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Do you think that you can hang-ten better than anyone? Then sign up in front of the UCen today between 11-1 with a student I.D. and \$20, or call 685-0681.

**Inside ...**

**Learn to Write**

Have you ever wanted to see your name in print? Or uncover a scandal of Watergate proportions? Then come to the Nexus Writers Training tonight at 7 in our offices under Storke Tower.

**Defending Champs**

The UCSB men's ultimate Frisbee team will look to remain #1, while the women's team searches for recognition.



See Sports p. 12

**It's a "Perfect Day"**

Lou Reed, formerly of the Velvet Underground, makes a comedic guest appearance (of a sort).



See Nexus Comics p. 10

**A Dark I.V. Sheds Light on Our Lives**

Henry Sarria looks at the brighter side of blackouts.



See Opinions p. 6

**Seeing Red**

Artwork and performances associated with the symbolism of the color red will be exhibited today at 4 p.m. in the Women's Center Gallery.

Healthy People Unite The Health Professions Association is having their first meeting of Winter Quarter at 4 p.m. in the Psychology Bldg, Rm. 1824.

# Daily Nexus

## Toxic Leak in Isla Vista Awaits Cleanup Work; Engineer Says Liquids Not Hazardous to Health

By Nick Robertson  
Staff Writer

A portion of soil and groundwater in downtown Isla Vista is contaminated by petroleum-based toxins and will require extensive cleanup efforts by the offending oil company in the near future.

Located at the fenced vacant corner of Embarcadero Del Mar and Pardall Road, the site held a Unocal service station that functioned through 1993. Although the facility was dismantled and the underground fuel tanks excavated and removed, the containers leaked gasoline into the surrounding soil and groundwater during the late '80s, according to Unocal Project Engineer Carl Flint.

"I think in 1988 they were replacing a fuel line and during that they took some samples of solid groundwater and found some gasoline constituents," he said, adding that the full extent of the contamination was undetermined until after the facility's dismantling. "Once you've got everything off the site it's easier to poke around with your analytic tools to see what's there."

Other sources of contamination include former sites of a leaky



ALAN JACOBY/Daily Nexus

Land poisoning has been occurring in this restricted downtown Isla Vista property since the late 80s.

used-oil container and hydraulic lift machine, Flint said.

"There was a waste-oil tank [area] that will have to be excavated," he said. "There's some spots where the soil is stained by some hydraulic oil. It's gooey, it's not very nice. It's not necessarily a health hazard, unless you ate it,

but it's got to go out."

The area of contamination is primarily located on the southwestern portion of the plot and has extended underground to the middle of Pardall Road, said county Protection Services Division Hazardous Materials Specialist Steve Brown. Although the

groundwater has been tainted, and the site exceeds the state's maximum contamination level, the county has determined that toxicity is not spreading, Brown said.

"This is a localized plume that isn't really moving, but it kind of sits there and the law says clean it up," Brown said. "We've got a pretty good handle of what's there now, how far it goes. ... If you walk the site today you'll see ... monitoring wells here and there, little round manholes."

After the initial discovery of contaminants on the plot, Unocal worked with the county to begin a series of site assessments to determine the severity and breadth of the toxicity, Flint said. Once the station was closed and the area fenced off, Unocal applied to the county for a permit to begin cleaning. This application was approved in late-September 1996, Flint said.

Although Unocal has had permission to begin clearing the site by a dual process of excavation and bioremediation since fall, they have not started yet because of internal matters, Flint added.

"Right now we're in a transfer of power. Unocal has sold some of its downstream assets to

See LEAK p.5

## Environmental Affairs Board Talks About Headlands, Wild Animals and Trash Art

By Jesse Bellinger  
Staff Writer

A meeting of the Associated Students Environmental Affairs Board Tuesday discussed several issues for the upcoming year, including rescuing old-growth forests, helping local wildlife and creating environmental art.

EAB co-chair Eric Cardenas, a senior environmental studies and political science major, spoke about the headlands issue, in which a Northern California land owner sold a large piece of property with old-growth forest to pay a debt. The land is slated for development, which will destroy much of the forest and is a blatant misuse of land, Cardenas said.

"This is probably the biggest environmental battle in the United States. Everybody's watching to see the outcome," he said. "It's a huge issue ... which is why thousands of people are getting arrested. It's a huge tract of land that's old-growth forest, and we don't have a lot of old growth. We're running out of it."

While the land is 12 hours north of Santa Barbara and most Southern Californians won't ever see the

trees, Cardenas believes this issue is still important to everyone and should be brought to the public's awareness, along with many other environmental issues.

"We want to get students involved and aware of what's happening because it does affect everybody, not just environmentalists," he said. "We're trying to promote a fund-raising concert for the rain forests, which are halfway around the world. I think we should have the same enthusiasm for a forest closer to home."

Another topic discussed was volunteering for the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network, which helps local birds and other wildlife that require medical attention due to the violations of a crowded human environment, said EAB co-chair Jessica Scheeter, a junior environmental studies major.

"[It's] a group of volunteers working out of their homes. There's no central facility in S.B.," she said.

Scheeter added that besides lacking centralized facilities, the network also needs volunteers.

"They really need volunteers for feeding and rehabilitation," she said.

See EAB p.3

## Committee Asks Residents' Viewpoints on Newest Proposal for Local Incorporation

Continuing their effort to incorporate the Goleta region into cityhood, community leaders and activists met Monday to create subcommittees and discuss public feedback on their recently released proposal.

The Committee for Goleta Beach, comprised of representatives from various regions of the Goleta area, is currently in the process of soliciting donations to raise the \$1,800 necessary to submit their cityhood proposal to the county Local Agency Formation Committee. The committee's Monday meeting was held to review public response to their

proposal, which was submitted to the public at a news conference last week.

The CGB created a subcommittee to set up public forums in February in an effort to garner additional input from area residents and field questions concerning the plan, said CGB member Michael Bennett.

"I think most everyone [on the committee] has had some feedback," he said. "At this point in time it's important that we get [the proposal] out to the public."

A majority of the concerns raised by the public about the proposal regard the inclusion of

Isla Vista into Goleta Beach, but often these doubts are based on misconceptions, Bennett said.

"I've had a fair number [of residents] who agree it's time for incorporation. ... The status quo is just unacceptable," he said. "The fear that some may have, that students will suddenly be running things, is just not true."

One of the main goals of the committee is to try to quell doubts over Isla Vista's role in the new city, according to CGB member David Fortson.

"[I.V. is] kind of the bad boy in

See GOLETA p.5

## Funding and Property to Be Resolved

By Eugene Tong  
Staff Writer

Unfinished business from the La Cumbre-Associated Students separation will be discussed at the A.S. Legislative Council meeting tonight.

The La Cumbre Financial Settlement, an item up for discussion at the meeting, is designed to resolve the remaining financial and property disputes between La Cumbre and A.S. that resulted from the yearbook's official secession on Oct. 16, 1996, said Rep-At-Large Trinity Eyre, author of the bill.

"It's just a financial settlement," she said. "[Storke Publications Manager] Tybie Kirtman and Tamara Scott, A.S. executive director, were obligated by the La Cumbre Separation Bill to come up with a financial settlement." Also outlined in the bill are proposals toward the final allocation of equipment for La Cumbre, she added.

"This involves property, maintenance on the building and other things to that effect," Eyre said. "If you look at the bill, it's pretty comprehensive. ... [It's] very thorough and extensive."

The bill was set up when the split between the two organizations was finalized, said A.S. Internal Vice President Frank Orellana.

"This is one of the last pages in the process ... where we agree to give La Cumbre its autonomy," he said. "On the bill we passed three

See PRELEG p.3



# HEADLINERS

## Unexpected Tax Cuts Mark Dems' Plan



WASHINGTON (AP) — In an unexpected move, Senate Democratic leader Tom Daschle intends to propose modest capital gains tax cuts as part of a party agenda for the new Congress, officials said Tuesday.

In addition to those cuts — for investors in small businesses and for small farmers approaching retirement age — Daschle is expected to announce support for steps to make Individual Retirement Accounts available to more taxpayers.

The tax measure is one of 10 pieces of legislation that Daschle will introduce later this month in a package designed to showcase Senate Democratic priorities. The bills were outlined in a document marked "working draft" and distributed to Democratic senators at a private caucus last week as "works in progress."

Daschle was traveling in

his home state of South Dakota during the day and not available for comment.

The tax proposals are politically significant. When it comes to capital gains cuts, it is customarily Republicans in favor and Demo-

*The tax measure is one of 10 pieces of legislation that Daschle will introduce later this month in a package designed to showcase Senate Democratic priorities.*

crats resisting them as unwarranted breaks for the wealthy. Daschle's predecessor as Democratic leader, former Sen. George Mitchell of Maine, successfully led a filibuster several years ago against a far costlier and less targeted capital gains tax cut from the Bush administration than Daschle is expected to recommend.

Daschle, in the material

distributed to other senators, emphasized his legislation would build on measures introduced by some Democrats in the last Congress. He said the legislation would be crafted "to avoid creating large windfalls for well-off citizens that needlessly drain the treasury and complicate our effort to balance the

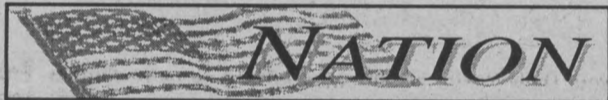
budget." Concerned about the issue of tax fairness, sources familiar with the situation indicated that Daschle considered but rejected proposing estate tax relief. One source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the decision was made because only a tiny percentage of estates that file tax returns would have benefited.

The South Dakota senator previously had outlined several of his priorities, leading with campaign finance reform and including tax breaks for education. Late last week, he also disclosed plans for a measure that would provide either vouchers or tax credits to make health insurance more widely available to children.

He has not yet publicly disclosed plans for his capital gains tax breaks, and officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, cautioned that details are subject to change. No material was available on the cost of the proposals, or how they would be paid for.

As currently contemplated, Daschle's proposal would permit investors to defer taxes on the profit made from the sale of stock in small companies so long as they reinvested in another small company within six months.

## Auto Industry, Feds Clash Over Air Bag Study



WASHINGTON (AP) — Less-forceful air bags might save the lives of dozens of children a year but could cost the lives of hundreds of adults, new government figures indicate.

However, domestic automakers said Tuesday they strongly disagree with those figures. They say less-forceful air bags will save more lives than are lost — including more adult lives.

Air bags opening at speeds up to 200 mph have been blamed for the deaths of 34 children and 20 adults — mostly smaller adult women — in low-speed accidents they otherwise would have survived. Air bags also have saved more than 1,600 lives in higher-speed accidents.

Federal regulators have placed a high priority on reducing deaths from air bags — particularly those of children. They are considering two proposals that would allow for less forceful air bags in new cars.

When almost all vehicles on the road have air bags sometime in the next century, air bags could kill 128 child-

ren a year, according to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration documents.

The agency's statistical analysis says less-powerful air bags could prevent 83 of those 128 projected deaths if the regulatory body adopted a proposal crafted by automakers to make air bags less powerful.

However, only about 39 of the children could be saved if an agency-designed proposal were adopted to "depower" air bags between 20 percent and 35 percent on average.

The tradeoff is that less-powerful air bags could result in the deaths of 122 to 969 adults that would have survived if air bags are left alone, agency documents indicate.

The agency analysis shows more adults would die under the automaker's proposal — the same proposal that is projected to save more children.

Most of those adults would be traveling without a seat belt. All projections are based on when most vehicles on the road will have air bags. Now roughly one-third of vehicles on the road have at least one air bag.

But domestic automakers believe the tradeoff in loss of life would be far lower.

"There's nowhere near that level of unbelted larger adults at risk in the driver or passenger position," said Lou Camp, Ford's director of automotive safety.

## Swiss Bank Documents May Have Contained Nazi Info



ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — Switzerland's biggest bank admitted Tuesday it threw away archive material in violation of a government ban on destroying records that might reveal financial transactions during the Nazi era.

Union Bank of Switzerland said one of its employees threw away the documents last week, apparently thinking they were unimportant.

Zurich District Attorney Peter Cosandey described the documents as "politically sensitive material," and said authorities had opened an investigation into their contents.

The documents were inside two containers waiting to be shredded when an employee of a private security firm spotted them.

The security guard, Christoph Meili, said he rescued some of the documents and handed them to Jewish community representatives in Zurich, who then alerted police.

Meili — who has been suspended from his job pending the outcome of the investigation — said he rescued only part of the documents.

The rest were destroyed. At a news conference, the Israeli-Hebrew Community of Zurich said the documents concerned loans from 1920-1926, including to German firms, and property dealings from 1930-1970.

There was no immediate indication of whether they contained any details relating to the Holocaust.

## Embattled S.F. Marijuana Store Celebrates Reopening



SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Phones rang, volunteers shouted and pot plants grew at the Cannabis Cultivators Club on Tuesday in preparation for what supporters called its historic reopening.

Protected from California's anti-drug attorney general by a state proposition and a judge's order, the club was set to provide pot to its first customer Wednesday.

"We are going to sell the first legal marijuana in over 60 years in America," marveled club founder Denis Peron as he fingered a cannabis plant known as Northern Lights. "I can't believe it."

The first customer, Peron said, is scheduled to be a San Francisco AIDS patient named Mylar, but the club

already has 200 physician authorizations on file and expects many more.

Peron ran the club's predecessor organization, the Cannabis Buyer's Club, until it was raided and shut down by California Attorney General Dan Lungren during last fall's campaign over Proposition 215. Lungren and the raid were lampooned in the comic strip *Doonesbury*.

Despite the raid and subsequent charges against Peron, California voters approved the initiative, which allows medical use of marijuana.

Last week, a San Francisco judge ordered the club reopened, saying it was protected under Prop 215.

## Daily Nexus

- |                       |  |
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..It Pours!

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All letters to the editor and columns submitted for publication become property on being turned in.

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

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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

Welcome to hump day, matey. Depending on your outlook, this week is either already half over, or just half over. Arrghh. Choose the optimistic outlook, and you'll probably sail through the remaining two days with swift nautical speed, and head bow first into an already much needed port of a three day weekend.

Negativity, on the other boathand, will only serve as the harbinger of doom on your voyage to the wonderful land of fines de semana. Trust me sailor, you'll need the strength for this upcoming expedition, so don't waste the energy.

If you still need that extra push off the dock, have someone push you in. Don't be afraid to get your toes wet. Better yet, dive in headfirst, and go as far as Davey Jones' locker. And if you still need a little encouragement, ask the coxswain what he or she would do.

Forecast: Trust me, rain will be coming. Temperatures same, highs in the 50's and lows in the 40's. Stay dry and warm. Weigh enough for today.



## PRELEG

Continued from p.1  
months ago, we arranged to finish around this time of year. The only thing that will be pending up to now is to finish off the proposal for the bylaws that *La Cumbre* will follow when the process is over."

*La Cumbre* Editor in Chief Kevin Anderson welcomes these last steps in a separation that has been develop-

ing since last year.

"This is just the wrapping of loose ends to the separation process which began on April 2 of last year," he said. "The separation has had a beneficial effect on the financial and administrative operation of *La Cumbre*."

Although the passage of the settlement is pending, Anderson has also submitted to A.S. the charge, or bylaw, for the publications board that will oversee *La*

*Cumbre*, which will finally conclude the separation.

"[The charge] is something I'm going to bring up [at the meeting]," Anderson said. "Once they pass the financial settlement [and] have a week to comment on the charge, they will [both] be submitted to the chancellor and everything will be complete."

Tonight's meeting begins at 6:30 in the UCen State Street Room.

## EAB

Continued from p.1

The creation of artwork from trash was also discussed at the meeting.

"Art From Scrap is an affiliate of the Community Environmental Council. They have a big warehouse that collects any kind

of recyclable material," said Leila Salazar, senior environmental studies and political science major.

The service collects foam, film containers, surfboard shavings and plastic bottles along with other forms of trash. These are then used to make recycled art, she said.

"It teaches kids to reduce usage, and minimalizes waste," Salazar said.

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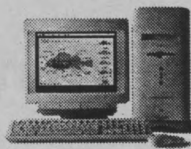


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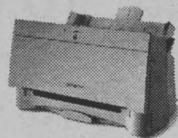
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# LEAK

Continued from p.1  
another company," Flint said. "There was a delay because of the logistical transfer of projects to other people; internal reorganization."

Currently, there is no set date for the cleanup to begin, but Unocal officials would like to begin the process soon, Flint said.

"It'd be nice to get going on it as soon as possible ... because the real estate is worth something there," he said. "We'll be well on our way this year sometime."

While the site is contaminated, the property is unfit to sell, and still belongs to Unocal. The oil company has complete fiscal responsibility for cleaning up the site to the county's standards, Brown said. In the meantime, the toxicity poses little to no danger to Isla Vistas and does not affect

drinking water, he said.  
"This is real typical. ... We're talking about the shallow aquifer being affected, and that's typical," he said.

Despite the oil company's management transfer and inherent complications, Associated Students Environmental Affairs Board Chair Eric Cardenas believes Unocal should make the cleanup a priority.

"If it's as contaminated as it sounds, they should've got on it right away," he said. "It seems to me out of business sense and common sense that ... you would clean the shit out as soon as possible."

However, Unocal will rectify the situation before it progresses further, as soon as the internal restructuring is complete, Flint said.

"It's deep enough so that it's not a threat to anyone on the surface," he said. "[The cleanup] should start pretty quick, it's just a logistical matter. Unfortunately, stuff like that happens corporate-wide."

# GOLETA

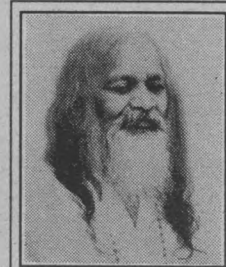
Continued from p.1  
this proposal and it's too bad," he said. "It's going to be one of the real issues ab-

out whether or not this passes, because inclusion of Isla Vista is a scary thought for a lot of Goletans. A lot of folks hear more about Isla Vista than they see."

People interested in do-

nating to the CGB's LAFCO filing fund are encouraged to mail contributions to PO Box 1896, Goleta, CA 93116, or call 964-4180 for more information.

—Nick Robertson



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# OPINION

"Hello, I must be going....I'm sad to say, I'm on my way, I must be going..."

—Groucho Marx

## Editorial Policy

The Daily Nexus opinion section is an arena of thought for the UCSB community. The Editorial Board meets daily to discuss current issues. A board majority chooses a topic for discussion, and the result is written up as the Staff Editorial by an opinions editor. Columns can be submitted by anyone and should not exceed three pages. The Reader's Voice is a public forum for those wishing to respond to or comment on anything current. All material must include a name and phone number. Drop off letters and columns at the Nexus office below Storke Tower, fax them to (805) 893-3905, or e-mail us at: nexus@mcl.ucsb.edu.

## STAFF EDITORIAL



DEBI RAMOS/Daily Nexus

## Hope for Compromise

Court Should Balance Jones' Interests With the Nation's

Few would dispute the fact that a president should be reasonably respected in order to head up his country. In an ideal world, the highest national official would be well respected by his constituents, colleagues and peers across the globe — an anomaly in the eternally discontented political climate of the real world.

Honoring the president's office, if not the man himself, is a cornerstone of American government, and serves to fulfill a large and diverse nation's need for a figurehead of sorts.

Yet President Bill Clinton may be just too busy to lead the free world come next year. Clinton is facing a civil suit filed in 1994 by Paula Jones, who claimed that the then-governor sexually harassed her in a Little Rock, Ark. hotel room in 1991. The Supreme Court heard arguments Monday from lawyers on both sides, who debated the precepts of presidential immunity against Jones' right to a timely trial.

In the hearing, Clinton's defense team pushed for a total delay in all trial-related actions, while Jones' lawyers argued for an immediate trial. If the court sides with Jones, agreeing that a possible 10-year trial delay is too long, the president is going to be facing some serious time constraints on his schedule.

Small things like meeting world leaders to discuss issues of war and peace will likely have to fall by the wayside of Clinton's to-do list, should Jones emerge the winner of the case. Moreover, his image in the eyes of other national leaders, though not pristine now, may be further tainted by a trial of his personal affairs.

Imagine Clinton sitting endlessly in a court room, drumming his fingers as countless witnesses and experts take the stand while pressing presidential duties

await his return to the Oval Office. A trial would certainly distract and hinder him from his job — one that cannot be taken lightly.

Jones' lawyers argue that her case will be seriously hampered by the passage of time, dulling the memories of witnesses and thus weakening the prosecution's case. They also emphasized the mental wear-and-tear on Jones and other witnesses that a delay would create. Indeed, 10 years threatens blurred recollection and emotional strain, but comparing this problem with the danger of putting presidential matters on hold, it seems that Clinton's lawyers have the edge — particularly in the eyes of the conservative court.

A compromise can be reached in this sticky issue of citizens' rights vs. presidential rights. In 1994, a district court ruled that Clinton was shielded from civil action, but that pretrial work was permissible — a decision which was later reversed by an appellate court.

The original ruling offers the best solution for the basic desires of both sides of the case. Clinton will not need to go through a trial while serving his term, thus solving the problem of interference of his duties. Jones' lawyers will be allowed to issue depositions and do much of the leg work for the trial.

Taking this sort of middle ground would ease the tension of a president on trial, while maintaining Jones' right to get her suit underway in an expedient manner. We will have to wait until summer for the Supreme Court decision, but let's hope that the court takes a moderate stance that will free up both Clinton and Jones to continue doing what is most important to them — whether it be running the country or seeking justice.

Come to the Nexus on Wednesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. for writer's training.

## The Reader's Voice

### CITIZEN, STICK TO YOUR GUNS

Editor, Daily Nexus:

As someone who grew up in the town of Boulder, Colo., and who was in Boulder during the murder of JonBenet Ramsey, I have to say that I agree with your editorial, "A Gruesome Tale" (Daily Nexus, Jan. 13). I can also tell you that most people in Boulder are not nearly as worried about what happened that night as the media seems to think people are. Boulder is a safe town. We have a

competent police department. Even though Mrs. Ramsey warned the parents of Boulder that "a killer is on the loose, protect your babies," most people could not care less.

In short, the "media" needs to get its collective head out of its ass and take a hard look at reality. The truth is that crime is down and has been going down since the mid-'80s — look at the FBI statistics. The world is not evil, random people are, and those who glorify that evil only help to perpetuate people's paranoia.

ERIC MEHIEL

### BOULDER IS NOT ALL THAT BAD

Editor, Daily Nexus:

On Tuesday, Jan. 7, the 105th Congress convened on Capitol Hill, and soon thereafter, the anti-gun crowd renewed their assault on our rights, using their assault weapon of choice: "the BIG lie." In a Thursday morning press conference, Sens. Barbara Boxer (D-Cal.) and Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) unleashed their latest gun-ban fad: the so-called

American Handgun Standards Act of 1997.

Don't be fooled. Sen. Boxer is giving a fancy title to her 1996 "junk guns" bill. The bill seeks to ban "inexpensive, easily concealable guns made of inferior materials."

What they fail to mention is the elitist nature of their choice of weapon to ban. After these "types" are banned, only the elitist wealthy and their exempted friends in government will be armed with "expensive, easily concealable guns made of superior materials" — not unlike the weaponry used daily by all the police and federal "law enforcement"

# The Great

Henry Sarria

I was on my way to an I.V. eatery when Sunday's black out hit. A funny thing dawned on me just then: We need more blackouts to help us forget about all the meaningless crap that constantly bombards our daily lives.

On Sunday it seemed as if some higher power flipped a switch and transformed I.V. into an initially chaotic but eventually calm state as the fact that a power outage had occurred was accepted by puzzled residents.

It was interesting to see all kinds of people coming out of their homes, looking around as if they could find an answer to the event, but with no explanation in sight it was "Plan B" time for many. At this point I witnessed a mass exodus of cars. It was almost as if these folks couldn't have any fun without electricity — so why hang around? Can't watch football, can't play video games, can't listen to any CDs, so what's the use in hanging around?

"How sad," I thought as I sat down to watch the parade of cars bailing out of here. Here was this beautiful afternoon, the rain had stopped, the sun was starting to come out and there was a nice chill in the air to remind us what time of year it is, but so many people couldn't appreciate the beauty of the given situation.

As the evacuation began to dwindle, a nice calm took over the streets of the town I've called home for quite some time now. There were still a lot of people around but none of the usual blaring music or glowing images from TVs. Just people walking around, talking, laughing, riding bikes and just doing what they could to wile away the time while the utility company took care of business. Even the police were quite amused with the occurrence.

## THE UNAWRITTEN

### 'Twas the Season

➤ One Last Swat at "Christmas"

Travis Moon

I hate to sound like Scrooge, but with Christmas weeks in the past, and having time to reflect on all the things I've recently observed about Christmas, I would have to say that Christmas is a humbug.

I began feeling a little apprehensive about Christmas on Thanksgiving Day. I was already feeling sad that so many of my turkey and pig brothers and sisters were being eaten in the form of stuffed turkey and ham, but holiday spin doctors made me feel worse. Later that night, newscasts forecast big sales for the day after Thanksgiving, commonly referred to as "the biggest shopping day of the year."

I'm embarrassed to say it, but I actually know people who woke up early and stood outside department stores to take part in the event. "Tomorrow is the biggest shopping day of the year," my friend Autumn said, "and I'm going to be there early!"

"Why don't you simply stay home and save your money, rather than be a willing accomplice of the big businesses that have commercialized Christmas and have killed all the spirituality?" I replied.

She retorted, "Who do you think you are? Charlie Brown?"

I deserved that. I should have known

better than someone who has had her hard-earned money spent on her hard-earned day. She said that executive (nor) department consumers today after Thanksgiving the biggest shopping day after Thanksgiving executives have never again. My prompt and every year the performance their lives, better than t

Last week Santa Barbara News-Press article reporting "dismal Christmas area business during the December. The lates as these ses didn't much money had hoped. theories ran sons to wear as many corn month. I'd most people mercialized sively coerced that they do

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# at Isla Vista Blackout

As darkness fell upon the streets, I decided to make my way home since it would soon be cold. My electricity was still off when I got to my apartment, but I was actually happy about this because it gave me the time and reason to do things around the house I'd been putting off for quite some time now. No distractions, no nuisances, no lame excuses. I read by candlelight, played acoustic guitar and called a couple of friends who I hadn't heard from in a long time.

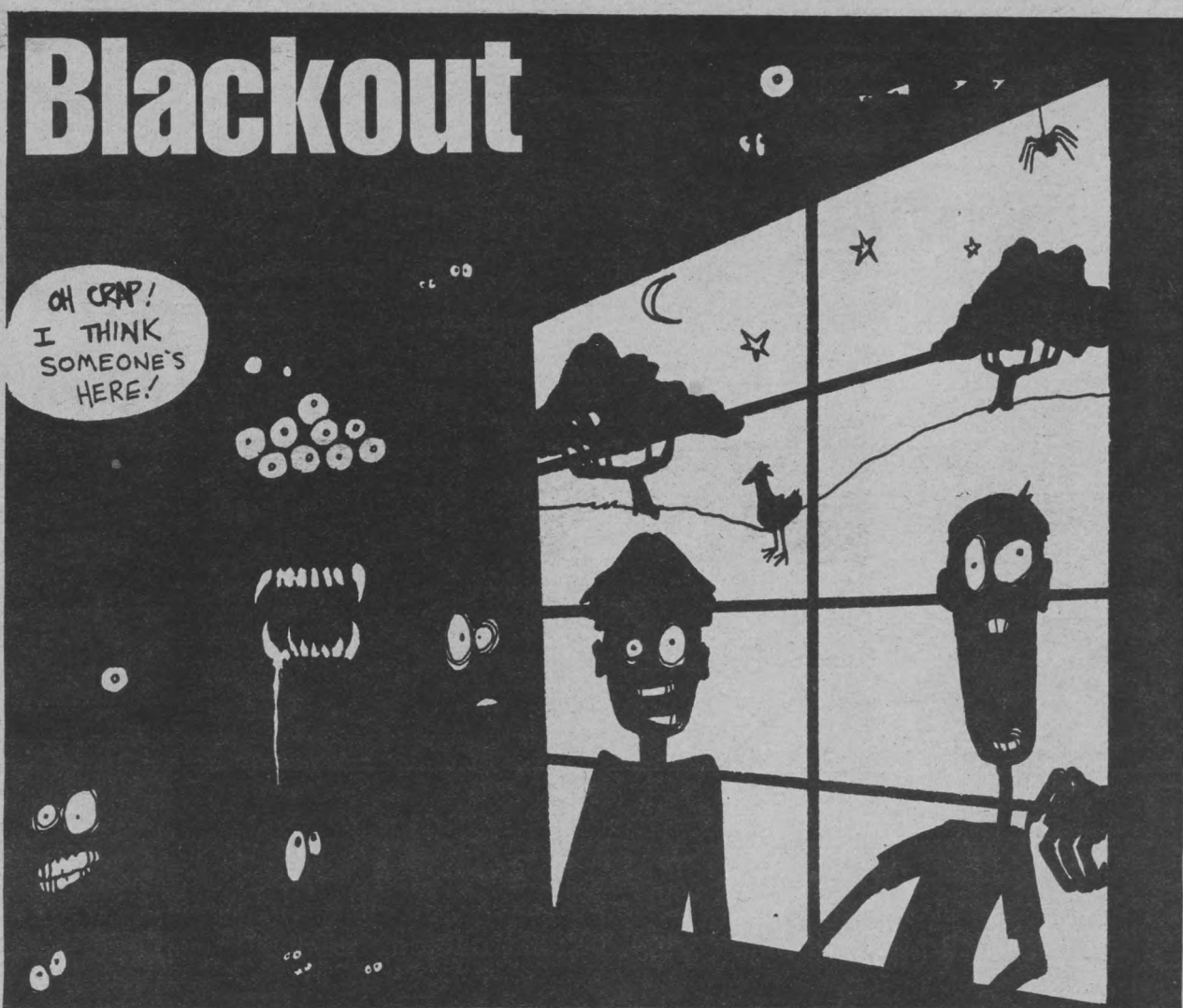
Basically, I enjoyed a quiet, peaceful evening, knowing that this blackout was no wrench thrown into my works, but rather a time to just enjoy the things that we all sometimes take for granted. As corny as that may sound, it gave me something I really needed — time out to check where I am.

Just as I was beginning to enjoy this "exile from electricity" the power came back on and I was thrust back into the ordinary world. I was relieved in some ways, but kind of bummed in others. I was doing just fine without utilities and appliances, but now I had them back and realized my servitude to these things.

I went out for a walk later that night, but it just wasn't the same as earlier. People were saying less to each other, but why should they make the effort anymore? The TVs and stereos had come back to do these things for us.

I went back home, turned off the lights, lit a candle and just sat there trying to relive earlier moments, but the roar of my neighbor's TV shook the thin walls of our building. I fell asleep with only one thought in my head: We need more of these blackouts.

Henry Sarria is a longtime Isla Vista resident and a frequent contributor to the Daily Nexus.



RYAN ALTOON/Daily Nexus

## TER Season ...

er than to argue the point with someone who woke up early to spend hard-earned bucks on a sham holiday. She simply couldn't understand executives at all the major (and mid-) department stores manipulate consumers through these holidays. The day after Thanksgiving is no doubt the best shopping day because the executives have told people that over and over again. Mindless people obey every command and direction, every year turn in performance of their lives, each year more than the last. Last week the Santa Barbara Press ran an article reporting what a "small Christmas" businesses had during the month of December. This translates as these businesses didn't make as much money as they hoped. The article was replete with stories ranging from economic reasons to weather reasons as to why not many consumers bought goods last month. I'd just prefer to believe that people are tired of being sold commercialized holidays and being aggressively coerced into spending money they don't have ...

*"It seems like everyone out there is coming up with creative ways to emotionally blackmail consumers."*

or individual. Usually, it is some poor family who can't afford to buy toy guns or video games for their children. This year it was a family who allegedly had all their presents stolen from the trunk of their car while shopping.

I hate to sound like a mean bastard, but if Christmas is supposed to be some Christian holiday, why don't some of these families tell their children, "Children, we don't have money. We are too poor to make Sears and Roebuck any richer this year. Instead, let's go to church, read scriptures and think about the birth of Jesus and be together."

Fat chance. Instead of using these circumstances as a tool to teach some spirituality or religion, KEYT told the sob story and people, with good intentions, donated money. The kids got their Elmos; they were happy. The do-gooders got into the spirit of giving; they were happy. The parents didn't have to spend any more money; they were happy. May Company made a few hundred more dollars; they were happiest.

Local charities took advantage of Christmas to meet their ends as well. Commercials and newspaper ads urged people to give money because, among other things, the holidays are a terrible time to be homeless. It's true I've never been homeless. Except for the one time that I fasted for four days, I've never been hungry. But I'm having a hard time imagining why it would be somehow worse to be homeless or hungry during the holidays than in July.

It seems like everyone is out there coming up with creative ways to emotionally blackmail consumers in the name of the almighty dollar. They know that "the holidays" are a perfect time to play on people's feelings and to take advantage of them.

I've really come to resent the holidays. I recently noticed that my new calendar announced such new holidays as "Grandparents Day," and "Secretaries Day." Thankfully, not many people recognize such holidays, but I can promise you that the Hallmark Company and the department stores will do their best to make each as well known as Christmas and Halloween.

I admit that I buy items at Christmas, and, on the whole, spend more money during holiday months, but the difference is that I don't try to rationalize my participation by pretending that there are religious ideals behind my buying.

I'm not religious. I don't believe in the Bible so Christmas means nothing. I don't believe in eating living creatures, so I really find Thanksgiving offensive. I don't believe in ghosts or witches (except for my third-grade teacher), so Halloween is a joke. I'm becoming more and more of a misanthrope every day, so I doubt I'll be sending around any Valentine's Day cards, and Easter seems to be just one more day for phony Christians to feel self-righteous.

I don't think I'm going to participate in holidays this year. If New Year's Day meant anything to me, I'd make it a resolution not to. Instead, I'm going to strive harder to be a true individual and continue to deprogram myself of all the brainwashing that these corporate think-tanks have inflicted on all of us. If you have to go into the red to celebrate a particular holiday, it's no damn good.

The Unawriter is the Nexus columnist formerly known as Travis Moon.

Letters to the editor should be no longer than 500 words and MUST include the author's name and phone number.

agencies, the military and other watchdogs of the rich and famous. If their latest tagline has a familiar ring to it, it is because Boxer, Durbin and their ilk were touting so-called assault weapons as the criminal's gun of choice. And, prior to that, left-wing racists sought to ban so-called Saturday-night specials. Before that, way back when I was a kid in the '50s, it was brass knuckles and switchblades. Violent criminals are still with us. 7 percent of all criminals commit 70 percent of the violent acts. And, despite 21,000-plus gun laws and a half-century ban on "weapons of

choice," the politicians think they can keep fixing the problem!

If a doctor prescribed the same "treatment" 21,000 times and it did not work, wouldn't you question the prescription?

JIM GREAVES

### HEY, YOU GUYS!!!

Dear Readers: Today we received not one, but two letters. Which was good. We opened them, giddy with anticipation, only to find them unsigned and without phone numbers. Which

was bad. Very bad. Because if authors don't sign their letters legibly and give us their phone numbers, we've no way of verifying the authors' identities in case something comes up. Also, we can't print anonymous letters in the first place. So we had to file away two letters today instead of printing them. Which was bad. But we did get two more letters, which you now see before you. And that's good.

Please, don't write a letter only to doom it to our file cabinet by forgetting to include your name and number. Thanks.

THE EDITORS

## My Mind Is Missing

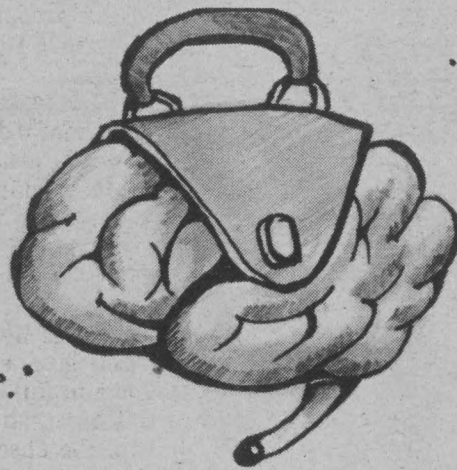
Emma Pollack

I've lost it! It is my third year in college and my mind has finally shrivelled into a black hole of nothingness.

Walking to my class yesterday I came to the brilliant realization that my wallet had been missing for the past day and a half. So of course all through class all I am doing is racking my brain for some idea about where my wallet might be. Then I see it — the blurred yet extremely clear vision of my wallet sitting in the grocery store cart I used the day before at the market.

It probably would have been a good idea to bring my wallet home with me along with my groceries. Even better, it would have been nice if I could have come to this realization a little less than 36 hours after my trip to the market.

Well, class ends. I go back to my car and my car keys are



KEVIN GLEASON/Daily Nexus

missing. So now I have lost my wallet and my car keys.

My roommate conveniently made a slim jim, and we broke into my car hoping to find another set of keys I thought I had left there. Oh, but wait. That black hole in my head was wrong — no surprise — there are no extra keys. So I call AAA and get my car towed to my apartment.

And then there was The Call! "Hello Mom, Dad. I lost my wallet and my car keys. By the way, have you seen my brain lying around the house? I think I might have left it there over Winter Break."

"It's not the end of the world!" they say. "Stuff like this happens." Then the suggestions come: "Maybe it's time you grow up and carry a purse like your mother. That way you would have a better place to keep your wallet and your keys!"

Now, a purse is probably a good suggestion — but in my mind purses are used by grown-ups and 12-year-old girls that want to pretend they are grown-up. I'll be 21 this year and I am not ready to grow up. I don't want to carry a purse.

Late the other night I saw Blair from *The Facts of Life* in an exercise machine infomercial talking about her kids. For God's sake, Blair has kids! And me — well, I still want to be 15 — with all the perks of being 21, like having boobs and being able to drink.

I am grown-up enough to live on my own and next year I graduate, so I guess I probably should take my parents' advice. I'll be more responsible, keep better track of my things, and hopefully find where I left my brain sometime before Winter Quarter ends. But I think for now my backpack and an old lunch box will work just as well as any purse.

By the way, I did find my wallet, but I am still searching for my brain.

Emma Pollack is a junior sociology major.



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### The Daily Nexus, it's another world

## Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

Monday, January 20

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and

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Daily Nexus

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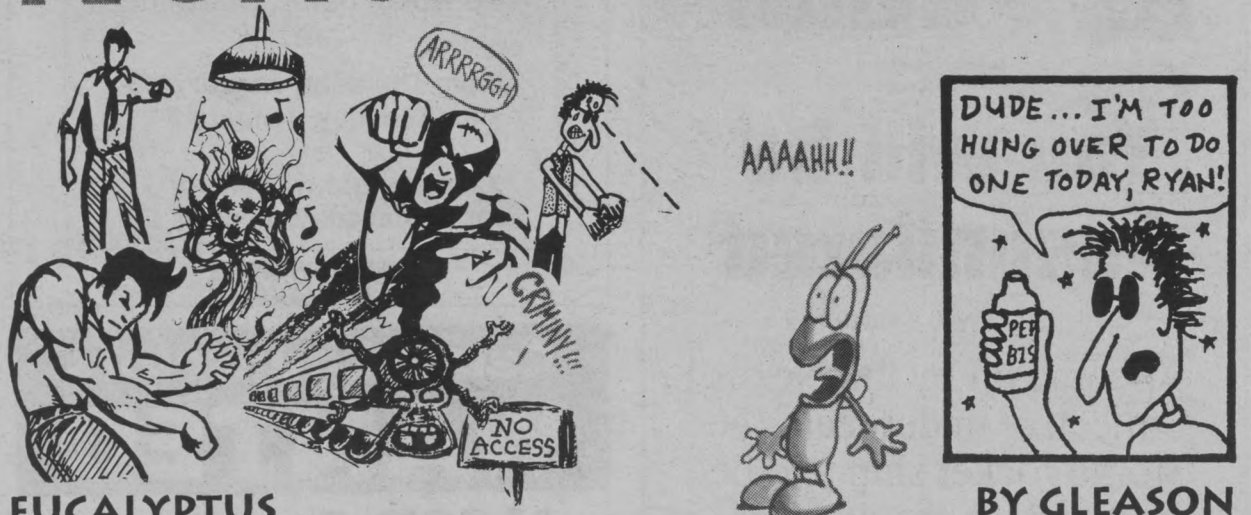
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# Nexus Comics



EUCALYPTUS

BY GLEASON

## Silver greens PRESENTS YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE BY LINDA C. BLACK

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 a 6 - Don't snap at an older person today. Instead, see what you can do to further his or her plans. Show you can be a team player. You may still be agitated tonight, but again, an authority figure may actually know more than you do. Don't start an argument you can't win.

**Taurus (April 20-May 20)** - Today is a 7 - Expect there to be delays in travel or in long-distance negotiations. It's not your fault; there's a problem with the other side. It might be easier for you to get what you want tomorrow. Finish up something you promised to do for a friend.

**Gemini (May 21-June 21)** - Today is a 5 - The demands of a tough job could be in conflict with your social life. If it's any consolation, a couple of days from now will be perfect for a date. Schedule one now, then get back to work. Don't spend too much time on the phone; that can get expensive.

**Cancer (June 22-July 22)** - Today is a 7 - If you keep your wits about you today, you'll be in the minority. Others may be pushing several different agendas simultaneously. Figure out what's best for you and your partner and do that first. Plan a soothing dinner tonight; nerves will be jangled.

**Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)** - Today is a 6 - Don't complain. The biggest jobs should be over soon. By about tomorrow, you'll be able to start getting into projects that are more intellectually stimulating. Right now, you're learning something you'll need. Unfortunately, you're learning it the hard way.

**Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** - Today is an 8 - If you can help a loved one with a financial problem, by all means do so. Your life will be a lot easier if the other one isn't stressed out. Don't give him or her money, by the way; stick to offering advice with the number-crunching.

**Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)** - Today is a 5 - This is not the easiest day for you. Think of it as a cosmic exam. If you face up to an old nemesis, you'll advance to the next level. If you don't, well, you'll get another chance. Conditions will lighten up soon. Plan a dinner party for the weekend.

**Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)** - Today is an 8 - You're learning a lot during this phase of your life. Remember that if a friend tries to push your buttons. Don't let the other person's bad mood get all over you. Instead, focus on your long-term goals, and what you're doing to get there.

**Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** - Today is a 6 - Take a more aggressive stance today. Figure out what you can do to make things turn out the way you want. The pressure you've been under can push you to new heights. Yours is the sign of higher education - did you know that? Perhaps you need another credential.

**Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** - Today is an 8 - If you want something, you'd better wait until this evening. Your effectiveness is at its highest then. Early in the day, you'll run into opposition. If you can incorporate it into your plans, you'll get stronger. Might as well go for it.

**Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** - Today is a 6 - Unfortunately, you may have to go right through an obstacle in order to get past it. Face something you've been avoiding and you'll become much more effective. Don't worry if you mess up; your competence level is rising. And you're getting luckier.

**Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)** - Today is a 7 - Don't go shopping today, even if there's a sale. You'll buy too much. You might even give some of your money away. You'll be much more frugal tomorrow, so wait if you can. That's important if you're planning a trip. If you haven't been, do that.

**Today's Birthday (Jan. 15)**. First, figure out what you want to change about your life. Start learning the skills you'll need by February. April could be hectic; you may move, or renovate your living quarters. You'll be antsy to try something different. Things should be relatively calm until September, when travel may be required. In November, a colleague leads you to a great opportunity. True love blossoms again in December.



HABITUAL LIMBO

BY LUCIDO & NELSON

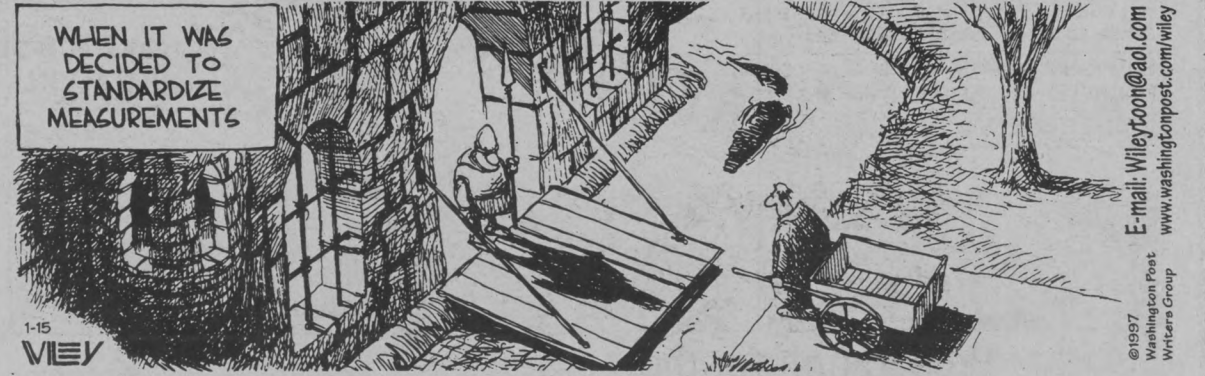


One Fine Day

By Hartley



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UCSB  
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Alpha Delta Pi extends an invitation to you:  
Wednesday, January 15, 1997  
6:00 pm at 6507 Cordoba Road  
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*-The excitement of discovery in a new friend is a wonderful thing.*

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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**ACROSS**  
1 Entertain  
6 Soaking  
9 Joad and Kettle  
12 Finishes off a debt  
14 Guindonian note  
15 Spanish painter  
16 "Rose of --"  
17 "-- in the Family"  
18 -- mutual  
19 Come to terms  
20 Type of error  
22 Puts on the scales  
24 Acetate or alcohol  
25 Put under siege  
28 Chou En --  
29 Pastry tray item  
30 Comedian Johnson  
32 Nothing in Barcelona  
36 Lake or tribe  
37 Straight Comb. form  
38 Late NYC daily  
39 Clairvoyant  
40 Radar's favorite drink  
41 Avery Fisher -- "piggy"  
44 Debilitate  
47 Asparagus stalk  
50 Far North resident  
51 Oppose defiantly  
53 Receive  
57 Patron saint of Norway  
58 Bother  
59 Seesaw  
60 X-rated  
61 Sable  
62 Where spirits meet?

**DOWN**  
1 -- and crafts  
2 Only  
3 -- the crack of dawn  
4 Beach candy?  
5 Embroidery of a sort  
6 Ride out a hurricane  
7 Fitzgerald and Raines  
8 Bath powder  
9 Cobler fruit  
10 Finery  
11 Moonshine machine  
13 "Now you --, now you don't!"  
15 Poker game  
21 Pekeo  
23 Fierce look  
25 Somme summers  
26 Winghamam of "Shy People"  
27 Soft cheese  
28 Durocher  
31 Use your head  
33 Spirited steed  
34 Kind of pickle  
35 Competent  
37 Back to square --  
43 Hockey legend  
45 Royal decrees  
46 Game show hosts  
47 Field goal, for example  
48 Actress Negri and others  
49 Make into law  
50 Provide with some trait  
52 Clouds  
54 Sicilian spouter  
55 "Moby Dick" star  
56 Cherry or plum

**ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:**

M	A	S	S	C	L	I	M	B	C	A	R	E
A	C	T	I	H	O	S	E	A	O	N	U	S
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O	W	L	S	S	O	N	A	R	S	U	R	F
M	E	E	T	S	B	O	R	O	N	B	I	T
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M	A	M	A	I	O	N	I	C	E	R	I	E
O	V	E	R	S	P	A	R	E	R	I	T	E
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60									61						62				
63									64						65				

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## Ultimate Frisbee Eager to Begin a New Season

### ■ Black Tide Tries to Defend National Title

By Kevin Mumford  
Reporter  
and Yier Shi  
Staff Writer

#### Men

The men's ultimate Frisbee squad holds the distinction and honor of being the only team that won a national championship for Santa Barbara last year. This weekend, the Black Tide will open the defense of their title when they host the UCSB Collegiate Ultimate Frisbee Tournament.

The two-day event at Storke Field will draw a total of 18 schools, including teams from Arizona, Colorado and Oregon.

With a newly revamped lineup featuring mainly rookies, this year's squad will definitely carry a new look. However, veterans on the team remain confident that the Black Tide will be able to achieve last season's feat.

"I know we have a good chance to repeat," said senior co-captain Christopher Gavigan. "We just need to mold and mesh the newcomers. We need to really play as a team. We will carry on the Black Tide tradition."

Gavigan, however, concedes that the loss of some stars from last year's squad will hurt.

"We definitely have a lot of

work to do," he said. "But it's good to see [that] the new people understand the game and it's good to have the support of the community and the school."

Senior veteran Casey Hare agrees that the team's success hinges on the amount of effort put in.

"At this point, it's still real early in the season," he said. "We have a lot of raw potential on our team, and we need to work hard to control our own destiny."

The first step toward that destiny will be a solid showing in the Black Tide's home tournament on Saturday and Sunday.

#### Women

Coming off a surprisingly successful season last year, the UCSB women's ultimate team will hope to accomplish the one important thing that eluded it in '96 — going to the nationals.

"The last few years, we were really close to making the nationals," said senior co-captain Tori St. Clair. "Every year, it's our primary goal to make it there. We're hoping that with our experienced players now, we can do it this season."

About half of this year's team consists of rookies, but that still means more veterans than in years past.

"Our key is to have smart playing and athletic rookies," said



Nexus File Photo

**CHAMPIONS OF THE LAND:** The Gaucho men's ultimate team will begin to defend its #1 ranking this weekend when it hosts the UCSB Collegiate Ultimate Frisbee Tournament.

senior co-captain Jenny Hanscom. "Unlike other years, we really have a chance this season to work on different plays because we've got the veterans who can do it. We need to use the knowledge of players with the experience."

The veterans will be heavily counted on to guide the newer players as the season progresses.

"Last year, the rookies really stepped up big and surprised us," said St. Clair. "It's really important for the rookies this year to do the same and step up. The combination of experienced players and good rookie play will be the key to the season."

The Burning Skirts will open their season this weekend along with the men's squad as they

host the UCSB Collegiate Ultimate Frisbee Tournament.

But due to scheduling difficulties with different schools, teams have not been finalized for the tourney.

"We were originally planning for six to eight teams," said Hanscom. "But now I think we'll have maybe 10."



ALAN JACOBY/Daily Nexus

### Future Gauchos?

During halftime of Monday's UCSB women's basketball game, these young players got a chance to play a pickup game in the Thunderdome. With the tip-off, the recruiting war for 2005 has officially begun!

Interested in exploring practical uses for a newspaper besides lining your birdcage? Come to new writer's training tonight and Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Nexus office beneath Storke Tower. Call 893-2691 if you have questions.



## Daily Nexus



# Athlete of the Week

## Carl Larsen

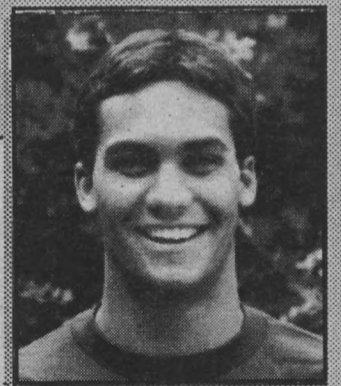
**SPORT:** Swimming

**YEAR:** Sophomore

**STATS:** Larsen performed personal bests in the 500-yard freestyle (4:35.65) and the 1650-yard freestyle (15:46.69) in two meets over the weekend. The Gauchos beat Cal State Bakersfield 184-110 after losing to Nebraska 113-91.

**HOMETOWN:** Honolulu, HI

**ACCOMPLISHMENT:** Larsen won a total of six individual races over the weekend — two against the University of Nebraska and four against Cal State Bakersfield. The six wins were the most by any swimmer in the two matches.



**QUOTABLE:** "We're doing pretty well. This was our first competition since December, so I was happy about how everyone did."

## Daily Nexus Sports

(805) 893-2694

<http://www.mcl.ucsb.edu/nexus>