# POUNTY

### DUMPING

### Purple liquid spills into creek

### **BRUSH FIRE**

#### Blaze burns alongside 101

#### FREEWAY UPDATE

## **Evicted disabled man sues**



### Course re-ignites teachers' fire

### Police find 64th Fiesta fairly easy to take

### He guards building full of memories

### Sentiment plays role in storing belongings



### OFF THE BEAT

### A case of murder she didn't write



Barney **BRANTINGHAM** 

nia law, Mr. Muknerjee could not have been evicted willy-nilly," said Mignon Bradley, an attorney for Channel Counties Legal Services Association. "They were also obligated to provide alternative housing, not just turn him out on the street.'

Bill Poelke, director of the housing authority, said he had received the suit but declined comment. The housing authority is mandated to provide affordable, "safe and decent" housing for low-income citizens.

Mukherjee, disabled by a series of strokes, was evicted from his low-income housing in April 1987, days after a fire devastated his apartment, Bradley said. Authorities determined the fire was caused by faulty wiring in an electric blanket.



Prosanto Mukherjee claims he had to borrow money just to live.

Mukherjee was discovered by neighbors, unconscious and overcome with smoke on April 26. He was rushed to Goleta Valley Hospital.

On May 5, while Mukherjee was still in the intensive care unit, a representative of the housing authority came to the hospital with a letter informing Mukherjee that his apartment had been deemed uninhabitable. The letter informed him that he was evicted as of midnight, April

to exist," Bradley said.

In July, Mukherjee called the Legal Services Association. Attorneys from that organization contacted the housing authority. which agreed in September to relocate Mukherjee to another low-income unit. But the housing authority accepted no responsibility for his possessions or the money he had to borrow during the four months he was without a home.

After repeated attempts to get Mukherjee compensation, Bradley said, the suit was filed.

"The housing authority not only violated federal law and state law, they violated their own contract," Bradley said.

Mukherjee is suing for damages, compensation and attorneys' fees.

# Course re-ignites teachers' fire

By Karen O'Hara News-Press Staff Writer

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Summertime. The last place you'd expect to see a teacher is in the classroom.

Yet, here they are, seated around a table at UCSB, scribbling in their notebooks, looking through their well-thumbed texts, engaging in thought-provoking debate.

Their hometowns are as varied as their interests. They come from New Jersey and New York, Pittsburgh and Pierre, Houston and Tucson. One is from Carpinteria, another from Denmark, a third from Poland.

But a common bond has brought them to-

gether. This is their idea of a holiday - a way

to recharge their intellectual batteries before returning to the classrya in the fall.

For nearly six weeks, hey have been dipping into a well of knowledge called "Democracy in a book written in the 19th Century America.' by Alexis de Tocqueville, a French social philosopher.

De Tocqueville's work, based on his observations during a visit to America, is widely accepted as a global interpretation of the meaning of American civilization. He believed political democracy and social equality would eventually replace Europe's aristocratic insti-

"Because the author touched on so many topics of current interest, (from race relations to the power of the presidency) our discussions have ranged between interpreting his original intention and finding applications for his insights and proposals in American life today," said Walter Capps, a UCSB religious studies professor who is leading the seminar.

For the teachers, studying "Democracy in America" is like drinking from a refreshing spring. Their say their perceptions are expanding, and they are getting something rich to

See HISTORY, Page B 4

# He guards building full of memories

Mary Lane

### Sentiment plays role in storing belongings

By Pamela Harper

In Carter Walters' business, people's sentimental attachment to their belongings is money in the bank.

Walters is manager and vice president of Lyon Moving and Storage in Santa Barbara and it's been his experience that people just can't seem to get rid of valuable items - like grandma's grand piano, or a motorcycle that might have belonged to a German war hero. Even if they have no earthly use for the stuff.

"Sentiment is what makes moving companies prosper. People can't part with things or an estate is paying the bill and the stuff's been forgotten," said Walters as he guided a visitor through Lyon's historic five-story building constructed in 1926 at 27

E. Cota Street in the city's El Pueblo Viejo district.

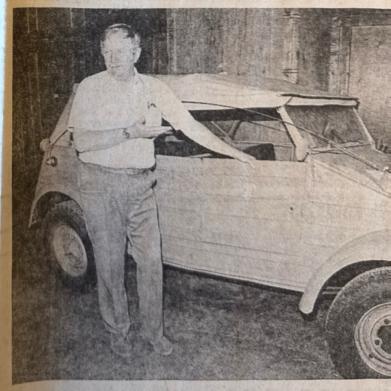
Walters has found that nostalgia compels people to hang onto bulky antiques and other useless treasures. Perhaps the grandchildren will want that old dining table, or maybe its value will skyrocket someday

Some folks will place precious keepsakes in storage for years, sometimes for decades, Walters said. As long as the storage fees are paid, those precious items remain under his watchful eye.

"We're more expensive than mini storage," Walters said. "But people who move themselves are not our market."

Some treasures have a place only in the homes of collectors like a collection of World War and World War II military memor

See STORAGE, Page B



Carter Walters shows off a vehicle driven by German officers in North Africa di

OFF THE BEAT

in that Lyon has stored since

abilia that Lyon has stored since the 1950s.

The owner of the collection, a former Sanfa Barbara sendent shoos name Waltern would not shoot name Waltern would not sischose in order to praving home in acceptance of the state.

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Be used to graving home in the man's estimated by seasons the man's estimated by seasons the man's estimated by the special state of the shoot of the special state of the shoot of the state of the shoot of

ures in his care — a two-sester Jerman motorcycle from World Say II. The tan-colored DWK machine sears the instignia of the army from that German Fried Marshall frwin Rommel commanded in the North African desert — a palm yere divided by a wastika. A side-ar for the tan-colored motorcycle its nearby. The was allegedly ridden by Rommel, Walters said, It may be wish-motor than the wastika of the said o

English parlor gramp jama gleams under lights from a wrought-from chandelier.

Within the building's wast interior a dust-free room holds nothing but pianes, covered in cloth or boxed and laid on their sides with the legs removed. Monthly storage fees for a piano rums \$27.

"We've got 130 gramd pianos here," Walters said, surveying the scene. "We've got more Steinways than Steinway has. Some of these pianos are worth \$40.0000.

Another room labeled the "rug room" amelis of mothballs and holds hundreds of rolled up carpets. Other rooms contain boxes of household and personal items. Furniture sits in other areas. Lyon stores working cars too. Next to the scout car, a later model German car—a Mercedes Benz of early 1570s virtage—quietly waits for Christmas. Walters explained that each year, a wealthy elderly woman from Long Island. N.Y. visits Santa Barbara for two weeks during the holidays. She distains retail cars, so she stores her Mercedes indoors for 50 weeks a year. Shortly before she's due in Santa Barbara, Walters arranges for the car to be sent to a local Mercedes mechanic for a tune up. When she's through driving around, she brings it back to Lyon.

The woman has spent about

15 years.

The gregarious Walters has been with Lyon for just two years, but he's been in the moving business all his professional life, most of the time in Orange County.

The most unusual litem he's ever stored was — completely inadvertantly of course — a diamembered body.

This course — a diamembered body.

bods

This guy had chopped up his wife seed put her in a freezer and saked, us to keep, us plugged in, which we did. The police came and said they wanted to examine the contents of the freezer. I didn't even want to look," recalled Walters of the episode that occurred years ago in Orange County.

curred years ago in Orange County.

Another time. a man came to route to me the county of the county of the county of the county wooden box. The son discovered antique gold coins worth \$500,000. The son had no idea his father had word the coins, Walters said.

The smallest item — but probably the most treasured — that walters guards costs a little old Santa Barbara woman \$37 a month in tiny sual-like room. It's an old family Rible and the woman visit once a mosth.

Each spring, Lyon holds an surtice of items that people have neglected to pay storage fees for, or things the owners want to get rid of.

"People go nuts at an auction."

things the owners want to get rio.

"People go nuts at an auction,"
walters said. Unclaimed boxes
are sold unopened, but buying a
box of goods without knowing its
contents is a "crap shoot," he said.
"Some people have paid \$30 for
a box that contained an antique
ginger jar lamp, or silver, or even
a mink coat. But most of them
have broken tops or eld National
Geographics inside," said Walters.

kael Holt, who teaches the history of religion in an upper-secondary school in Aarhus, Denmark He said he was pleased to find that beneath the surface of the tourist shops, there are Danes in Solvang who have retained their regional accents and their cultural heri-tage.

## History

Take back to their students.

"It's inspirational to think these people are all teachers. It's reas suring and stimulating," said Dil ane Wilson of Houston. France of the participants.

The seminar is one of 50 summer programs for teachers spot sored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. UCSB was selected as a site for two of the programs.— Capps' class and Gales (Jun's course in the English Department on Herman Melville, "Moby Dick."

The object of focusing on a single test is intellectual enror ment," Cappa said, "not pedagos in the course of the programs. The six intellectual enror ment," Cappa said, "not pedagos in the course of the programs. This is a highly competitive movestable byproducts.

This is a highly competitive programs in my view these fall are the cream on the crop.

"The 15 teachers in Cappa segman didn't know each other when they met six weeks ago. Todg, they feel like old friends. As part of the seminar, they have not only studied together on field trips and lived together under the same rose, the Kappa Kappa Gamms sonerity house in Isla Isla.

#### Police Beat

within about four hours.
Police also closed State Street to traffic for the first time ever at about 8.0 p.m. That hetped grassly in alleviating problems with crowd control, Austed and People have been generally very nice and friendly, williams and.

BRAND NEW!

For details and a bookburn coll
SOUTH COAST 963-6565

A tisket, a tasket, a Santa Barbara Basket.

965-1245 1771 Stown St. #13 + Victo

abused.

Ross, unsure of how to get to the dump, testified that Kirkes said he how and led the way in his CHP law. Kirkes knew where if was, loss testified.

When they got to the body Undersheriff Ross said he found two distinct footprints. Ross said he pointed them out to Kirkes, told him to preserve them, then left to 7adio the coroner.

Ross said when he returned.

that way

A woman would later testify that
she saw Mangaret getting into his
car. But at the time of the second
trial she was in a mental hospital
and her testimony read from the
first trial was discounted.

A pattern of lines on the victim's
legs were similar to mats in cars
like Kirkes. But he said he'd discarded his before the murder After the body was found Kirkes had
his car cleaned and repainted,
even the trunk, where the mat had
been.

ter the body was round Rickson and his car cleaned and repainted, even the trusk, where the mat had been.

One key witness sald Kirkes told him, "You're my alith."

Saspicion had soon focused on Kirkes and he was questioned but not arrested the left town later in 1942 and served in the American Red Cross in Alaska Eight years later. In 1950, after Kirkes returned to Carpinteria, a grand layr indicated him.

A Superior Court jury deilberrad, and the server of the pears to life in prison and sent to San Quentia, But an appeals court ordered a new trial on grounds of an improper argument by the presscotor and an error in jury instructions by the trial judge. The semational retrial in April and May, 1953, was covered on the front pages of the News Press.

Kirkes, then 48, swore on the witness stand that "I did not kirl ber' and never any her that night. Normally calm and composed, Kirkes wiped tears from his eyes while recalling how suspicion had focused on him in 1942.

"Shortly after 7 p.m. Kirkes walked out of the Courthouse a safe on the Courthouse a rive man for the first time since September, 1850." wrote Newspress reporter George Cyde—who went on to public fame as a county supervisor and is still around.

"It is a amashing victory." Kirkes said. "The first conviction meant nothing. I would have appealed this case for the rest of my limited the county supervisor, and have appealed this case for the rest of my limited the county supervisor. It is a supervisor and the county supervisor went on the become a Supervisor went on the town as the county of the county supervisor. In the supervisor with the Marinesi in Nucaragua from 1905 to 1902, due to the county of the count

### **OBITUARIES**

### Rick T. Briggs, 20; enjoyed gardening

Graveside services will be 2 p.m. food day in Carpinteria Cemetery for Rick Thomas Briggs, 20, of 4006 Via Real, Carpinteria, who died Needay at his home. Williation will be from 10 a.m. to 8 m. today at McDermott-Crock-

Briggs, born in Martinaville, Ind., came to Carpinteria as a child and attended local schools. He had worked in construction for two years and was an avid gardener.

Surviving are his father Jack Briggs of Florida, his mother Susan Hyde Briggs, and a sister, Robin Briggs, both of Carpinteria, maternal grandparents Earl and Marie Hyde, and paternal grand-

mother, Bertha Briggs, all of Indiana.

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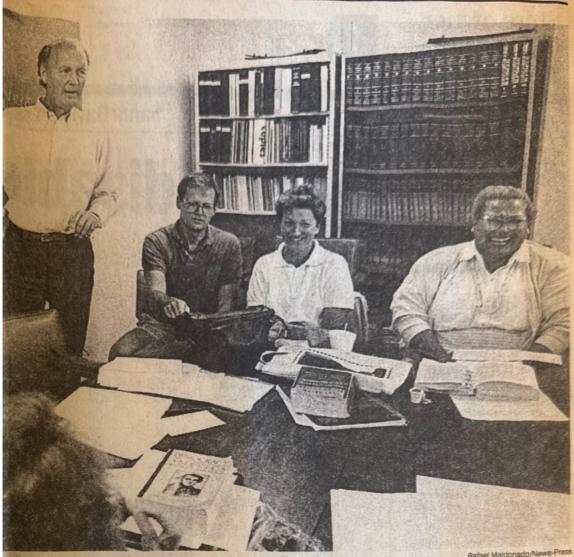
# 20 million Americans are hungry for your help.

In the land of plenty, plenty of over 19,000 people in every as — 20 million children, town and city of our county struggling families, and senior citizens — are hungry. You can help wis the war on hungre in Place support the Food Bank pare the Food Bank supplied or pour the Food Bank supplied or the fo



FoodBank of Santa Barbara County 4554 Hollister Avenue Santa Barbara, CA 93110

In the land of plenty, there's plenty we can do.



scusses some of Alexis de Tocqueville's theories on American civilization.

Rafael Maldonado/News-Press

Several of the participants said they believe the seminar's focus on human aspirations and the need for enlightment has helped them come to grips with a concern shared by teachers, parents and spiritual leaders.

Teachers across the country have the the same question I do, said Melicent Rubin, who teaches history at a private high school in New York. "How do we teach moral values to children?"

Rubin said her study of "Democracy in America" has reinforced her understanding of the importance of religion in American society. For Rubin, the UCSB seminar is a natural follow-up to another endowment-sponsored course she took on the roots of Christianity.

That course was a catalyst for me in (learning how to) teach in a secular classroom in a sensitive way," she said. "Since then, I've continued to seek out more programs.

Added Wilson, who teaches in a atholic high school for girls in louston, "A seminar in which we rapple with moral issues and the overmental system is very rele-

Leba Marquez of North Hollyant to me. ood, who teaches American literalure at an inner-city junior high school, said she also feels she has gained "a clearer understanding of the role of religion in America."

"A lot of students I work with come from immigrant families." she said. "They bring with them other values. I try to help them broaden their values so they can work within their (American) community.'

Marquez she is encouraged to see that literature is being used in the public schools to impart values to students, and that children are finding out what it means to get along through the use of cooperative learning techniques.

Because de Tocqueville reached his conclusions by traveling around the country and engaging citizens in conversation, the seminar participants have done the same, Capps said.

At the Santa Barbara Mission, they discussed the teaching of moral values with priests, nuns and brothers; at the Mt. Calvary Retreat House, they learned about the monastic way of life; they attended Sabbath worship at B-nai Brith Temple; they talked with Vietnam veterans; they inter-viewed a television news director about freedom of the press, and they studied Solvang by reading about the Danish folk-school movement and meeting with Danes in Santa Ynez Valley.

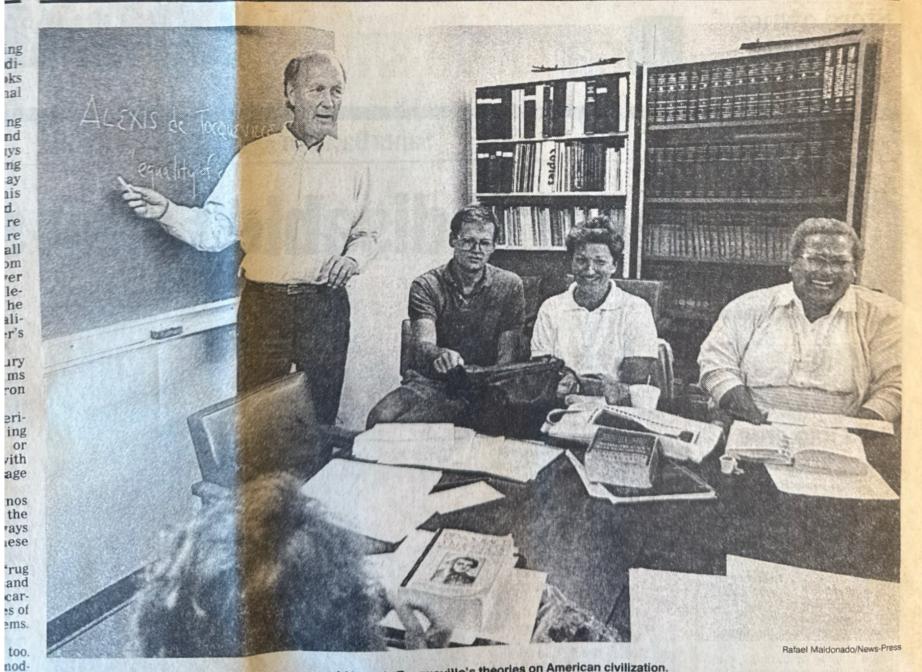
Their excursion to Solvang was of particular interest to Hans Mikael Holt, who teaches the history of religion in an upper-secondary school in Aarhus, Denmark. He said he was pleased to find that beneath the surface of the tourist shops, there are Danes in Solvang who have retained their regional accents and their cultural heri-

Holt said he enrolled in the seminar because he has always been fascinated with American history. (He wrote a Danish textbook on the American industrial age of 1870 to 1916.) He believes de Tocqueville's ideas should be "on display in America today.

He said he is impressed by the diversity of American society, and curious about its influence.

"The seminar has given me a better understanding of the dilemma in American civilization and American policy," he said. "On one hand, it's my impression that Americans firmly believe the United States has a certain task on the world scene. It's not just words when Americans talk about right-ing for democracy. It's part of their heritage and their funda-mental belief.

"I also understand this is a dilemma because you can't decide in a democratic way what is the truth. You have to make a choice. It's the dilemma of a diversified and pluralized society.



UCSB Professor Walter Capps discusses some of Alexis de Tocqueville's theories on American civilization.

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Several of the participants said they believe the seminar's focus of the role of religion in America."
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kael Holt, who teaches the history of religion in an upper-secondary school in Aarhus, Denmark He