



DUMPING

Purple liquid spills into creek

Workers flushing an herbicide tank at Santa Barbara Research facilities in Goleta Saturday afternoon dumped a violet-hued liquid into a creek in the 7000 block of Hollister Avenue, a county Fire Department spokesman said.

BRUSH FIRE

Blaze burns alongside 101

A fire burned 1/4 acre of brush and grass Saturday afternoon alongside the eastbound lanes of Highway 101 about three miles east of Gaviota, the county Fire Department reported.

FREEWAY UPDATE

- Motorists are warned that trucks may be entering and leaving the median from the traffic signals at Glen Annie Road on Highway 101. Heavy congestion is expected at the traffic signals. State Street is closed to cross traffic; the signal has been removed.

Evicted disabled man sues

By D. Weyermann News-Press Staff Writer An elderly, disabled man has sued the Housing Authority of Santa Barbara County, saying that agency evicted him illegally while he was hospitalized, and lost all of his valuables in the process.



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.

26, and that the locks had been changed. Although Bradley says there is documentation to prove the authority had other, vacant apartments, they did not move Mukherjee into one. When friends stopped by to collect his belongings, they discovered the coin collections and photographic equipment missing, Bradley said.

Course re-ignites teachers' fire

By Karen O'Hara News-Press Staff Writer Summertime. The last place you'd expect to see a teacher is in the classroom.

gather. This is their time of a holiday—a way to recharge their mental batteries before returning to the classroom in the fall.

"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."

He guards building full of memories

Sentiment plays role in storing belongings

By Pamela Harper News-Press Staff Writer In Carter Walters' business, people's sentimental attachment to their belongings is money in the bank.

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.



Carter Walters shows off a vehicle driven by German officers in North Africa during World War II.

OFF THE BEAT

A case of murder she didn't write



Margaret Senteney was 20 when she was murdered.

The talk at lunch turned to murder. The Case of the California Highway Patrol Officer and the Carpenter's Chair Girl.

Barney BRANTINGHAM

Then she got on with a tale of murder. She'd attended both trials with her husband, Ken, author of the Lew Archer detective novels under the pen name Ross Macdonald.

Police find 64th Fiesta fairly easy to take

By Heron Marquez Estrada News-Press Staff Writer

Despite some fights and other minor problems, Santa Barbara police reported that Saturday's chapter of the 64th annual Old Spanish Days celebration was generally orderly and uneventful.

Officers said one unusual incident occurred about 2:30 a.m. Saturday at Castillo and Montecito streets where a man allegedly stole beer from a 7-Eleven market, got into his car to make his escape — and promptly backed into a pickup truck parked nearby.

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nia law, Mr. Mukherjee 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

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 classroom in the fall.

For nearly six weeks, they have been dipping into a well of knowledge called "Democracy in America," a book written in the 19th Century 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 institutions.

"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

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He guards building full of memories

Sentiment plays role in storing belongings

By Pamela Harper
News-Press Staff Writer

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."

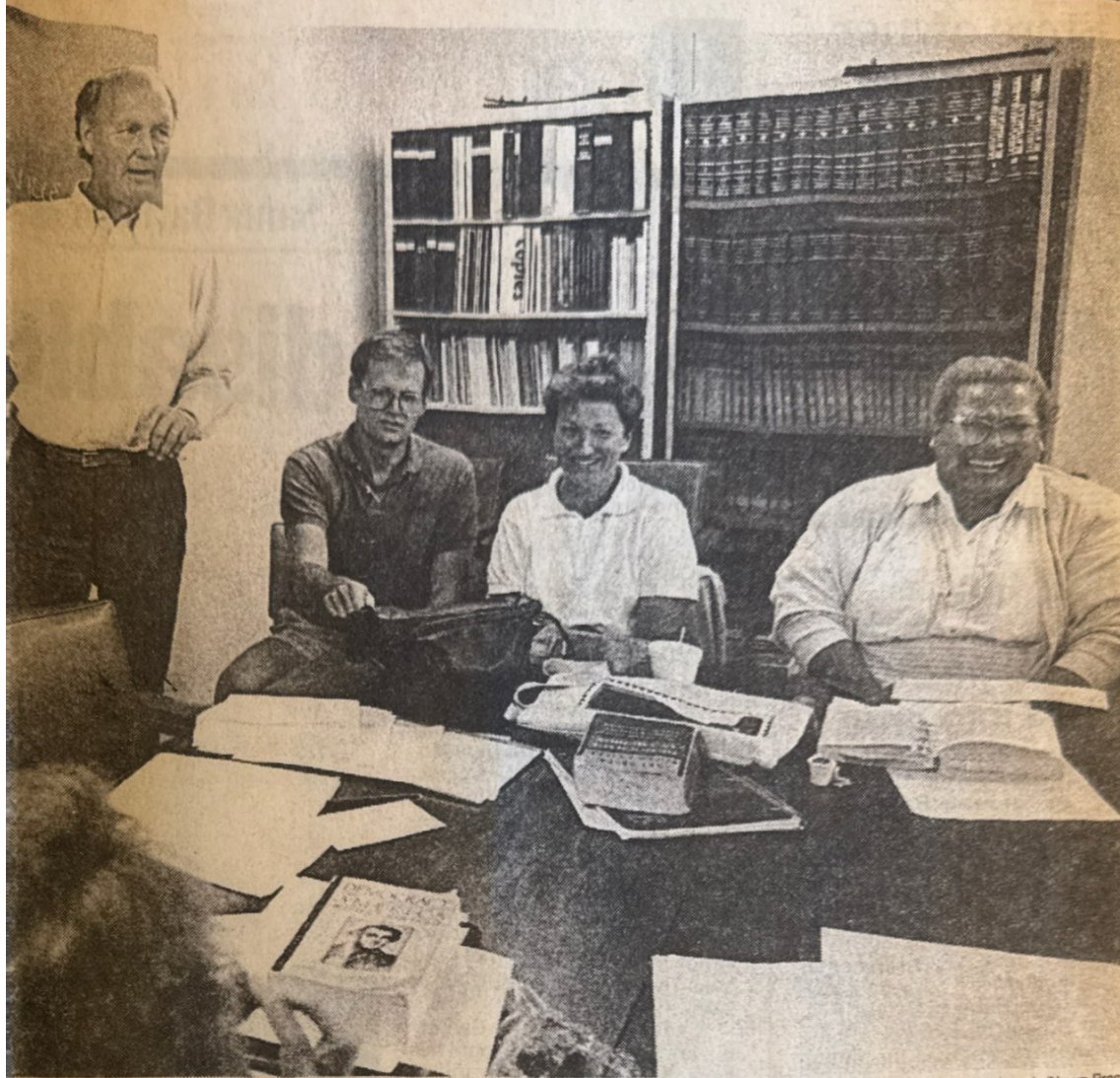
Some treasures have a place only in the homes of collectors — like a collection of World War I and World War II military memor-

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

OFF THE BEAT



Rafael Maldonado/News-Press

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

Several of the participants said they believe the seminar's focus on human aspirations and the need for enlightenment 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 Catholic high school for girls in Houston, "A seminar in which we grapple with moral issues and the governmental system is very relevant to me."

Leba Marquez of North Hollywood, who teaches American literature 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 interviewed 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 Mi-

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 heritage.

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 fighting for democracy. It's part of their heritage and their fundamental 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."

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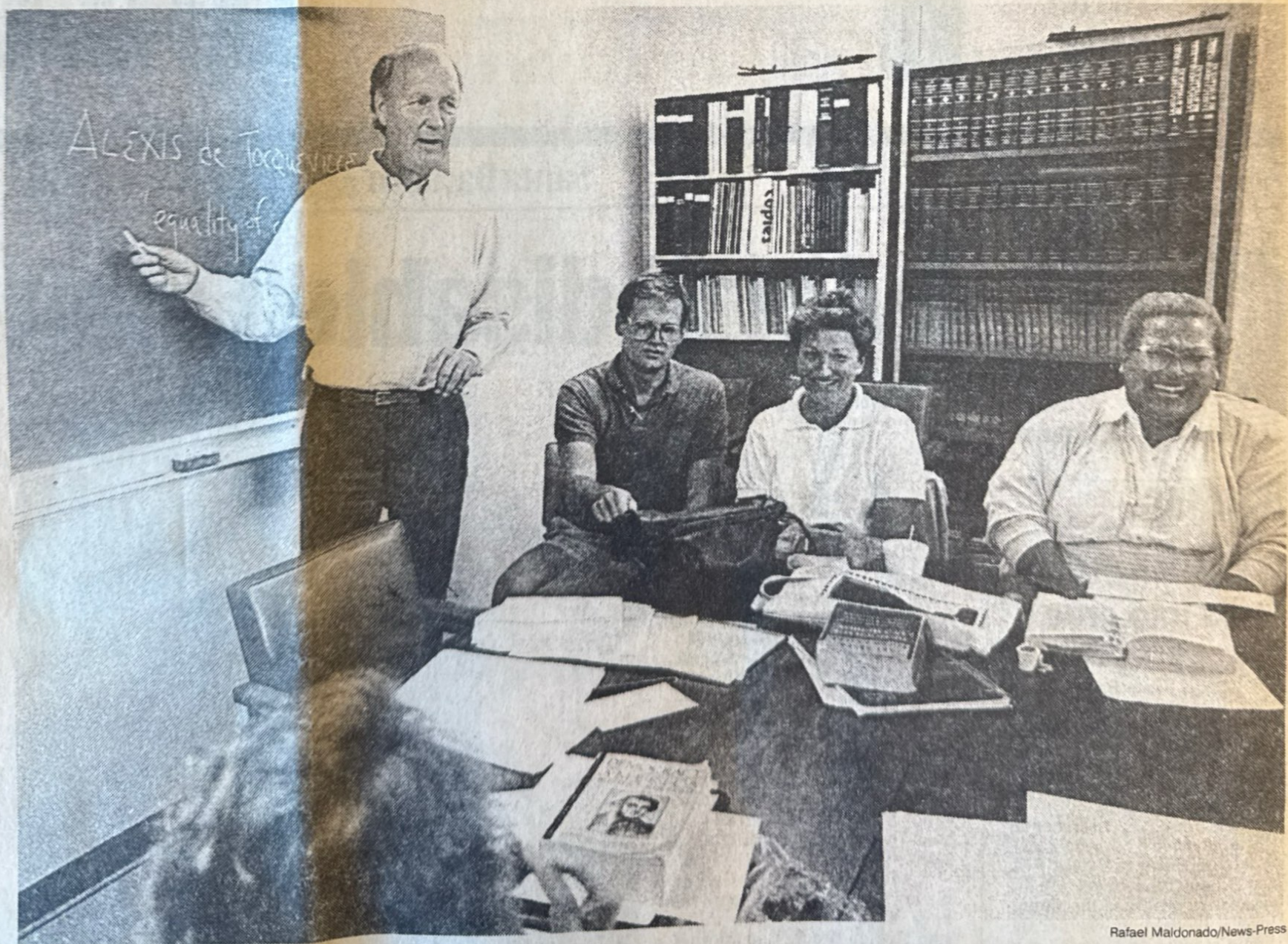
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Rafael Maldonado/News-Press

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

History

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kael Holt, who teaches the history of religion in an upper-secondary school in Aarhus, Denmark. He