schoolers' academic year is premature.

See **Opinion** p.6



Vuk Propels UCSB

Junior forward Mike Vukovich has helped the men's basketball team stay afloat through adversity.

See **Sports** p.12

Wednesday

January 24, 2001

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Daily Nexus

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA



Sunset
5:20 p.m.

Tides

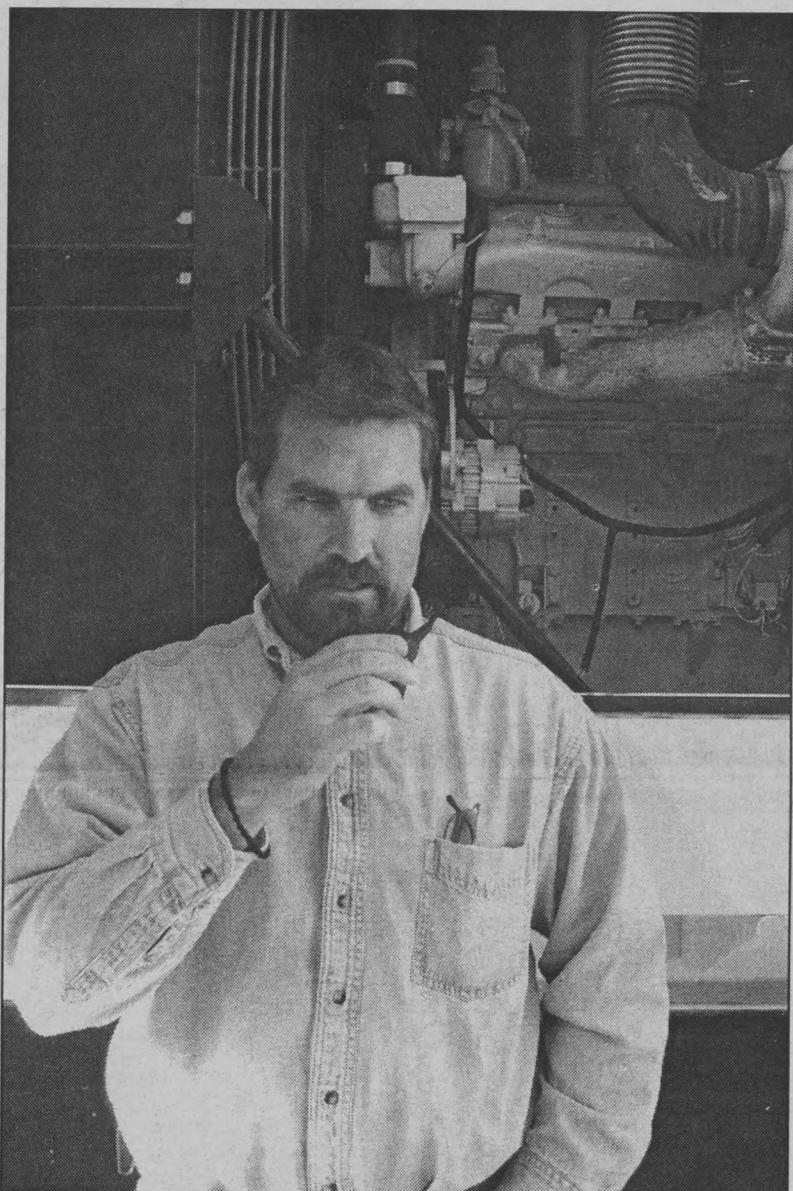
High: 8:59 a.m.

Low: 4:13 p.m.



Volume 81, No.63

Two Sections, 20 Pages



ALEX WARD / DAILY NEXUS

UCSB's chief electrician Jim Morrison stands in front of one of the largest on-campus generators. It can supply power to HSSB and the 'Dome for 24 hours.

Dark Days Fall on California; State Struggles for Way Out

■ UCSB Strives to Improve Efficiency, Urges Conservation During Power Alerts

BY ALEX SOHN
Reporter

Traffic lights went out. Students in classrooms were stuck in the dark. Computer screens, bank machines and heaters all came to an abrupt halt. It seemed like Y2K came a year too late.

With the New Year came a power crisis in California. Rolling blackouts left many Northern Californians in the dark and their southern neighbors preparing for the worst. Stocks of flashlights, firewood, candles and generators were virtually swept clean from store shelves.

As the shortage persists, the University of California system consumes enough

See **UNIVERSITY**, p.4

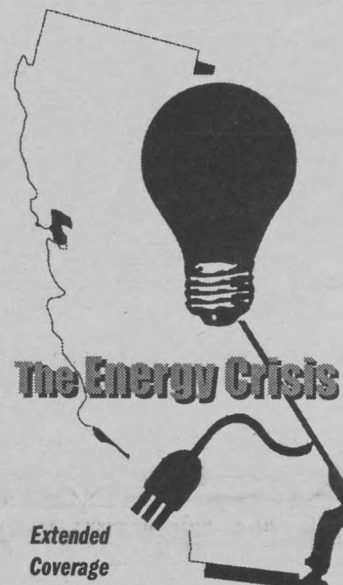
■ Governor Opens Bids to Out-of-State Energy Producers for Long-term Contract

BY MARISA LAGOS
Staff Writer

As California entered its eighth straight day with energy reserves below 1.5 percent, which constitutes a Stage 3 alert, Gov. Gray Davis opened auctions to energy suppliers Tuesday morning.

The auction is a state attempt to begin solving the California energy crisis that has pushed suppliers Southern California Edison and Pacific Gas and Electric close to bankruptcy, causing rolling blackouts in Northern California. The bidding opened for long-term contracts from any energy generation plant Tuesday at 9 a.m.

See **STATE**, p.5



Extended Coverage

Timeline : How did deregulation start in California? See p.4

The Numbers : How expensive is power and how many people are affected by the blackouts? See p.5

Opinion : Nexus columnists comment on the crisis and place blame. See p.7

Carrizo Plain Grassland Receives National Monument Designation

BY IAN BARKER
Staff Writer

A long struggle by Rep. Lois Capps (D-Calif.) to protect an environmental and cultural refuge was brought to a successful conclusion by one of former President Bill Clinton's final executive actions.

Clinton designated a vast grassland in northern San Luis Obispo County, known as the Carrizo Plain, as a national monument on Tuesday, Jan. 16. The Carrizo Plain, which had previously been under the jurisdiction of the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM), contains the remnants of the San Joaquin Grasslands, the most visible portion of the San Andreas Fault and a number of Native American cultural sites, according to Capps' spokesperson Stacey Paxton.

"National monument designation is something the president does. Representative Capps' bill was to designate a 'national preservation,'" Paxton said. "Under the Bureau of Land Management, the area needed a further designation to protect it from residential homes and oil drilling."

Despite being designated as a national mon-

ument, control of the Carrizo Plain will be shared between federal employees and a local advisory committee, Paxton said.

"This one isn't controversial. People in the area have been working to protect it. This advisory committee will remain a prominent force. This is not any new concept," Paxton said. "It will continue to be a partnership with the BLM. The national monument designation provides even greater protection."

Pete Crowheart, liaison for the Tribal Relations Program of the Los Padres National Forest, said it is important for the federal government to share power with indigenous peoples.

"If you give the land to one group of Native Americans they want to possess it," Crowheart said. "When it is kind of taken care of by a government agency — the Bureau of Land Management or the Forest Service — they can have different Indian groups share the area."

Legislation to protect the Carrizo Plain was originally drafted by former Rep. Walter Capps (D-Calif.) just before his death in 1997. According to Paxton, Lois Capps introduced her late husband's legislation in May in a joint

See **CARRIZO**, p.3.

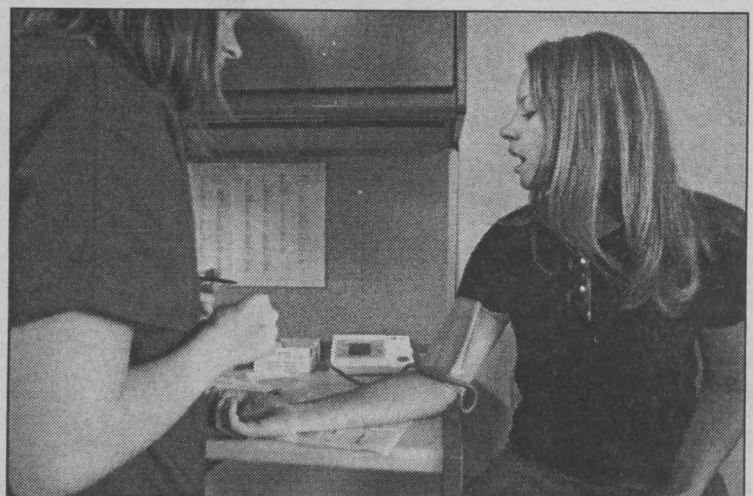
Mandatory Insurance Begins in Fall; Student Health Provides Coverage

BY KIERSTEN THRONSDEN
Reporter

Beginning Fall Quarter 2001, students in the University of California, as a condition of their enrollment, will be required to have health insurance.

Many students will get some or all of their medical treatment at on-campus facilities, such as UCSB's Student Health Service (SHS). The center, open only during business hours on weekdays, does not offer surgical or

See **HEALTH**, p.8



ALEX WARD / DAILY NEXUS

Medical Assistant Meika Ludwick takes the blood pressure of senior dramatic art major Frances Rivera at Student Health Service on Tuesday.

Top of the News

Bush Grants Power Directive Extension



WASHINGTON (AP) — President George W. Bush ordered a two-week extension Tuesday of federal directives requiring power and natural gas companies to keep supplying California's cash-strapped utilities. A senior official said it would be the last such order.

Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said the temporary extension was approved to give California "sufficient time to ... restore the financial health of the utility companies and develop other sufficient sources of energy" to meet the state's needs.

California Gov. Gray Davis, who asked that the federal power mandates be continued, assured the administration no further

extensions would be necessary, Abraham said.

The president has no plans to extend the directives beyond the two weeks, said a senior White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The directives, first imposed by the Clinton administration in December, require electricity generating companies to continue shipping power into California and for nat-

[This extension should give California] sufficient time to ... restore the financial health of the utility companies and develop other sufficient sources of energy.

**— Spencer Abraham
secretary of energy**

ural gas suppliers to sell fuel to Pacific Gas and Electric.

Suppliers have threatened to cut off the state's two major investor-owned California utilities — PG&E and Southern California Edison — because of fear that their

mounting \$12 billion debt might drive them into bankruptcy and prevent future payments.

The federal intervention has been criticized by some Northwest lawmakers, who said the mandate to sell power to California is jeopardizing power supplies in their region. A relatively dry winter has caused water levels at hydroelectric dams in the Northwest to be lower

than normal, raising concern about electricity production this spring.

Sen. Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) said Bush assured him in a telephone call that the directives would expire in two weeks and not be renewed. Smith said Oregon "was in jeopardy of

becoming an energy farm to California" when electricity is needed in the region.

Meanwhile, managers of the state's electricity system scrounged the markets for power amid the threat of renewed rolling blackouts. The power grid was running at a Stage 3 alert with less than 1.5 percent electricity reserves for an eighth straight day.

If answers are not found to the supply problems and price surges, the state's electricity crisis will become worse this summer when demand is expected to be even greater, Anjali Sheffrin, a market analyst for the California Independent System Operator, told FERC staffers.

The California ISO, which manages the state's power grid, had asked the administration to extend the Clinton orders to keep electricity flowing into the state.

President Starts Off Term With Education Plan



WASHINGTON (AP) — President George W. Bush — trying to attract Democrats to his education program without abandoning school vouchers — is proposing new money for the nation's public systems while offering the

worst schools more chances to shape up before losing federal funds to private institutions.

The president, who unveiled his signature campaign issue Tuesday in a White House ceremony, is not backing off vouchers, the most divisive part of his plan to hold schools accountable for student learning. In that plan, failing schools have three years to get up to standards before federal funds are stripped for other uses such as the vouchers.

"If children are trapped in a school that will not teach and will not change, there has to be a consensus," Bush said as he met with top congressional Republicans and Democrats who oversee education policy-making.

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) said Bush made clear his position on vouchers "is unchanged." Despite those differences, Kennedy said, Democrats are eager to work with Bush on education.

"The areas which he pointed out where we are in agreement, I thought were very substantial. I, for one, am

interested in getting some action," Kennedy said outside the West Wing.

"What is important today is that we have a president that wants to make this a strong priority on education, and I think we have those that have leadership positions in the House and Senate that want to work with him and get something meaningful done," Kennedy said.

A Bush official, speaking on condition of anonymity Monday, said Bush had decided on some changes to his voucher plan to win over hostile Democrats.

Bush is proposing additional funding — beyond even what he proposed during his campaign. Corrective measures for such schools would include allowing students to use federal money for transportation to a public school with a better record. Replacing the school principal would be another corrective option.

Bush, who called education "the most fundamental of American issues," is making education his first major policy initiative, sending Congress a multibillion-dollar plan to shape up failing schools, increase the student-testing regimen, hand districts more control over federal dollars and make sure all children can read by age 9.

Democrats and some moderate Republicans in Congress rushed this week to formally reject federally funded vouchers. Roughly 20,000 children nationwide are already using state-funded vouchers for nonpublic schools.

Spiritual Demonstrators Attempt Protest With Fiery Suicide



BEIJING (AP) — Five Falun Gong followers set themselves on fire Tuesday in China's Tiananmen Square in the most radical act yet by sect members in defiance of the communist government's 18-month ban on their movement.

One follower died in the attempted group suicide, which prompted police to tighten security and then close the square in the opening hours of China's lunar new year.

After weeks of words,

both the spiritual movement and communist government have turned to blasher tactics.

Falun Gong has stepped up demonstrations in recent weeks and issued warnings by founder Li Hongzhi of more vigorous action to protest the crackdown. The government has fought back by intensifying vilification of the sect in state-controlled media and supporting a nationwide campaign to collect 1 million signatures.

The campaign is the government's first effort to make people publicly support the ban and is reminiscent of communist political movements — from the 1950-53 Korean

War to the radical Cultural Revolution in the 1960s.

"It's a way of forcing people to be a bit upfront," said Gerry Groot of Adelaide University in Australia. "This is real classic 1950s tactics. That's exactly what they did during the Korean War to try to undermine the Americans."

The government's efforts have accelerated with the approach of Wednesday's lunar new year, China's biggest holiday. Expecting the same mass protests that marred celebrations last year, police checked people entering the square, patting many down and inspecting their bags.

Still, five sect followers

managed to douse themselves with gasoline in the middle of the square and set themselves on fire in two "suicidal blazes," the government's Xinhua News Agency said.

Police rushed to the site, Xinhua said. The brief report added that one woman burned to death and the surviving injured were taken to a hospital.

A producer and cameraman with CNN witnessed the protest. CNN reported that one man sat down, poured gasoline on himself and then set himself on fire. Moments later, the journalists saw four more people on fire, staggering forward, their hands raised in a meditation pose.

Daily Nexus

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He Shoots, He ... Ooops! Oh, Well.

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Letters to the editor are limited to one page, typed double-spaced (1,000 characters), and columns must be limited to three pages, typed double-spaced (3,000 characters), and include the author's name and phone number.

Corrections Policy:

To call an error to the attention of the editor in chief, provide a written statement detailing the correct information. The *Daily Nexus* publishes all corrections of errors.

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Weather

The meathead weatherneighbors are at it again.

You see, the jackasses live on the second floor overlooking our complex's parking lot, and taking the trash out had become an irritating daily ritual they deemed unnecessary. So, the geniuses engaged in some complex problem solving and decided to eliminate household trash receptacles from their lives. Instead, they strategically placed the complex's dumpster under their window so they could "shoot" their trash at it like a big game of trash basketball.

Well, this may seem like a novel and ingenious solution, but 1) these boys ain't the Lakers, and 2) they are luses who only drink bottles of High Life.

Wednesday's forecast: Clear skies, accompanied by the soothing crunch of glass under your car's tires.

National monument designation is something the president does. Representative Capps' bill was to designate a 'national preservation.' ... Under the Bureau of Land Management, the area needed a further designation to protect it from residential homes and oil drilling.

**— Stacey Paxton
spokesperson for Lois Capps**

CARRIZO

Continued from p.1
effort with Republican legislators.

"Walter Capps first authored the legislation shortly before he died. [Lois Capps] introduced the bill when she was elected," Paxton said. "It's something we've been working on in a bipartisan effort. Republican Bill Thomas of Bakersfield co-sponsored it."

Despite bipartisan support, the bill was stalled twice in the congressional committee process in May of 1999 and in September, Paxton added.

"[The bill] had a hearing but never made it to the floor. Often members have to reintroduce a bill several times before it reaches the floor," Paxton said. "There has been discussion about this sort of bill for a long time. It has almost passed several times."

Protection of environmentally and culturally sensitive sites like the Carrizo Plain is important to present and future Californians, Isla Vista Recreation and Parks District board member Ariana Katovich said.

"Grasslands in California are rapidly disappearing due to urban sprawl. Every effort on the national and local level is important to sustaining our ecosystems," Katovich said. "It is important to maintain Native American lands. They are needed to maintain our natural history."

Crowheart said the national monument designation provides important protection for Native American groups.

"These areas do have a special meaning for Indian peoples. They are used for ceremonial purposes. It's all very sacred. These sites are put in very special places. This is all we have

left in some areas," Crowheart said. "If they are on government land, it is protected by the BLM. They consult with Native Americans, and they do protect these places. Because of the [national monument] executive order, it is a 'double whammy' — there is double protection."

Despite the transition to President George W. Bush's administration, a reversal of Clinton's Carrizo Plain National Monument designation is unlikely because it would require a majority vote in both houses of Congress, Paxton said.

"The designation has been done. Congress doesn't need to ratify it; it's part of the president's power," Paxton said. "It is possible to reverse the designation, but it requires an act of Congress. That's just not likely with the current situation."

The Daily Nexus
Thinking about stuff so you don't have to.

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Fifth Annual UCSB Student Leadership Conference

Empowering Your Vision

Thursday, January 25, 6:00-10:30pm, Corwin Pavilion

PRIZES!

5:30-6:00pm, Check-in and "Dinner Deal"
Gauche Deli, coldcut sandwich and soda, \$3.99

6:00-6:45pm, Keynote Address
Hannah-Beth Jackson, 35th District Assemblymember
Come hear this dynamic and experienced leader share her ideas and perspectives on successful leadership.

7:00-7:50pm & 8:00-8:50pm, Workshops

Here are a few of the 12 awesome workshops scheduled to help you learn and develop important leadership skills.

The Importance of I-M: Inspiring and Motivating Those Around You
(Britt Andreatta & Ryan Greene)
Motivating and inspiring your members is one of the biggest challenges for all leaders - and yet it is central to the success of the group and organization. Come to this workshop to learn specific strategies for motivating and inspiring yourself and others at all stages of your groups process. We'll talk about getting started, helping your members feel ownership of the organization, creating an environment where members feel like they matter, addressing potential threats to motivation, and other relevant issues.

Finding Funding & Utilizing Campus Resources **(Richard Jenkins & KC Mmeje)**
It is our beliefs that you can never have too much money! You will learn the process for applying for funds from RHA, SNOP, UCen Programming, AS Finance Board, academic departments, and the offices of the Vice Chancellors and Chancellor. Also, learn about off-campus funding sources such as the Fund for Santa Barbara, IV Community Relations Committee, etc. In addition, you will learn about "in-kind services" available to campus organization requesters.

Moving Your Group Through Conflict **(Delilah Poupore)**
Has your organization or group swept any conflicts under the rug over the past year? If so, come to this workshop to figure out how to clean them out before they become moldy and harder to get through! At this workshop, we'll have a chance to talk about how conflict is dealt with in your organization, and work together to come up with creative solutions!

Marketing Events Successfully **(Brenda Reheem)**
"We know that people will want to come to our events, but it will only work if they know about them!" Does that sound like something you find yourself saying? Come and learn about web resources (posting on the web calendar, establishing a webpage, etc.), creating press releases and public service announcements (PSA), utilizing campus media such as the Nexus, 93106, KCSB radio, community media such as *The Independent*, utilizing e-mail distribution and listservs, etc.

NEW! FOR ADVISORS!!

Advising 101: Advisor Roundtable and Resource Discussion
(James To, Carolyn Buford)
This will be an active and hands on workshop which is designed to provide advisors with a variety of resources that can be used with the organizations that they advise. We have designed this workshop to help address the issues, concerns and the "nuts and bolts" of advising, by providing an opportunity for advisors to ask questions of other advisors in a roundtable discussion. This workshop will also provide valuable information and suggestions regarding campus resources.

9:00-10:00pm

Team Adventures! **(Lisa Slavid)**
Join us for an extremely interactive, fun & insightful experience. Trained adventure programmers will lead small groups through team building exercises. Participants will get to select from such team building issues as trust, problem solving, communication, and leadership. Last year, students had the following to say about this workshop "This workshop was awesome!! I got a lot of really great ideas to take back to my organization." And "I definitely learned new leadership approaches to situations. I realize that I need to be less competitive and more cooperative. I will use my new knowledge daily. Thanks!"

10:00-10:30pm

Social and Prizes
End the day with a social (with great refreshments) and a chance to win several Grand Prizes!! Have fun while networking with other campus leaders.

CS Co-sponsored by: Office of Student Life, Questia, Associated Students, Graduate School of Education, University Center, Orientation Programs. **questia**

UNIVERSITY

Continued from p.1

electricity per hour during peak usage — 332 megawatts — to power over 300,000 homes for the same amount of time.

UCSB, which does not have a power plant and is forced to rely on Southern California Edison, is dealing with the energy crisis on two fronts, Facilities Director David Gonzales said.

"First, we are engaged in retrofitting our systems in our buildings, such as lighting, heating and cooling, so power is used more efficiently," he said. "Second, we are asking members on campus to conserve energy. If you don't need equipment, then turn it off."

Research laboratories on campus are particularly vulnerable to blackouts, Gonzales said. Buildings are equipped with power

generators for emergency purposes only, such as lighting and emergency alarms. Other computer laboratories and servers in the Computer Science Dept. rely on batteries, Colin Sebern, a junior systems administrator in the Computer Science Dept,

to supply energy to all UC and Cal State campuses through April 1, 2002. As part of the contract, the UC pays a fixed price for electricity, which is transmitted by Southern California Edison. The contract has saved the University a considerable

However, state law requires utility companies to supply energy no matter how poor their financial situation is, and recently, the state purchased energy from other states to uphold this. Jointly, both companies serve 25 million people.

Rolling blackouts

within 1,300 megawatts of ordering the first statewide blackout since World War II, according to the AP.

Over the weekend the ISO declared a Stage 3 alert, which continued through Tuesday, Jan. 23. Stage 3 alerts allow operators to impose rolling blackouts and are announced when state energy reserves fall below 1.5 percent.

Edison notified UCSB on Tuesday, Jan. 16, that it might lose power at any time. In a memo to the campus community, UCSB's Physical Facilities Energy Manager Jim Dewey told campus personnel to expect possible hour-and-a-half blackouts throughout the day.

Although UCSB escaped the alert without losing power, the possibility remains that the UC system, which is one of the largest energy consumers in the state, will have to dramatically cut back its

energy usage.

The combined UC schools consume roughly 332 megawatts per hour but produce 100 megawatts of power per hour at energy plants on several campuses. UC President Richard Atkinson recently proposed the idea of constructing more energy plants across the state.

A number of campuses are building plants or have their own, including UCSD, UC Irvine, UC Los Angeles and UC Berkeley. "UCLA's power plant is absolutely fascinating," Gonzales said. "It provides about half or one-third of the entire energy needed for the campus."

UCSD Engineering Services Assistant Director Gerry White said San Diego is building a plant, set for completion in April, which would provide up to 95 percent of the campus's energy.

A number of things could happen [if a blackout were to occur]. ... Servers are on batteries, and those batteries could fail. Those machines need to be running for everything else to be running.

**— Colin Sebern
Computer Science Dept.
junior systems administrator**

said.

"A number of things could happen [if a blackout were to occur]," he said. "Servers are on batteries, and those batteries could fail. Those machines need to be running for everything else to be running."

Houston's Enron Corporation is contracted

amount; in a Jan. 17 article, UC officials told The Associated Press the fixed price saved UC San Diego \$12.3 million between April and November of 2000.

Both Edison and Pacific Gas and Electric, which serve most of Northern California, are on the brink of bankruptcy.

began affecting thousands of Northern Californians on Wednesday, Jan. 17, for as much as two hours at a time. Blackouts continued the next day and affected twice as many people.

The Independent System Operator — the state's power grid monitor — orders blackouts. On Wednesday, the ISO came

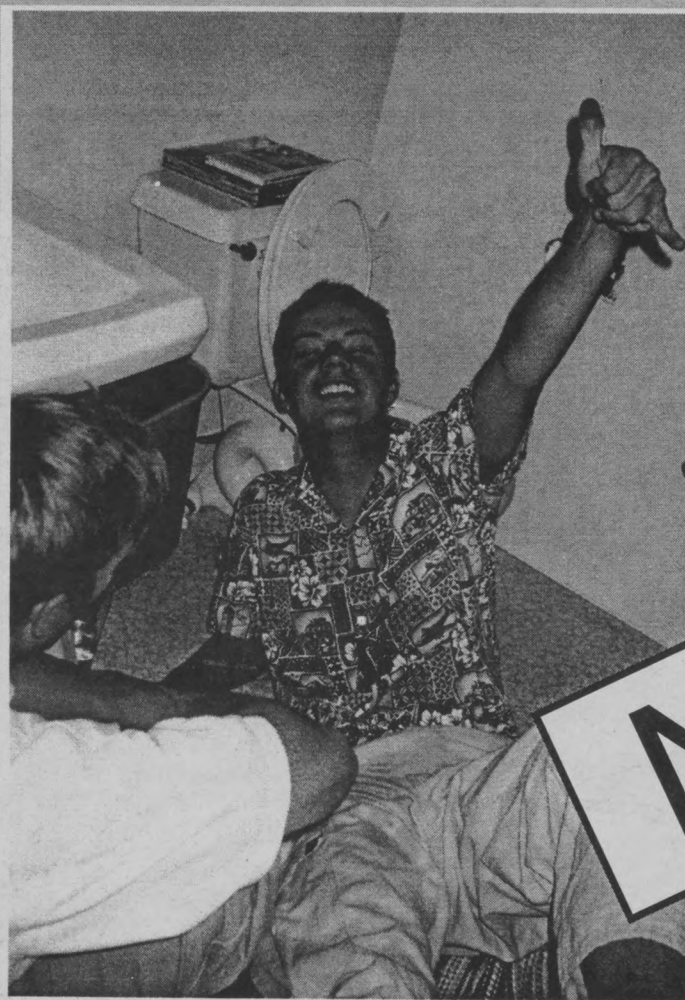
CALIFORNIA POWER CRISIS CHRONOLOGY

S ep. 19	Gov. Pete Wilson signs legislation to open up California's electricity market to competition. The bill was approved by the legislature with unanimous support.
S ep. 20	SDG&E residential customers' bills double as the utility passes on high wholesale costs to consumers. By summer, those customers' bills have tripled.
J une 15	Rolling blackouts in San Francisco affect hundreds of thousands. Blackouts are caused by slim power supplies due to several Northern California plants closing for maintenance.
D ec. 7	For the first time, the ISO declares a Stage 3 emergency when power reserves fall below 1.5 percent. Officials say conservation efforts averted rolling blackouts throughout the state.
D ec. 1	The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission approves a flexible rate cap of \$150 per megawatt hour, but suppliers can charge more if they prove it warranted. Davis had asked for a firm cap of \$100.
D ec. 2	Southern California Edison sues FERC, alleging the government body failed to ensure that wholesale electricity is sold at a "just and reasonable" rate.
J an. 5	A federal court in Washington rejects Edison's bid to force federal regulators to cap prices on wholesale electricity. Edison announces it will cut 1,450 jobs over the next several months.
J an. 1	The ISO declares a Stage 3 power alert, but stops short of ordering scattered blackouts. U.S. Energy Secretary Bill Richardson extends an emergency order keeping power flowing to the state after Davis submits a conservation plan.
J an. 6	Power supplier Dynergy Inc. threatens to take SoCal Edison and PG&E to bankruptcy court if they fail to make payments due this week.
J an. 7	The ISO declares a Stage 3 alert as several plants report shortages of natural gas. Edison tells federal regulators it doesn't have the money to pay the \$596 million it owes this week, including \$215 million to the California Power Exchange for wholesale-power purchases.
J an. 1	ISO orders the first rolling blackouts of California's electricity crisis. The outages affect several hundred thousand customers in Northern and Central California at any one time for an hour to 90 minutes. The ISO blames supplier worries about utility insolvency, a scarce hydroelectric power in the Pacific Northwest, several plants failing to return to full operation after repairs as soon as expected, and tight electricity nationwide.

Source: The Associated Press

Take your Senior Picture

(Unless you'd rather show your kids the ones your friends took of you in college)



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**Make sure you're in the La Cumbre 2001 yearbook.
Have your FREE Senior Portrait taken anytime from 9-5 under Storke Tower.**

STATE

Continued from p.1 and will close today at noon.

Mike Silicia, spokesperson for Davis, said the state is hoping to receive bids as low as 5.5 cents per kilowatt-hour, compared to the 40 or 50 cents Edison and PG&E have been paying to wholesale market contractors, which provide approximately 30 percent of the state's energy. The state, whose good credit could allow it to buy and sell energy at low rates, is hoping to acquire these low rates by entering into long-term contracts with suppliers. Long-term contracts could benefit the state by offering a fixed rate per kilowatt-hour, as opposed to a short-term contract, which allows energy suppliers to raise per-kilowatt-hour prices based on supply and demand.

"[The auction] requests bids of six months, one year, three years, five years and 10 years from power providers, and that's open until noon [Wednesday] for bids to come in," Silicia said. "The state would contract with these outside bidding companies — they would be contracts to purchase electricity."

Since electricity in California was deregulated in 1996, forcing PG&E and Edison to sell their

It's a proposal that would make a complete settlement and basically restructure how energy is purchased in California. But there are other options that are being considered ...

**- Hannah-Beth Jackson
Assemblywoman**

generation plants to outside contractors, the companies have been forced almost \$12 billion into debt, resulting in threats to cut off the state's energy supplies. On Tuesday, President George W. Bush mandated a two-week extension requiring these generation plants to continue selling power to California, according to The Associated Press.

The state has set aside \$400 million for emergency funding, slated to last through Feb. 2, Silicia said. After bidding ends today, the Dept. of Water Resources and state legislators will analyze the bids and decide whether to go forward with them.

"After the bidding closes, the bids will be opened in private by the Dept. of Water Resources, who have been buying and selling water and electricity for the last four years for part of the state water project," he said. "Where the money [would] come from needs to be decided by the legislature. ... They're working on it under bill 1X, which is to be the funding mechanism. Nobody actually knows

what that is yet."

On Monday, state Assembly Democrats introduced a proposal suggesting California acquire Edison and PG&E's statewide hydroelectric plants and sell as much as \$12 billion worth of bonds in order to enter into long-term contracts with other energy suppliers. Under the plan, the two companies would exchange these plants, which supply about 40 percent of the state's power, for the ability to use some of their current rates to pay off debt.

Assemblywoman Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) said the proposal, crafted by a group of stakeholders, would radically change the state's involvement in energy purchasing.

"It's a proposal that would make a complete settlement and basically restructure how energy is purchased in California. But there are other options that are being considered — there's a question of whether California really wants to get involved with the purchase of hydropower in the state," she said. "It certainly has interesting

points to it, some of which may be really good. If we're going to be taking the risk the utility companies aren't willing or able to pay anymore, the taxpayers should get something in return. And I like the idea of obtaining and acquiring their generation facilities so we can operate them in the most environmentally sound way possible."

Rodger Salazar, deputy press secretary to Davis, said the governor has not taken an official position on the proposal.

"Obviously the governor is open to all proposals — at this point he's not going to rule out any ideas. He's going to have to take a close look at the wording on that legislation," he said. "The bottom line is the governor and the governor's staff are all working very closely with both the Senate and Assembly to try and come up with some positive legislation to try and get through this energy challenge."

Edison spokesperson Tom Boyd said the company has not taken a position on either the auctions

See STATE, p.10

POWER
CRISIS
IN
CALIFORNIA

When state legislators unanimously approved electricity deregulation in 1996, they forced California's two major electric companies, Southern California Edison and Pacific Gas and Electric, to sell their generation plants to outside contractors. By opening these plants, which supply approximately 30 percent of California's energy, to the free market, the state hoped to encourage competition and effectively lower energy costs. Since then, the energy demand within California has risen, while no new plants have opened. The state has put a cap on the rates Edison and PG&E can charge consumers, but because the companies are on short-term contracts with energy suppliers, they are now paying the suppliers almost six times what they can charge for electricity. This has forced the companies almost \$12 billion into debt and has caused suppliers to threaten cutting off this energy. The state is currently looking at several alternatives to alleviate the energy crisis.

THE NUMBERS:

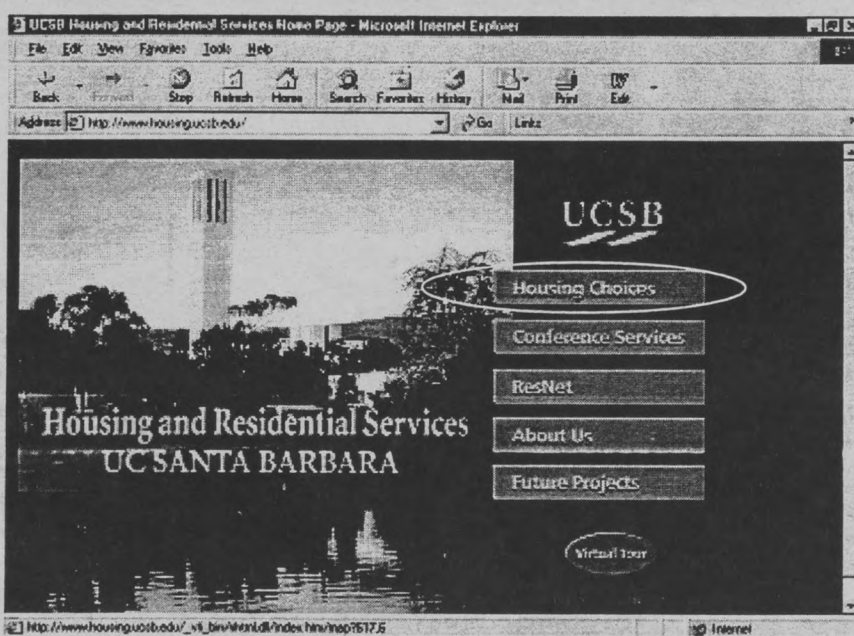
- 1000 - Houses powered by one megawatt.
- 45,000 - Total megawatts California plants can produce when all are operating.
- 11,000 - Megawatts state is short from nonoperating plants.
- 500 - Megawatts cut during each blackout
- 2 million - Maximum number of households that can be affected by outages.
- \$10 billion - Amount of money Edison, PG&E claim to have lost since June.
- 9 - Agreed percentage hike of residential rates.

Source: The Associated Press

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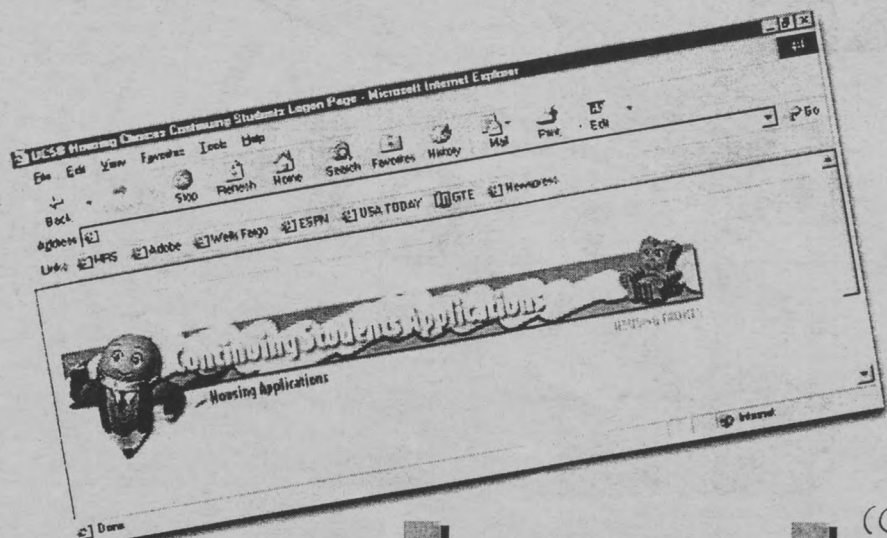
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Opinion

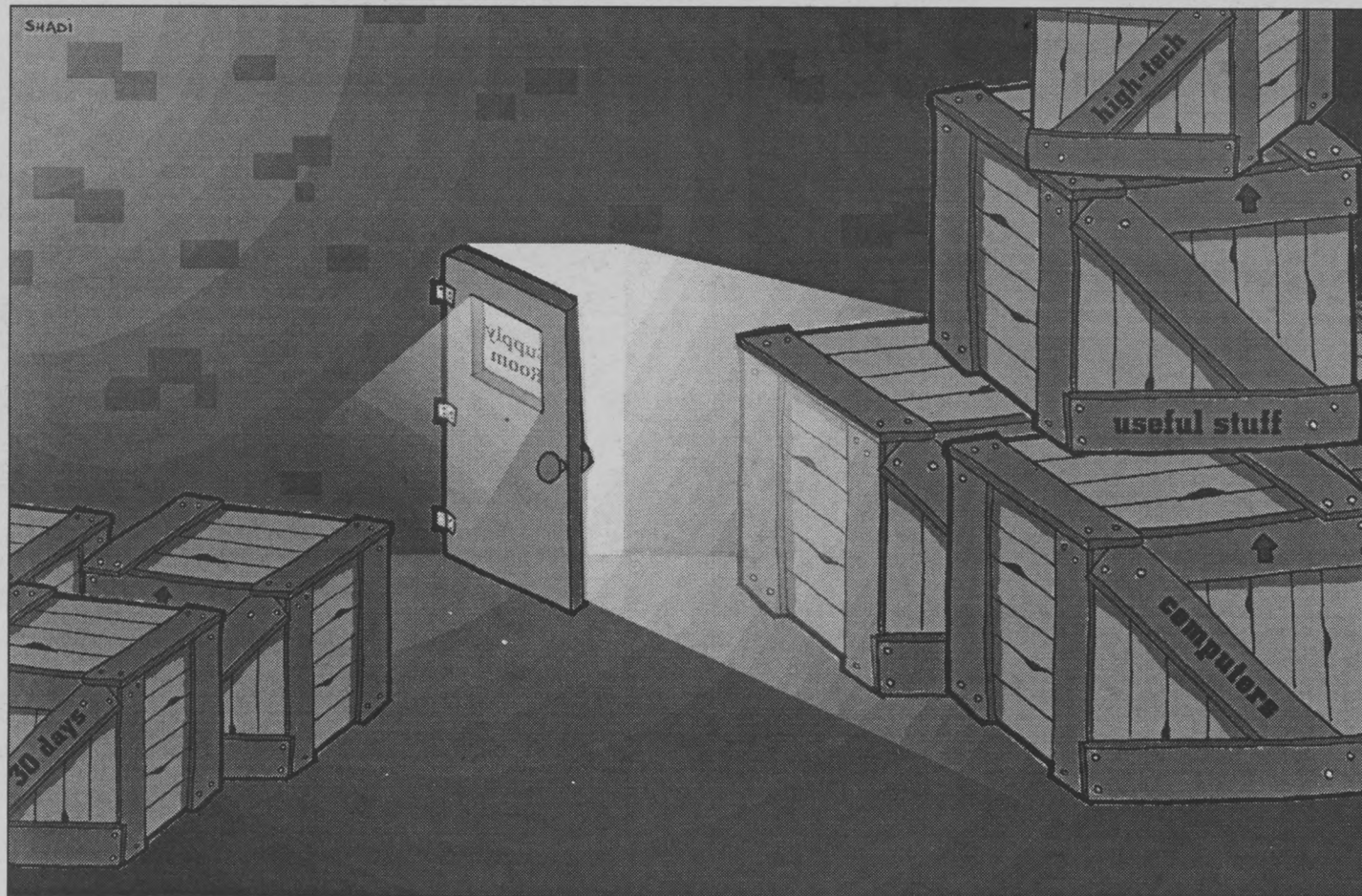
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Columns and Letters

We welcome all submissions. The length is three pages, plus a photo if appropriate.

Staff Editorial



SHADI MUKLASHY/DAILY NEXUS

School's Out For Summer?

Gov. Davis' Plan for Extending Academic Year Misreads State's Educational Priorities

Amid California's energy crisis, Gov. Gray Davis has not forgotten his campaign pledge to make education his top priority. In his 2001-02 budget, Davis slated \$1.45 billion to extend California middle schools' academic year by 30 days, from 180 to 210. Although the governor's commitment to education is unquestionable, this proposal points down the wrong path and muddles academic priorities.

In 1998, California raised the bar for scholastic performance, and Davis' most recent plan is just one in a string of initiatives he has introduced in an effort to raise students' faltering test scores. The revised curriculum, which requires approval from the state legislature, would not be mandatory. Instead, individual school districts that choose to participate would receive a 17 percent increase in funding to cover teachers' salaries and additional costs. Davis has argued that schools require the extra time in order to effectively teach the current curriculum, and his educational advisors have cited a need to curtail the academic "backsliding" that occurs over an extended summer vacation. These are valid points, but Davis' proposal remains an inefficient allocation of resources.

An additional 30 days in the classroom would undoubtedly improve the education of middle school students, but first things first. Because California already has one of the longest academic years in the nation, the state's No. 1 educational priority ought to be improving physical resources — textbooks, computers, classrooms, etc. — and raising teacher salaries. Extending the academic year before schools are staffed to do so risks spreading such institutions extremely thin.

The California Teachers Association has applauded the governor's commitment to beefing up educational spending, but argues that the current shortage of qualified instructors precludes a six-week extension of the academic year. What most people fail to

realize is that six more school weeks for students translates to nine more weeks of work for teachers, in light of the increased workload required outside of the classroom. One-and-a-half billion dollars is a lot of money, and should be used to improve resources to bring California's poorer school districts up to par with those that already meet modern standards. Furthermore, this is not to say that certain curriculum reforms cannot be achieved in the meantime.

Davis has got it right when he argues that the typical, three-month summer vacation can be counterproductive. A few urban school districts, including Los Angeles Unified, have adopted a year-round block schedule. Such a system increases the number of school holidays, but shortens their duration, thus reducing potential academic "backsliding" and burnout without compromising time for family vacations or after-school work. Time away from school and room for extracurricular activities is extremely important for young children and teenagers, but three months is excessive. With the year-round schedule, working parents are relieved of some of the costs of daycare and babysitting, and adolescent delinquency declines. Such a system would not require a significant increase in expenditure and is, in short, a win-win situation for parents, teachers and children.

Davis has diligently campaigned for education in California, but at present, pouring \$1.45 billion into a 30-day extension of the academic year is jumping the gun. Bumping up the number of school days may be a valuable and necessary measure, but this money must first be devoted to improving resources, both human and physical, in existing operations. In addition, a year-round block schedule is an important alternative that must be explored as another first step to improving scholastic achievement.

Here's the skinny:

It's a new quarter, there's a new president in office, California is in a Stage 3 energy crisis, the county Board of Supervisors wants to impose mandatory housing inspections in I.V. — nation, state and local. Send us your opinions.

<dailynexus@hotmail.com>

The Low Tune In

DAVID DOWNS

The quickest way out of California's energy crisis is to turn on every single electrical device in the state. I know, it sounds like ass-backward logic, but in these foul days the only way to fight feces is with feces.

The numbers are in, the Golden Dookie Award for the "Crappiest Idea of the Decade" goes to our 1996 legislature and its decision to deregulate our power. This poo-poo logic went something like, "Let's make the electric companies sell off all their electric plants to some cut-throat Houston oil barons. Then, let's see if the oil barons charge us less than what we're charged now."

Four years, \$15 billion and eight days of blackouts later, the answer is no. No, they won't charge us less. They are Texans, and they will hoard every penny they can swindle. Enron Corp., Duke Energy, Reliant Energy and others are watching their stocks jump more than 30 percent. Enron's fourth-quarter profits are four times larger than last year and in excess of \$30 billion.

Meanwhile, unpaid Edison employees have started doing amphetamines to stay alert during long nights of power shuffling. Gov. Davis has appealed to the federal government, but he might as well be asking for sympathy from the Devil.

President-reject Bush has turned a deaf ear to the seventh largest economy in the world and then decided to gut punch us with an outspoken deregulation fan named Curt Herbert — soon-to-be head of the only government agency with any power to stop this nonsense.

The fix is in. The head of FERC will

Black Box 'Peace' O

BRENDAN BUHLER

California is flickering like a Christmas tree with a cat chewing on the light cord, and the stench of frying tabby is too much to bear.

Lots of people are involved in the energy crisis and, as the rats scramble for cover, they're biting each other and trying desperately to blame anyone else. When a fuck up is this big and confusing, it seems beyond belief that one person could be responsible for it all.

Yet, I have found that one man: Steve Peace.

How could one lonesome Democratic state senator from San Diego be the source of the land's woe? He wrote legislation in 1996 deregulating the electric biz and spent two years bragging. Up until July, Steve-o was churning out about two press releases a month — each progressively more frantic as San Diego's sweltering citizens were gouged by high prices. His last output blamed colleagues for amending his legislation and spat out the blatant lie that utilities didn't want deregulation (in fact, they helped to draft the bill). He also said that, under no circumstances, should California return its utilities to public control. There haven't been any more public statements since July.

Letters:

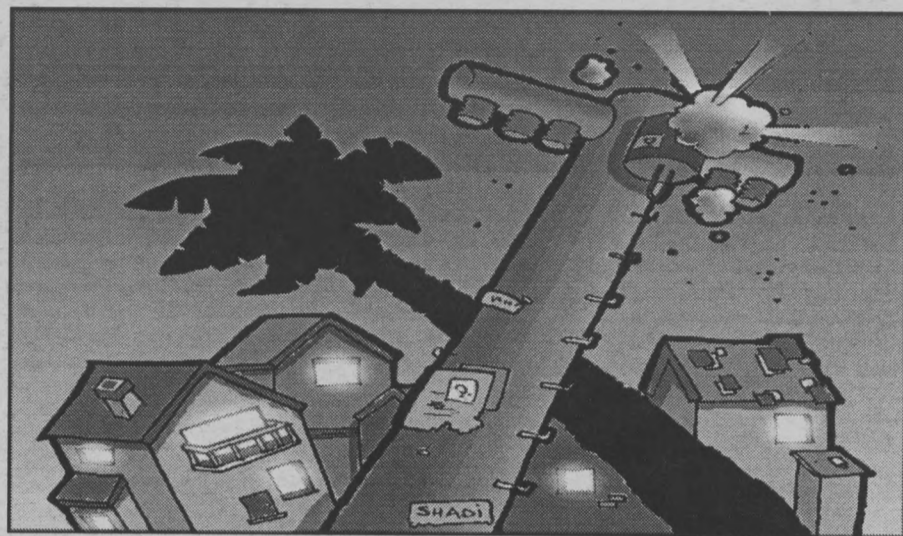
submissions, but please include your name and phone number. For columns, maximum three pages, typed and double-spaced; for letters, one page. All submissions become the property of the *Daily Nexus* upon being turned in and are edited for length and clarity.

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In, Turn On, Blow the Power Grid Out King of 'Castle' Denied Justice

THOMAS WENG



SHADI MUKLASHY/ DAILY NEXUS

be a Southern boy and a true believer in what the boys in Houston like to call "fair market price." Edison can't charge its customers more than seven cents an hour, Davis wants five cents, and the boys in Houston want about 40.

There is nothing fair, there is no market, and the price is more like a ransom. This is nothing new. Electricity has always been a growth industry for pimps, swindlers and those of light conscience. Thomas Edison — beloved marketer of direct current — would throw dead animals over the fence of Nicolai Tesla's alternating current power plants and tell local newspapers that Tesla's AC was dangerous and unreliable.

Of course, it wasn't — this computer and everything else runs on AC — but Tesla's AC power plants still went out of business. Edison bought the brilliant Russian scientist's AC patent and Tesla died penniless. God bless America.

Many journalists are confused as to why most of the public cares little about the energy problem. On a bad day my answer is simply, "the masses are asses." But today is a good day, and I truly believe it goes deeper than that. The reality is, you have to hurt people to engage them in an issue. Our electricity problems don't really hurt, yet.

Sure, rolling blackouts are sweeping through Central and Northern California, but big deal. Electrically and politically, L.A. has plenty of its power. Many couldn't care less about Davis getting flogged in the dark by large heavies with a thick Texan accent asking, "where's the 12 billion, Dave? You said you could cover it, Dave. Down in the heartland we don't take kindly to liars, Dave."

On a local level, smoking light sock-

ets, surges, brownouts and the occasional exploding transformer is the norm for Isla Vistans. The town was wired by a couple of acid-tripping roadies from Jefferson Airplane, and we're lucky it has held up this long.

Until the defibrillator pads stop working, until old ladies start dying of heat exhaustion and little children have to drink sour milk from dirty dishes, nothing will change. The power barons will eventually get their swindled billions. Hence, my solution at the beginning of the column.

If everyone in California suddenly turns on everything electric, two things will happen:

1) Chaos will descend upon the Golden State as blackouts repeatedly cripple business and government. Working TVs will show CNN footage of useless traffic lights and clogged intersections. Fires will rage, stores will be looted and hundreds will perish.

2) On the flip side, we'll collectively hold the power barons responsible. Enron

and others will be smacked with a class-action lawsuit a la tobacco, and the families of the victims plus the state will get every penny back. California is a democratic state. Democrats are lawyers, and we need to beat the power barons on our own turf.

Also, we'll know *exactly* how much power this state needs and can begin emergency production on some new generators. And I mean build the bastards quick, right on that wasteland of a border with Mexico. Hire thousands of immigrants and pay them with citizenship to the great Mall of America. They'll work harder and faster than any fat-assed unionized American, and I bet it could be done in two months.

Welcome to 2001. Let the triumph of ass-backward logic begin. End our power crisis by turning everything on.

David Downs is the Daily Friday editor and a reverend in the Universal Life Church. His columns appear every Wednesday.

Offering Shorts Out California Power



MIWA MATREYEK/ DAILY NEXUS

Basically, Peace is a weasel caught in a trap, trying frantically to gnaw off his

own leg before his outraged constituents catch up with him and pound him into the dirt with huckleberry staves — poor fucker.

In civilian life, Peace is the head bean counter for a movie company that has produced such epics as "Attack of the Killer Tomatoes." As a state senator, he's known as a policy wonk. "Wonk" is an ugly term for a beautiful thing: people who immerse themselves in an issue before writing legislation. Wonks are in short supply. People vote for the guys and gals who promise to reduce crime, cut taxes, save puppies and ban cigarette billboards. To an electorate that doesn't want to think about arcane things like power grids and kilowatts, "wonk" sounds like a term for aborted masturbation.

So there's Peace up in Sacramento, being a wonk. Let's assume he had the best of all possible motives. He looks into the power crisis and, lo, none of the puppy-saving legislators he works with care about the minutia of electricity —

it's enough that their tie racks work.

So who will talk to a curious guy like Steve? Pacific Gas and Electric and Southern California Edison, of course. They were knowledgeable, interested and friendly contributors to campaign coffers. They liked their natural monopolies, but would have been happier if there weren't laws against gouging. So, not so out of nowhere, Steve gets the idea that deregulation is the way to go, provided it includes a safety net for his new friends. Heck, how was Steve to know the utilities were basing their power-usage predictions on the assumption that California would stay in a recession for the next 19 years?

Steve's fellow legislators were thrilled to see someone else writing such long, boring legislation that probably had to get done *somehow*. The voters sure as hell didn't care.

Their televisions worked and when Claymation advertisements came on the

tube late at night to preach the wonders of deregulation in, I shit you not, a Rastafarian accent, none of them paid attention. The economy was taking off, and our comput-

ers and coffee pots were running all night long.

Nowadays, however, it would be safer for Grandma to play Russian roulette than go in for a dialysis treatment in the middle of a Stage 3 power alert. Electric bills are high and promise to go higher in order to bail out the power companies that asked for this in the first place.

Gov. Gray Davis is panicking as he watches his presidential dream brown out in a giant political shitstorm. The governor, and everyone else in power, is trying desperately to come up with a solution, or illusion, that will make the hurting stop.

We can be pretty sure about some things. For starters, the utilities will be bailed out and go largely unpunished. All kinds of new power plants will be built quickly and poorly, but before that happens out-of-state corporations like Enron and Dynegy Inc. will get much, much richer. Lastly, we'll all pay higher bills for a while.

Try and remember this for a few elections.

Brendan Buhler is a Daily Nexus columnist and assistant campus editor. He wakes up in the middle of the night, sweating, worried the power has gone off and his cocktail glasses are no longer chilled.

Sui-Yi Paul Chang has been sentenced to one year in prison. What was his crime? Chang had poor legal and political representation, and he fed America's fear of immigrants reducing this country's whiteness.

Let me restate his case: In May last year, Immigration and Naturalization Service officials raided the restaurant of Paul and Chin Yin Chang at 1202 Chapala St. China Castle's owners tried to hide the fact that they had seven illegal workers, three from China and four from Mexico. The Changs provided housing for two of the workers, both Chinese students. The judge regarded this as harboring and concealing illegal immigrants for profit. This was a reinterpretation of a little-used article of immigration law usually applied to human smugglers — people who transport illegal immigrants into the country for a hefty fee. This case became widely known only after November, when the couple entered into a plea agreement.

Paul Chang has received a particularly heavy blow because of his ethnicity and race. Indeed, his situation is a less pronounced instance of race affecting sentence. Mr. Chang is only the latest whipping boy for America's fear of illegal immigrants flooding the country with nonwhite people, especially those who are Asian and therefore look "foreign." The image of waves of immigrants taking over the country has taken its latest form in reporting on Chinese immigrants, such as front-page stories on illegal Chinese immigrants shipped into the United States and Britain. The fact that the judge personally equated housing of illegal immigrants with the smuggling of illegal immigrants supports this argument.

When it is convenient, the criminal justice system preys upon people with little political clout in order to use them as "examples." Chang's case can be compared with that of Linda Chavez, Bush Jr.'s former labor secretary nominee. Chavez admitted to knowing that the Guatemalan woman she sheltered in her house for two years did not have a green card. Because this woman did household chores for her, Chavez can, in theory, be put in prison under the same law that imprisoned Chang. Having ties to people in government, however, she would be unlikely to receive even a one-week sentence — if she were ever prosecuted at all. Chang, on the other hand, is a restaurant owner of modest means who is Asian and therefore seen as a person with relatively no political power. This follows the stereotype of Asians as quiet and passive people of color.

The "unjust" justice system of the United States disproportionately oppresses people who have few resources to protect themselves. Death row inmates are a clear example; statistics show a highly disproportionate snapshot of who gets shackled to the line for the electric chair. A Loyola Law School study in 1989 reported that about 90 percent of people placed on death row could not afford their own lawyers. As Justice William O. Douglas stated in the 1972 case of *Furman vs. Georgia*, "One searches our chronicles in vain for the execution of any member of the affluent strata in this society." In other words, rich people don't get the chair.

This shows justice is not blind. The U.S. legal system is stacked to protect certain people with more privilege — those with money, connections, or both.

If you too believe that this is wrong, come and say it at the rally being held downtown at noon TODAY at the post office on Anacapa and Canon Perdido. The focus will be a less severe sentence for Chang. Also, some will be there to say that there is a wider issue than merely this one injustice. Will you be one of them?

Thomas Weng is a sophomore pre-political science major.

MOST

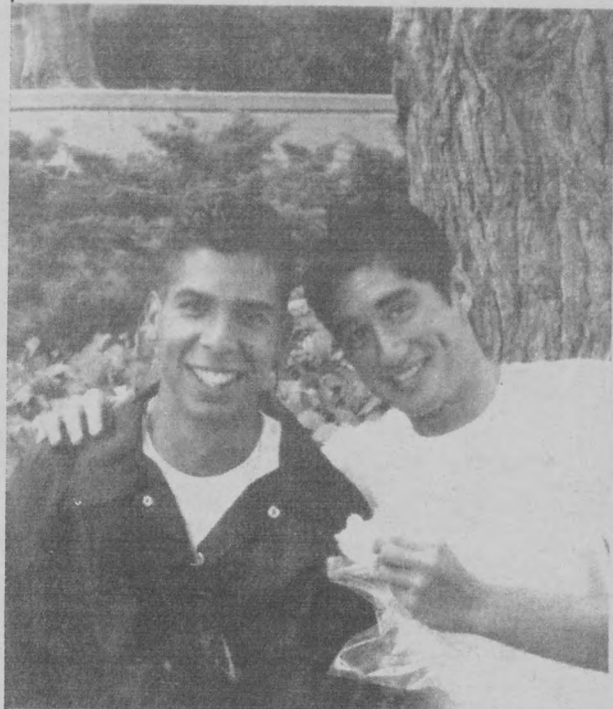


photo by Kathryn Fischlerman

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*Based on survey data collected by Student Health in 1999 from UCSB students in a randomly selected mailing.

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HEALTH

Continued from p.1

emergency medical care. It instead offers preventative care or treatment, providing immunizations, a pharmacy, medical and X-ray laboratories, a dental and eye clinic, as well as physical therapy and gynecology.

"The student health center is basically a full-service provider, offering general primary care to students," SHS Director Cynthia Bowers said.

Students are charged \$22 for primary care and \$27 for special visits. Fees are automatically billed to a patient's BARC account and are not covered by insurance. If students ask, SHS will provide a bill statement that offers all the codes and numbers needed for an insurance company to help pay the fees.

SHS also offers its own form of limited health insurance, called Prepaid Access to Healthcare (PATH). This fee of \$70 per quarter, or \$180 for a full year, covers all visits, lab tests and X-rays.

Mary Spletter, a UC public information representative, estimated that 40 percent of UC undergraduate students are uninsured and that 25 percent of students who withdraw from the UC do so for health reasons. Under a

plan passed Sept. 14 at the UC Regents meeting, all undergraduates will be required to either purchase insurance at their campus or provide proof of comparable coverage.

Currently, all UC campuses offer health insurance through SHS, and at Santa Cruz and Berkeley, insurance is already mandatory. The cost of SHS plans UC-wide range from \$522 to \$864 per year, with an average cost of \$714. The cost will vary for each campus, depending on the location of the campus, local healthcare costs and services available at each campus.

Students receiving Financial Aid already are allotted \$407 for healthcare.

"Financial Aid will be included as part of the basic package for students who receive aid in the form of grants, loans and/or work study," Spletter said. "Students who already have their own insurance can waive the requirement."

Students not eligible for Financial Aid still will not be eligible for covered insurance, despite the increased fees. Students not already receiving aid will be required to pay for their plan or seek coverage under their parents' plans.

In September, the UC Student Association (UCSA) supported mandatory UC health

insurance. However, UCSA Chair Debbie Davis said the group is worried about students who are not on Financial Aid but still must take out loans to pay for school.

"We are concerned that the loan debt burden will be increasing for some students," she said.

Spletter said mandatory student health insurance would help more students than it would hurt.

Janet O'Neil, the director of public affairs for Goleta Valley Cottage Hospital, said campus healthcare is usually the best option for students without brand-name insurance and who are not grievously ill.

"[O]ur services are an expensive way to go — with physician fees and hospital fees," O'Neil said. "You're better off to go to UCSB student health center for regular checkups and minor health issues."

Junior music major Lauren Osuch praised the care she received at the Student Health Service.

"It is convenient, and I can charge it to my BARC account," she said. "It's definitely affordable."

Eric Frederick, a junior economics/math major, agreed. "It's close and convenient and pretty reasonable," he said. "I would like to see other payment options than just BARC, but availability is good and they seem concerned."

The FAR SIDE cartoon by Gary Larson is reprinted by permission of Chronicle Features, San Francisco, California.



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The real reason dinosaurs became extinct

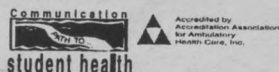
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YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

By Linda C. Black

Today's Birthday (Jan. 24). You're creative, confident and powerful this year! Be compassionate, too, and you'll take home all the prizes. Don't let your magnificence blind you in February. Take care of a person who loves you in March. Provide the necessary security to yourself and to others who need you in May. Then, relax and enjoy your accomplishments in June. Gain again from past efforts in October and advance naturally in November. Stand up for friends who've stood by you in December, as pay back for all those past favors.

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 - A strategy meeting with your team is required to produce the desired results. If you don't have a team, get one. This is too big a job for you to tackle on your own. Besides, some of them are going to figure out what you should do next.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 7 - If you're struggling with rules and regulations, take heart. Your luck regarding money is about to change for the better. It may not be noticeable until tomorrow, but that's OK. Going along with another's agenda will be easier when you've got more coins in your pocket.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is an 8 - The more phone calls you can return and old jobs you can finish, the better. Your energy will increase as you check things off your lists. Get busy. You need to make room on your workbench for a new project, soon.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 6 - If you can get enough time and money together in the next couple of days, you might get to take a trip on Friday. Make plans to do that by asking for Friday off. Then, immerse yourself in papers concerning other people's money.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 6 - Don't argue with your partner, mate or legal adviser. Don't get into any major competitions, either. The other side has a huge advantage. Watch, look and listen. If the person who's representing you is sharp, you'll have nothing to worry about.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 5 - Figure out how to be more efficient. You could get an assignment soon that's borderline impossible. With the old technology, it's way too hard. With the new technology, it's doable. Don't worry; you can learn what needs to be done.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct 22) - Today is a 10 - The barriers to true love are dissolving. You should see clearly now what action to take. You may have made a commitment recently; if you did, it will hold. If you haven't yet, keep going through your considerations.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is a 6 - Commitments you make now pertaining to home, family or real estate should last for eternity. Watch what you say and to whom you say it. You want to start a dynasty? Or, build a cathedral? Lay your foundation, now.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 7 - Your curiosity knows no bounds. Yet, you may find yourself lost in thought. This condition might cause a problem tomorrow, but today you can get away with it. Hide out in a quiet place, with plenty of reading material.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is a 5 - Unforeseen circumstances and maybe even a little treachery are possible today. The work is abundant, and the money's good. Don't do anything for anybody, however, without getting a signed contract first.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 9 - You're being infused with super-human powers. A barrier is becoming a stepping stone. Your persistence is paying off. Others are waiting for your words of wisdom, so tell them what they want to hear.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 6 - Your imagination is more active than usual. Your fantasies may have been even more bizarre than reality, too. Nothing to worry about; it's normal. It'll be over in a few days. By then, you should have some great new stories to tell.

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Student organizations and campus departments wishing to get a ballot measure considered for the Spring 2001 election must first submit to the Campus Elections Commission petitions of support by **February 6, 2001**. Final proposals are due by **February 21**. Please call 893-4467 for further information.

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STATE

Continued from p.5

or the Assembly's proposal to buy California's hydroelectric plants. Boyd added that Edison has laid off approximately 1,850 employees since the crisis began. PG&E was unavailable for comment.

"If we don't receive some resolution for what we call our under-collection problem — it's an upside-down business

equation, where we're selling something for less than what we paid — we will have to lay off more people," he said.

Officials are encouraging California residents to conserve as much energy as possible by turning off all lights and electrical appliances when they are not being used.

"This is an issue that's important to everybody,

and I'd like my community to understand it as best is possible," Jackson said. "And frankly, we can all do our parts by a couple of simple things. If you've got a refrigerator humming that's only got a pack of beer in it, unplug it and take the beer out. If you've got a computer screen, when it's asleep, turn it off. Don't leave lights on. These are simple things, but they save an enormous amount of energy."



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C L A S S I F I E D S

Sports

Vukovich Elevates Game for Young Gaucho Squad

BY MATT HEITNER
Reporter

A young team can be expected to go through some growing pains during its first season.

With freshmen guards Branduinn Fullove, Jacoby Atako and Nick Jones receiving extensive playing time this season, the UCSB men's basketball team realizes that every game is a learning experience. This young talent can produce thrilling victories, such as the Gauchos' 80-77 triple overtime win against San Diego State. Yet inexperience can also result in disappointing losses, like Santa Barbara's back-to-back defeats in games against Long Beach State and Idaho.

UCSB is now entering the heart of its Big West competition, and veterans, especially starting junior forward Mike Vukovich, have started to pick up their play and provide leadership, both on the court and in the locker room.

Vukovich, thrust into the starting lineup after the devastating injury to senior center Adama Ndiaye, has produced his finest season in a Gaucho uniform. Vukovich is pouring in 11.2 points a game and tearing down 5.9 rebounds on the season. The power forward started to come on strong toward the end of last season and says that he has carried that over to this year.

"I think it's just a matter of me getting some confidence and getting in there and playing," Vukovich said. "Towards the end of last year I got a lot more playing time, and that's carried over to this season."

With his extended playing time, Vukovich has been able to dramatically improve his career averages in both points and rebounds. Vukovich credits his increased production to many things, including changing his playing style.

"I think my aggressiveness has definitely improved, and I'm calling for the ball a lot more now," Vukovich said. "I'm just trying to be a strong inside presence."

While Vukovich has become an aggressive force in the paint, he is exactly the opposite off the court. A lover of the beach, Vukovich also learned to surf at his home in Huntington Beach. When he's not bumming it on the sand, Vukovich likes to tear it up, Playstation style.

"I've got a Playstation and one of my buddies just got a Playstation too," Vukovich said. "I like NBA Live and Madden and all those sports games."

But Vukovich says that by no means is he the team's Playstation King. He says those honors go to former Gaucho basketball point guard, Larry Bell.

"Larry Bell is pretty good, and a couple of other guys too. That's all they do," Vukovich said.

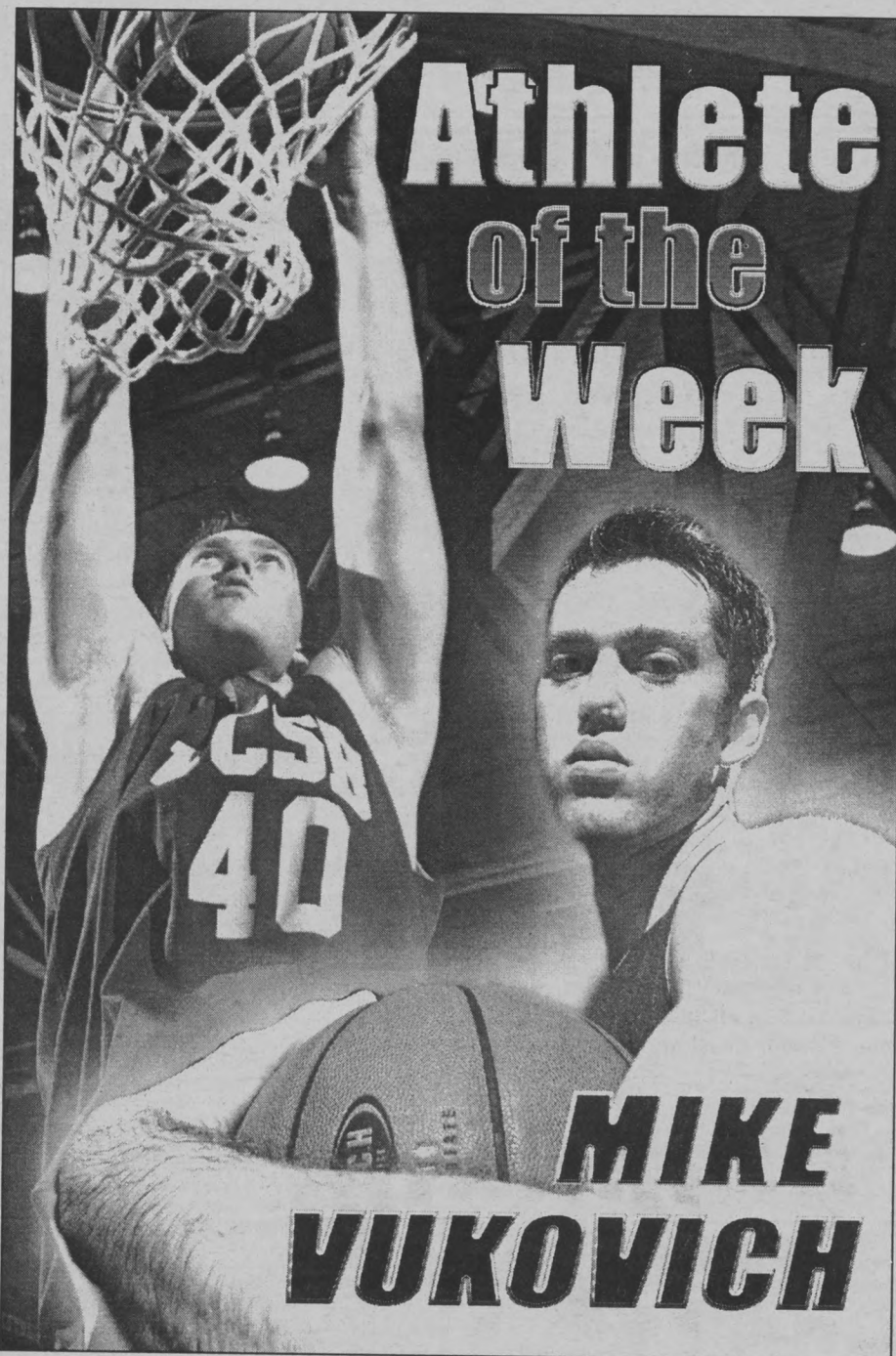
One of the main reasons Vukovich has seen extensive minutes this season is because of Ndiaye's fractured ring finger. Since they play the same position, Ndiaye has been able to give Vukovich advice on his game.

"[Ndiaye] gives me little pointers on what he sees during the game," Vukovich said. "He's in the same position that I was last year — not playing that much. He helped me out during the beginning of the year when I was having some problems playing. He told me that he went through the same thing last year and gave me some pointers on how to get through it."

On a team that starts three freshmen and a sophomore, forward Mark Hull, the new and improved Vukovich has become a go-to player and a threat in the post. Vukovich and Ndiaye both realize the importance the freshmen athletes have on the team in the future.

"The most important thing is for them to realize that one loss is not the end of the world. Our guys are really young and inexperienced, and it's important for them to get better and learn from their mistakes," Ndiaye said.

"I just tell them to calm down and concentrate," Vukovich said. "They play a little fast at times, but other than that



they're really good players, and they get better everyday."

While some people may be surprised by Vukovich's improved play this season, Ndiaye is not.

"Mike is a really good player, and we all know it," Ndiaye said. "The fact that he didn't get many minutes meant that he didn't get to show what he was capable of. I'm really proud of him, that he was able to step up and do the things that were asked of him."

Santa Barbara is now entering the stretch run of its season; it's put up or shut up time, and Vukovich believes that he and the rest of this team can raise their level of play.

"Right now our goals are to get better every day and make a run in the Big West tournament so we can be in the NCAA tournament," Vukovich said. "Personally, I want to get better too. I'm going to try and be more aggressive, score some more points and grab some rebounds."

UCSB Prepares for Cal-Baptist

BY BRITTANY LANGAN
Staff Writer

The UCSB men's volleyball team is gearing up for its battle against California Baptist tonight at 7:05 in Rob Gym.

"[Baptist] has always been a solid team," sophomore setter Jeff Minc said. "They have a number of good players that are quick and athletic. What we have to do is keep playing all the guys on our team like we've done the past few games. Our team doesn't have a go-to guy, and I think that's the big strength of our team. We play all of our guys so the other team doesn't know what to expect from us."

The #2-ranked Santa Barbara (3-0 overall, 1-0

in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation) is riding a three-game winning streak. The Gauchos hope to continue their positive winning trend tonight against the Lancers. Cal Baptist defeated UCSB last season in five games.

"It was a tough loss last year," Minc said. "We lost in five games, and this is a game we don't want to lose because they aren't part of the NCAA."

Cal Baptist (3-4) is the team to beat in its league, the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. The Gauchos know that playing the Lancers will not be a walk in the park.

"This will be a tough game," junior middle blocker Anders Bengtsson said. "They're

the best team we've played since UCLA so it will be a good test for us. I know that if we play with concentration, we can beat them in three [games], but it's going to be tough."

Santa Barbara is coming off of recent wins against the University of California, Santa Cruz, the University of California, San Diego, and UCLA. However, the Gauchos know that their recent successes will not guarantee a win.

"It's incredible that we've done so well this season," Minc said about the Gauchos' recent success in the young season. "It makes you want to maintain that status. It's a new inspiration for the team because we're not used to being this highly ranked."

Editor, Daily Nexus:

Just a quick note to thank the UCSB students who attended the ESPN basketball game against Long Beach State on Jan. 18. Although the outcome wasn't what we had hoped for, it was a great college basketball game. The atmosphere, noise level and intensity were awesome and you (Gaucho Locos) were the reason. It was an awesome sight to look up at the student section and see 2,500 yellow shirts. I want to especially thank Pat Merna, the Fantom, Pete Dolan and Reza for their efforts. Thanks again, and we hope to see you at our game against Irvine, Thursday at 5:30 p.m. on Fox Sports.

— Bob Williams
UCSB men's basketball coach