

Daily Nexus Opinion

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Kudos

During this quarter, students at UCSB have been afforded the rare privilege of first-hand contact with a number of important and influential national figures from the arenas of contemporary American politics and religion. Liberal politicians such as George McGovern and Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr., conservative religious activists such as Cal Thomas of the Moral Majority and William Billings of the National Christian Action Coalition, as well as many others, have appeared on campus to provide an opportunity for students to gain insight into the interaction between political interest groups, public opinion, and government institutions.

In recognition of the great value of these presentations and their concordance with the university's premier role as forum for debate on important current issues, the *Daily Nexus* wishes to commend Dr. Walter Capps, professor of religious studies, whose course "Religion and Politics in America Today," presented through cooperation between the departments of religious studies and political science, has been responsible for this incomparable opportunity.

We hope that Dr. Capps' efforts will serve as a precedent-setting impetus to other departments, faculty members, and organizations to participate in the same experiment. The quality of academic life at UCSB would be vastly enhanced as a result.

The Birds

Each year about this time, spring starts making its way slowly through Santa Barbara, bringing with it the promise of longer days, warmer nights and new life. For the UCSB community, few things symbolize the season as well as the annual nest-building activities of swallows in the eaves of Storke Plaza.

But with the installation last week of two "ultra high-frequency sonic devices" designed to discourage the birds, the opportunity for this special visual and spiritual pleasure was eliminated. As residents of the Storke Student Communications Building, we can attest to this loss, and must question whether the mess caused by the birds constituted such an unpardonable offense.

Yet the real concern extends past Storke Plaza to the fifth floor of Cheadle Hall, where UCSB administrators have once again shown their indifference to student input. Although Associate Vice Chancellor Robert Kroes claims that informal student opinion was gauged in favor of the action, a more thorough examination tends to support the contrary. Last year, when the Facilities Management Department attempted to solve the problem by destroying existing nests, the swallows became the subject of several opposing *Nexus* editorials, an A.S. Legislative Council bill, and a 6 a.m. Sierra Club rally.

The issue was of sufficient magnitude that to solicit no more than a token student response demonstrates a disturbing lack of respect. In fact, controversy surrounding the swallows and several other decisions that excluded student input have commanded enough attention that it is surprising to see campus officials so deliberately set themselves up for criticism.

Granted, administrators are under no legal contract to consult students on issues that concern them, but to do otherwise seems to represent an attitude of unpardonable conceit



LETTERS

Brown

Editor, *Daily Nexus*;
How scary it was to see people rally around and support Governor Jerry Brown's one-sided blast upon the federal government, considering that by doing so they were only condoning breaking down the existing structure and not offering any tangible solutions. It is much easier to blaspheme and blame those at the top for existing problems, than it is to suggest concrete solutions.

At Monday's rally, Brown's speech was full of sarcastic quips, bitter jabs, and ideal values especially geared for a university audience. For this, the governor was rewarded several times by applause and cheer. It was easy to mistake this gathering for the California Democratic Convention. Brown is a very good speaker, and since he's almost always been a leader for change, I'll tip my hat to him. But when I was among the hundreds of students loudly applauding, cheering, and even giving Brown a standing ovation in blind faith of "a new order," I seriously questioned the real impact of his message upon the audience.

To reward a speech so void of definite solutions in such an overzealous and emotional manner seems frightening. Most mass movements, including the Nazi one, have rallied the masses under common dislikes or opposition to those in power and nebulous, vague, and ideal wants. When it comes to the actual resolution of the causes of

upheaval, mass movements have characteristically been wrought with as much, if not more, dissent and fragmentation as the government in control. Yes, it's simple to advocate dismembering the existing government and its regressive policies, however, talk unambiguous politics and precise remedies and you risk losing mass support.

I was very surprised and harshly brought into reality watching Governor Brown bask in the overwhelming and unmerited accolades of Monday's audience. At the least, I hope that the majority of the audience was only applauding the recognition of the mess that the present administration is making of domestic and international affairs. Brown manipulated those present, abusing the occasion to transform an intellectual lecture into a name-calling platform to launch his personal campaign for senator. He is a very influential politician, and has the potential to go much further in his political career. But if he succeeds by continuing to obtain the backing that he needs in this sly manner, then he is no better than the movie actor sitting in the Oval Office today.

Daniel Schwartz

Educate

Editor, *Daily Nexus*;
On Feb. 25, 1982, I listened to an interview with California Senator Hayakawa on Channel 4 News Conference. It was eye-opening for me to hear

him say that government loans to students have been overly generous. He said he supports federal budget cuts in this area of education. He remarked that in his day, students "hashed" their way through school. I wonder if he is aware of the country's current unemployment problems or if he realizes that those (on campus) jobs are, from what I understand, going to be reduced by state budget cuts in California.

He commented that he thought students' parents were taking out loans at low interest rates and re-investing it in a business sense. I think this is ludicrous. I am a 30 year old, single parent and am relying on this type of loan to finish my preparation for and completion of a teaching credential program at UCSB.

I feel privileged to have come this far in our educational system and would consider it a great loss if those who come after me were denied this opportunity due to the lack of financial resources.

I think the senator has lost sight of the feelings of his constituents and if this attitude towards reduced support of education has permeated through to the higher elected officials of this country, then it seems to me that we are in danger of losing one important avenue towards the "pursuit of happiness."

Not only this, but from an economic standpoint there is a need for trained people in the complex technological and social organizations we have created. If our country cannot maintain a semi-stable economy, we will all at some level feel the effects.

For me, college is one of the few places where there is a chance to broaden

directions of our thinking. Here is where the groundwork can be laid to develop those skills and insights necessary to meet today's complex challenges.

The human mind craves knowledge. It is no trivial thing for a country to provide formal environments where this learning can take place. To let this wealth of knowledge slip from the hands of many to the hands of few would be an unforgivable oversight on our part. Carl Sagan said "Our passion for learning is our tool for survival."

Maria Hall

Meeting

Editor, *Daily Nexus*;
This Thursday, March 4, at 5 p.m. in UCen 2292, all interested students and student organizations are invited to a meeting to plan a campaign against the proposed financial aid cuts. President Reagan's proposed budget will cut financial aid by 50 percent for the 1983-84 academic year, affecting the two-thirds of UCSB students who receive some form of financial aid.

We will be planning: actions on a national day of protest that has been called for April 6; a letter writing drive to Congress and President Reagan; leafletting, financial aid payout lines next quarter; meeting with Congressman Lagomarsino during the Easter Congressional recess, and other ideas from those attending the meeting.

Our opposition needs to be a united effort. Please attend!

Dennis Gagnon, Internal President, Graduate Student Assoc.
Ron Smith, President, AFSCME Local 673

by Garry Trudeau

DOONESBURY



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