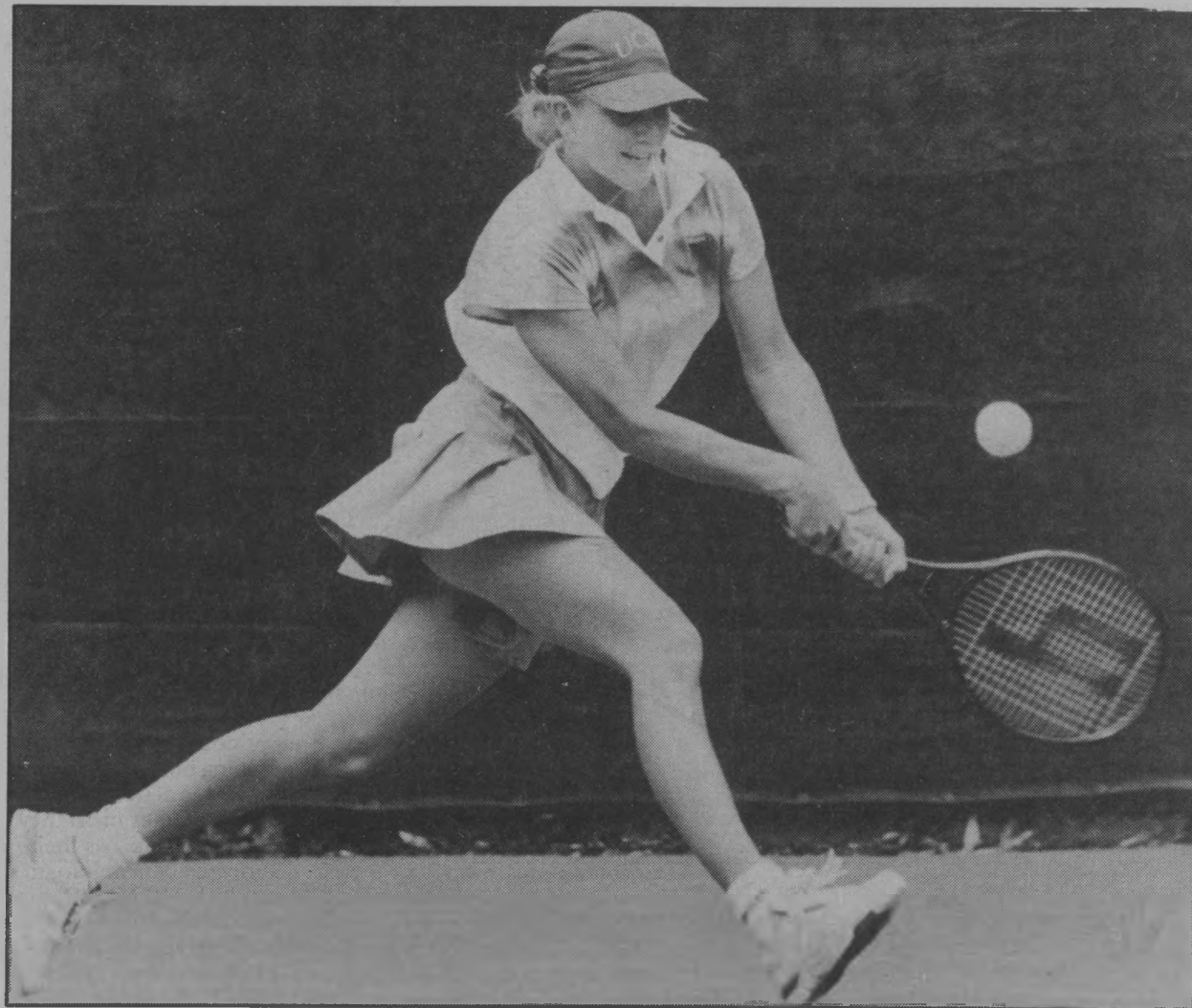


# SPORTS MONDAY

Daily Nexus

April 25, 1994

Page 1A



Sophomore Amelia White stretches wide on a backhand in the Big West final against UNLV. The #15-ranked Gauchos virtually wrapped up a place for themselves at the NCAA Championships in three weeks time.

## Men's Tennis Takes Third at Big West

By Chris Ganci  
Staff Writer

An up-and-down season finished on a high note for UCSB's men's tennis team as the Gauchos won two of three matches in the Big West Championships, finishing third this weekend at the Ojai Valley Racquet Club.

UCSB ended the year at 11-13, with a very young team that grew quickly in the face of injuries and adversity. The last dose of that adversity came just before the start of the tournament.

Last week, #1 singles player Laszlo Markovits was suspended by the NCAA for receiving money as a professional. The preliminary suspension was indefinite, but after UCSB Coach Don Lowry made a case in Markovits' behalf, the suspension was reduced to a half-match, with the senior being forced to sit out the doubles portion of the Gauchos' quarterfinal with Nevada.

Both parties were happy with this settlement, espe-

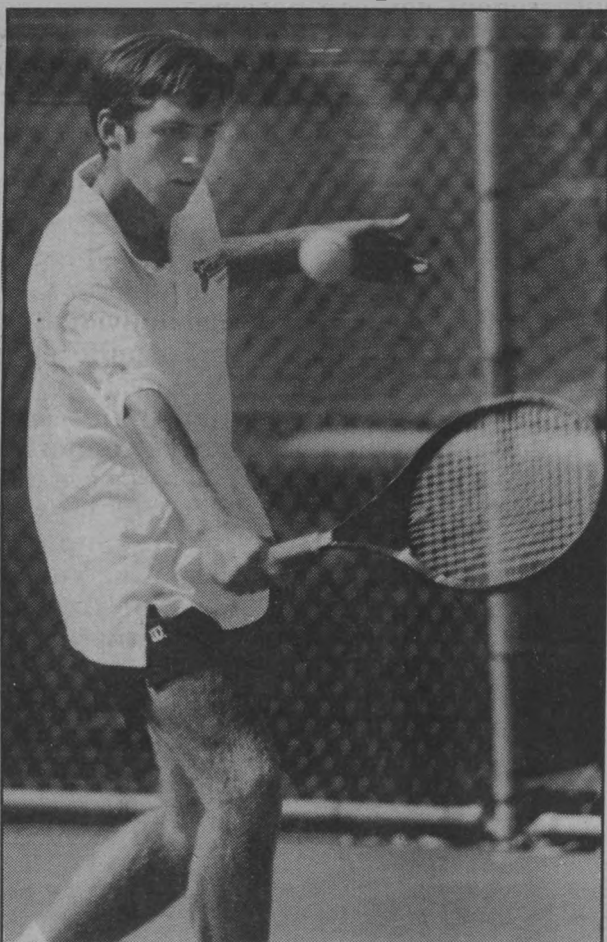
cially the Gauchos, who could use Markovits in singles against Nevada, while being able to reinsert him for the doubles in the other two matches.

Lowry thought the saga ended there, but the NCAA changed its collective minds, deciding to suspend Markovits for the doubles part of all three weekend matches. Markovits' absence in the doubles proved to be crucial in the 5-1 semifinal loss with UNLV, but UCSB held together and performed admirably.

"If we had Laszlo for UNLV, it would have been another story," Lowry said. "The doubles sets the tone, and against UNLV, when you lose the doubles point, it's a long way back."

The fifth-seeded Gauchos started the weekend on Friday in the quarterfinals with their grudge match against fourth-seed Nevada. UCSB's 4-0 win avenged an earlier 4-3 defeat suffered at the hands of Nevada on April 5th.

See MEN, p.3A



UCSB's Darren Potkey chips a backhand reply. Potkey and the Gauchos took third at Ojai.

## Brandon Unable to Get Out of the First Round at NAAs

Sometimes we have to be less concerned with winning, and more concerned with the obstacles that were overcome to get there in the first place.

Although senior gymnast Jeb Brandon had the opportunity to compete in the NCAA Championships, he was unable to place in the finals, the last meet of his UCSB gymnastics career.

Brandon travelled to Lincoln, Neb., last

weekend to join athletes across the nation for nationals. Unfortunately, his score of 8.9 did not take him past the first round.

"It was very tough and we tried a new vault," Head Coach Mircea Badulescu said. "It didn't work, but if Jeb had tried another vault, he wouldn't have had a chance to make the finals."

A score of 9.4 set the cutoff mark as a leadway

to finals but Brandon landed short and couldn't get the block and the push off the horse that he would have needed to get that score.

But despite the unsuccessful performance, both Badulescu and Brandon were satisfied with having had the opportunity to attend the competition.

"I was really happy with what happened," Brandon said.

— Deborah Rafii



Jeb Brandon

## Gauchos Continue Domination Over Conference Rivals

By Michael Cadilli  
Staff Writer

If the third time is a charm, don't tell that to the UCSB women's tennis Head Coach Chris Russell, who has won the Big West Tournament and Coach of the Year honors for the fourth straight year in a row.

The Gauchos clinched their 37th consecutive league match in the finals as they defeated UNLV, 5-3, at the Ojai Valley Racquet Club on Saturday.

"It's a fantastic feat," Russell said. "They really played with a lot of confidence against the schools in our conference. They can turn it up a notch when they need to because they expect to win when the match is on the line."

Santa Barbara has had two mottos this year — "believe it to achieve it"

and "aiming for Athens" — referring to the location of this year's NCAA Championships. They must have believed, because in the first two rounds against Long Beach State and the University of Hawaii, UCSB did not lose a match, winning 5-0 in each competition.

And as far as Athens is concerned, their aim was deadly. They hold the inside track for the national bid to go to NAAs over two traditional tennis powerhouses, USC and the University of Arizona, who both have been beaten by the Gauchos this season.

In the Big West semifinal match versus Hawaii, Jean Okada was in a tough fight at #1 as she barely beat her older sister Diane Okada, 7-6, 7-5.

See WOMEN, p.2A

## Sloppy Fielding Helps 49ers Sweep at Home

By Curtis Kaiser  
Staff Writer

The Long Beach State 49ers had their brooms working last weekend, sweeping the UCSB baseball team in a three-game series at Long Beach.

The #8-ranked 49ers (30-11 overall, 10-5 Big West) won the series 1-0, 11-2, and 4-2, on the strength of their excellent pitching staff, which allowed the Gauchos (17-25, 5-7) only three earned runs and 16 hits over the entire series. UCSB's pitchers also threw well, limiting Long Beach to four earned runs.

"They're like Fuller-

ton," shortstop Matt Bokemeier said. "They had some good arms throwing at us, and we really didn't hit anything hard."

Friday's game was a well-played pitching duel, matching UCSB's hottest pitcher, Steve Lane (4-5), against Long Beach State's Mike Fontana (8-2). The 49ers scored the only run of the game in the fifth inning, as both pitchers went the distance. Fontana earned the win, allowing only five hits and one walk. Lane was nearly as impressive, giving up eight hits and one walk.

"You hate to waste great pitching perfor-

See LBSU, p.3A

## Track and Field Teams Make Most of Final Home Meet of Season

By Noah Smith  
Staff Writer

Home, sweet home. On Saturday, in the last true home meet of the season, the UCSB track and field teams displayed mixed performances in preparation for next week's State Championships.

Team captains Julie Thomas and Gus Harper admitted to having subpar personal times in their races, but were quick to compliment their teammates.

"Dave Benedetto P.R.'d in the 400," Harper said

emphatically. "He's a fifth-year senior, so it's good to see him finish strongly."

This was the last chance for Gaucho seniors to show their stuff on the home field, and many rose to the occasion. Clearly the most impressive was hurdler Tami Olson who ran the 400 in 64 seconds flat to prove she's back after sustaining a recent injury.

"She just tore up the competition," Harper quipped.

Freshmen alike felt the pressure to impress the home crowd. Andrew

See CARTER, p.3A

# Gaucha Lineup at Full Strength as Team Sweeps UOP, SJSU

By Jenny Kok  
Staff Writer

With a lot of expectations for the complete Gaucha lineup, the UCSB softball team (23-23, 10-12 in Big West) blew away the competition this weekend, defeating both San Jose State on Saturday, 4-3, 4-1, and the #19-ranked University of the Pacific on Sunday, 3-2, 2-1.

The return of the three suspended starters and Head Coach Frann Wageneck gave way to a "new and improved" Gaucha lineup.

"Our goal was to go 4-0 this weekend and that's what we did," assistant coach Heather Clark said. "It was better than if nothing ever happened. We really came together and did what we needed to do."

For Santa Barbara, the weekend games took on extra significance. After losing both games of a doubleheader earlier this season to San Jose, the Gauchos had fallen behind SJSU in the Big West standings. This time against the Spartans, UCSB got a solid effort from its pitchers.

"The reason why we won was because our pitchers were extraordinary and there was always someone stepping up to get the job done," AJ Vitulli explained.

In their first meeting with Pacific this season, in Stockton, the Gauchos pulled a two-game sweep on the Tigers. UCSB was able to do it again this weekend at home.

Sweeping Pacific again and creating a five-game winning streak was especially sweet for Gaucha senior Margo Melendrez, who celebrated her 23rd birthday over the weekend.

"Everyone put everything behind us

this whole weekend and really came through," Melendrez said. "The hitting was really great, because it wasn't so much that we hit a lot this weekend ... we hit when we needed it most."

Early in the sixth, the Tigers made their move with runners on first and third. On a called ball four, a wide pitch went past catcher Michelle Ray, enabling a runner to steal home, narrowing the Gaucha lead to 3-2.

Fortunately, with a little relief from pitcher Megan O'Brien, UCSB managed to hold onto the lead. After two straight singles and only one out, O'Brien came in to relieve Kathy Shortall, ending the game with a dramatic strikeout.

"It was a great weekend for our pitchers," Clark commented. "Kathy came in and pitched great after not throwing a pitch at all the past few weeks. But it was really impressive for Megan, a freshman, to come in and save the game."

Stacy Atwood continued her domination on the mound in game two against UOP, allowing only one run on eight hits with four strikeouts and no walks.

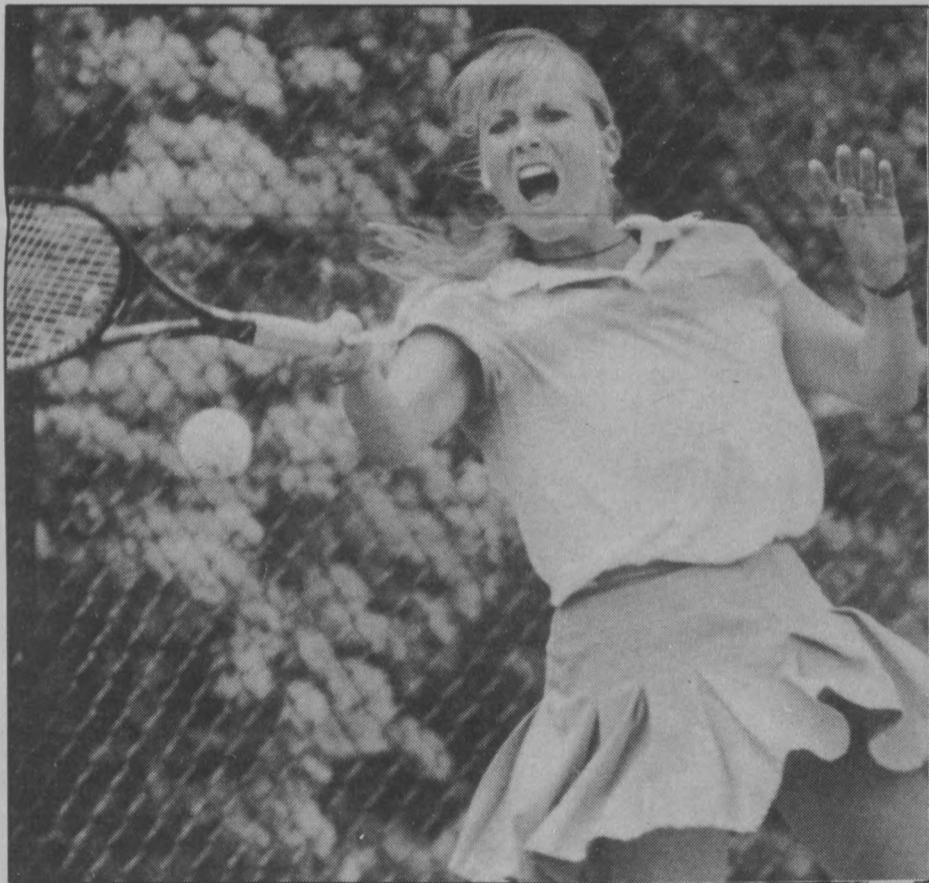
The Gauchos started the scoring in the first inning with an RBI single to center field by Krissy Kyriazis. Neither team scored for the next five innings until Pacific scored on a single from Tristan Austin early in the sixth inning.

But in the clutch, the Gauchos came back. Late in the seventh, UOP pitcher Lea Lopez walked two batters in a row. After advancing the runners with a well-placed hit by Vitulli, Melendrez hit a sacrifice fly just over the infield, allowing Danelle Lovetro to tag up and score the game-winner.



Gaucha hurler Megan O'Brien winds and delivers against Pacific.

MICHAEL D'EPORO/Daily Nexus



RACHEL WEILL/Daily Nexus

Senior Laura Rutledge rolls over a forehand in her straight set victory over Sheira Stuart of UNLV. Rutledge did not drop a match during the three-day Big West Championships.

## WOMEN: UCSB Nets 4th-Straight

Continued from p.1  
"I think I could have played better," the older Okada said. "She didn't overpower me, she moved me around, forcing me to make a lot of errors. ... I try to support her with everything that she does, but all of her success this season is because of her hard work."

The Gauchos rolled against Hawaii, as Laura Rutledge, Lynn Coakley, Kathy Peterson and Kelly Spencer all won in straight sets to set up the rematch against UNLV.

UCSB soundly defeated the Rebels earlier this season and Vegas definitely came out with all their guns.

Okada, ranked #37, lost a tough three-set match in the #1 slot to the nation's 13th-ranked player, Marianne Vallin, 6-4, 6-7, 6-2, after coming back from a 4-1 deficit in the second

set to force a deciding third.

"In the third set I was too anxious and rushed too much," Okada said. "I was just so pumped up and I made more mistakes, a lot more."

However, in the #2 slot, Rutledge put UCSB on the board as she frustrated UNLV's Shiera Stuart, winning 6-4, 6-1, in a match in which Stuart questioned some of Rutledge's calls.

"When they're losing, they get frustrated," Rutledge said about the controversy. "She was just retrieving balls, but she just couldn't get to some of them."

Gaucha Lynn Coakley won yet another straight set victory in the #3 court over Suzi Agassi, 6-4, 6-2, which gave UCSB a 2-1 lead in the match.

Although Peterson lost a tough three-setter to

UNLV's Rachel Clarke, 6-3, 1-6, 6-1, which evened the score at 2-2, she could count on her teammates in the #5 and #6 spots to come through. UCSB's Amelia White defeated Rebecca Markosian, 7-5, 6-1, while Kelly Spencer also won in straight sets over Janelle Barr, 6-2, 6-3, giving Santa Barbara a 4-2 lead going into the doubles portion.

Spencer and White teamed up in doubles taking a three-set match to clinch the victory and the Big West title. They were in familiar territory — they clinched last year's final as well.

"I was ecstatic and relieved because it was close," Russell added about clinching the title. "I knew how hungry Vegas was. They wanted another shot at us. But our gals were mentally tougher and they took it."

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# CARTER

Continued from p.1

White had an excellent run in the men's 400 hurdles and Nathan Jobe reached a 7-second personal record in the 1500, still striving for a berth in the state meet. With a weekend time of 15:09, Jobe holds the fastest time recorded by a UCSB freshman in over 10 years.

Another prime performer in the meet was red-shirt sophomore Trey Smith. Competing in the javelin throw as an independent, Smith launched one for a 14-foot personal best.

"I had a really good week in practice, and I came out ready to throw,"

Smith said.

The weekend's meet was a small invitational featuring Whittier College, Westmont, and several individuals. The resulting competition was much lighter than the Gaucho team has been used to recently, and to some team members that was quite obvious.

"It was pretty much just us competing against each other out there," UCSB's Becky Levy said after the meet. "It was hard to get psyched up for this weekend's meet because the big-time competition was not there."

Apparently, Levy was psyched enough to run well, as she won the women's 1500 race, an event dotted with personal re-

ords for many Gauchos. One runner, Deanna Hadley, shattered her former record by an amazing 10 seconds. Levy felt the race restored some of the charge that she had lost at the start of the year.

"I felt like I got a lot of confidence back this race," Levy said. "I think everyone got a lot of confidence at this meet and that will really help us going into the State Championships."

The State Championships will be held next weekend at UCLA. Following that, the UCSB track and field teams will gear up for the annual Big West Championship Meet, which will be held at New Mexico State on the weekend of May 13.



JAMES KU/Daily Nexus

The UCSB track and field got to perform before the home crowd one last time Saturday at the Nick Carter Invitational.

# LBSU

Continued from p.1A  
mances," UCSB Head Coach Bob Brontsema said. "It's just that some are in the hands and others aren't."

The Gauchos had a chance to put some runs on the board in the first inning when leadoff hitter Doug Smaldino started off the game with a triple and Bokemeier walked. Fon-

tana managed to get the next three UCSB batters out without allowing Smaldino to score.

Saturday's game saw UCSB's defense falter miserably behind starting pitcher Jared Janke (2-5). In the second and third innings alone, the Gaucho infield combined for five errors. "Janke did his job and got the ground balls," Bokemeier said. "We just blew it. Our defense was unacceptable

and ridiculous."

The 49ers took advantage of the errors to score ten runs off Janke, though only two of them were earned. Jovic Salazar and Ryan O'Coynne settled Long Beach down in relief, with Salazar allowing only one run in 4 1/3 innings and O'Coynne pitching a scoreless inning.

"You can't give a team like that opportunities," Brontsema said. "We dropped the ball both li-

terally and figuratively. They're a very good club, and their pitchers threw well."

49er ace starter Scott Rivette improved his record to 9-1, going seven innings and allowing two runs. The Gauchos managed five hits, with outfielder Wynter Phoenix knocking in the only two UCSB runs with a double in the sixth inning.

Sunday's contest held

more of the same for the Gauchos—a fine pitching performance wasted by poor fielding and a lack of offense.

This time it was starter Pat Trencend (3-6), who was the victim of a lack of run support as he went the distance, surrendering only six hits and one earned run over eight innings. Michael Hernandez (4-2) earned the win for Long Beach State, while Gabe

Gonzalez finished off the game for his 10th save.

The Gauchos' two errors proved to be their downfall once again as the 49ers scored three runs off the UCSB miscues. Jared Janke had two hits on Sunday, and drove in UCSB's only run of the game.

"I think we took a couple of steps back this weekend," Bokemeier said.

# MEN

Continued from p.1A

The doubles teams, which have killed the Gauchos on occasion over the course of the year, got UCSB off on the right foot

as the #1 team of Darren Potkey and Simon Kurth and the #2 duo of Eddie Weiss and John Bowerbank each won their matches to give Santa Barbara the doubles point. From there, singles wins by Markovits, Potkey and Weiss salted away a satis-

fying win for the Gauchos.

After the UNLV loss, UCSB defeated San Jose State yesterday in the third-place match, 4-3, on the strength of straight-set singles wins by Bowerbank, Weiss, Kurth and Joe Barbarie. Barbarie's

6-3, 6-0 win over Derek Del Rosario at #2 was the highlight, due to the fact that Del Rosario came into the match with the best winning percentage at #2 singles in the Big West.

Though the record may indicate otherwise, this

was a successful year considering UCSB's youth. The Gauchos sported a lineup with four sophomores, one freshman, and just one senior. They were competitive in many matches, played a tough schedule, and survived under

circumstances.

"I'll take third place," Lowry said. "In the beginning, it looked to be a developmental year, but it turned into a solid year. Next season, we have the potential to be conference champions."

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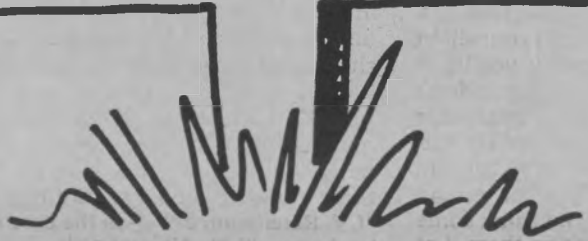
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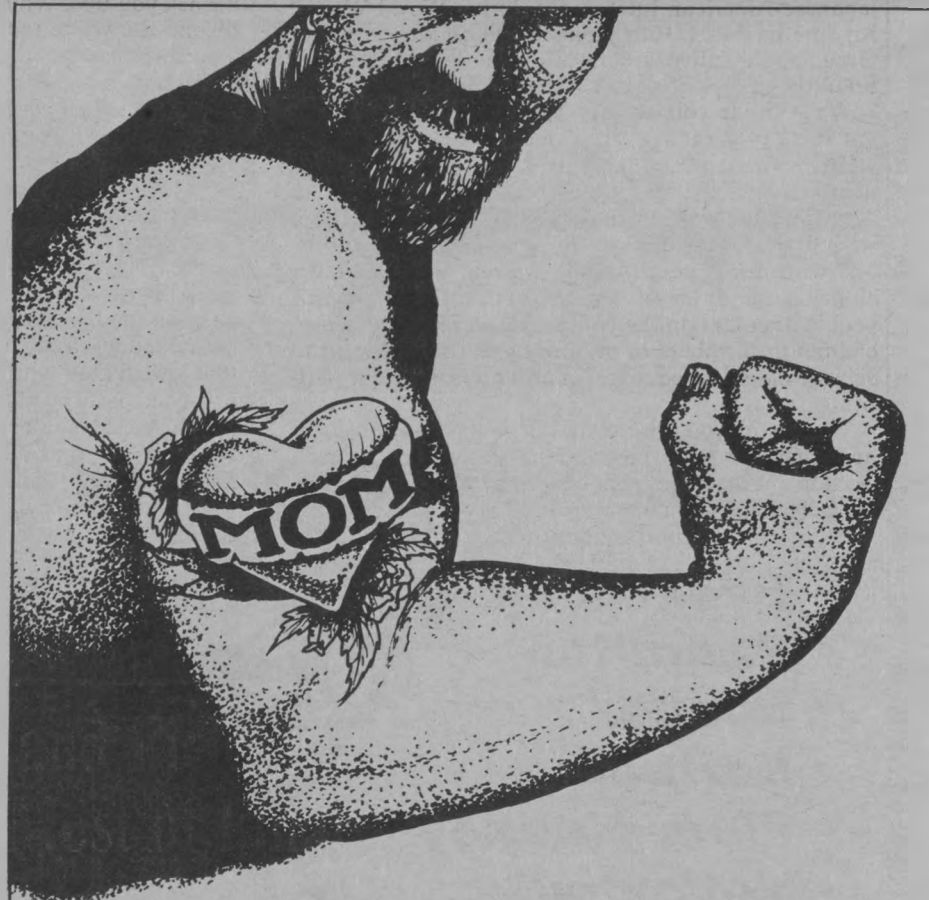
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