



Former Sen. George S. McGovern, right, responds to question at campus news conference. He was here on Jan. 18 in connection with his initial participation in course on "Religion and Politics in America Today," which he is co-teaching with Walter H. Capps, professor of religious studies, left.

(Photo by W. Swalling)

## Maya Angelou Here Feb. 1

"An Evening with Maya Angelou," the highlight of Arts & Lectures' winter lecture series, presented on Monday, Feb. 1, at the Campbell Hall. Angelou, an educator, dancer, singer, writer and playwright.

The author of five best-sellers including the recently published *The Heart of a Woman*, Angelou was featured in early January on the opening segment of the Public Broadcasting Service series "Creativity with Bill Moyers."

Her UCSB visit being cosponsored



is to catalogue feature films which portray streetwalkers and call-girls.

According to Da, Theda Bara was the first fallen woman of film. "Until Bara, the women were all good, like Mary Pickford. But Bara was the vamp...out to destroy all the men in her way." The Vamp soon became a cliché, a mean-spirited brunette who wrecked marriages and took men for every penny they had.

Da has an M.A. in English literature and plans to do doctoral work on the theme of white slavery in silent films.

# Autism Project Funded Here

A project for the development of materials and teaching methods for autistic children funded by a \$400,000 contract from the U.S. Department of Education is under way at UCSB.

The contract has been awarded to Melvyn Semmel, professor of education and program leader in special education, for a cooperative project with the Santa Barbara County Schools. It is part of a larger ongoing program at UCSB for research and demonstration projects to improve services for students with handicaps.

The autism project team includes Adriana Schuler, a specialist in neurolinguistics, and Cap Peck, who has taught handicapped children and been a consultant to hospitals, school districts and other agencies that deal with the handicapped. Both teach in the Graduate School of Education. Joe Pessanella is the Santa Barbara County Schools representative.

Researchers have been unable to discover an organic cause for autism, a severe condition which afflicts approximately one out of every 4,000 children.

Definitions of autism thus have had to rely on behavioral observations. Autism involves a cluster of characteristics, two of which are delayed language development and the inability to interact with adults or with other children in socially appropriate

ways. It is these two characteristics which are central to this research and demonstration project.

"The materials we will be developing focus on what to teach autistic children in a classroom, a social setting," Peck said. "The project is unique in combining these areas of concern."

Many of the problems commonly encountered in teaching children with autism, such as behavioral disruptions and poor generalization and maintenance skills, are a reflection of inadequate curriculum materials and lack of access to appropriate peer models, Peck said.

He ascribed the first gains in working with autistic children to the development of behavior modification techniques which provided teachers and therapists with tools to control the children and teach isolated skills.

This project, he says, is aimed at developing "what to teach rather than how to teach" autistic children in the areas of functional communication and social interaction.

Once materials are developed the project team will determine their effectiveness and disseminate them through existing policy development teams which include teachers, administrators and parents throughout the Santa Barbara special education district and more widely throughout the country.

**PIO Page**

From the UCSB Public Information Office

# Solar Greenhouse Project Construction Nearly Done

By HECK PENZELL  
Nexus Staff Writer

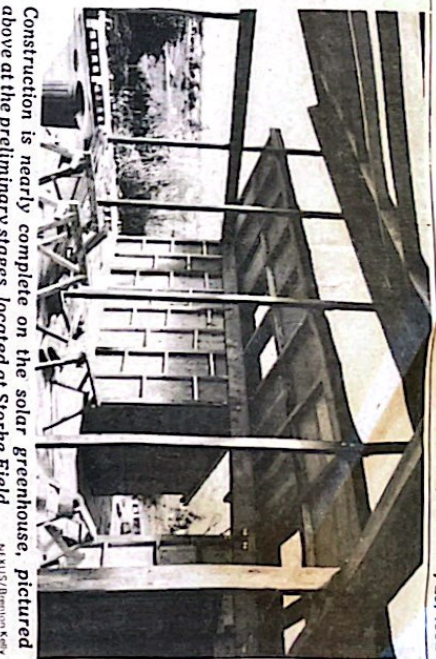
Construction is nearly complete on the solar greenhouse located at Storke Field that is designed to provide facilities for the study of diversified areas of the environment.

Bob Wilkinson, energy specialist for the Department of Housing and Residential Services, said the greenhouse was completed last year in response to UCSB's lack of "demonstration and experimental facilities, ones that could be used for environmental... instructional purposes."

The greenhouse fulfills many research functions, both organic and technological. The use of jar cells in conjunction with wind power is being tested for long term feasibility. Also the design of a greenhouse itself is being tested for practicality.

Research on the use of xerophilous plants as rogen fixers in fertilizers also being conducted in ponds to the rising cost of producing nitrogen synthetically.

In addition, the facility functions as a laboratory for



Construction is nearly complete on the solar greenhouse, pictured above at the preliminary stages, located at Storke Field. NEXUS/Dorothy Kelly

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