



# The Lumberjack

Since 1929 • Vol. 58, No. 25

Humboldt State University, Arcata, Calif.

Wednesday, May 25, 1983

## A.S. president-elect lists budget review as highest priority



Otis Johnson

— Robin Lutchensky

More aggressive leadership for the Student Legislative Council will be the theme behind Otis Johnson's term as Associated Students' president.

"We're going to be the Nader's Raiders of Humboldt," Johnson, a junior political science major, said. "In the past we have been content to say, 'Well, that's the way things have always been,' and we didn't want to rub things the wrong way. But we're not going to take things at face value anymore."

A re-evaluation of the functions and needs of all A.S. programs is high on Johnson's list of priorities. "I want to eliminate the outdated and get rid of the overlap. I want to slate some budgets for reduction and highlight the stronger programs," he said.

Johnson defeated incumbent Ross Glen for the top spot in a May 9 and 10 A.S. runoff election. He will be inaugurated Monday.

Johnson has served as the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences representative to the SLC and as the A.S. liaison to the Arcata City Council.

HSU students should also be more aggressive and influential in the decision-making process of the City Council, he said.

"We make this city go. People need to realize the cultural and economic support we give this community. If the students weren't here, Arcata wouldn't exist," he said.

Johnson, 20, said he wants to improve community relations and "erase the invisible line between the university and the town." He wants students to be able to go into stores "without having the feeling of being ostracized by the community."

Johnson also hopes to bring about the repeal of city ordinances which ban alcohol on the Arcata Plaza and prohibit amplified music after midnight.

Rising student fees is another concern for Johnson, although he said he perceives the problem differently than others.

"I want to keep fees as low as possible, but I don't think we can stop a fee increase," he said. "The most important thing that needs to be done now is to set fee increases at a predictable and reasonable rate."

Johnson said he would not advocate increases in such things as the Instructionally Related Activities or A.S. fees.

The president-elect also cited the lack of minorities at HSU as important dilemma facing the university but said he had "no concept of what to do about it."

"In cultural diversity we rank 19th in a system of 19 schools," he said. "We can show people out there that this is a great place to be, but it's hard to focus on a specific group."

To increase enrollment in general, Johnson said he would make campus clubs stronger and more visible by encouraging better coordination and allocation of A.S. money to organizations.

Since he is not advocating an increase in A.S. fees, Johnson said he will ask clubs to "tap readily available existing monies in the form of private endowments, alumni organization funds and government grants."

Johnson said he decided to run for president because he thought it would be a "terribly valuable experience that will give me a chance to do something positive."

"But I don't see it as a stepping stone in my career because right now I'm not sure where my career is going."

Johnson said he hopes to someday be a lobbyist for Greenpeace. "I started out as a wildlife major but later decided that wasn't the best way to go about becoming a lobbyist," he said.

Despite his career plans, the president-elect said he will not be "overly sympathetic to environmental interests. I want to be as broad based as possible to represent the whole interest of the school rather than small interest groups."

Although many SLC members vocally supported Glen during the election, Johnson said, "All our working relationships have been patched up."

Vice President-elect Bill Crocker ran on the same ticket as Glen but said he was "looking forward to developing a strong working relationship" with Johnson.

"Otis (Johnson) hasn't put a lot of time into his office this year," Crocker said, "but I hope he will rise to the occasion because next year is going to require some strong leadership."

Johnson was appointed to an Arcata City Council committee devised to study parking problems along certain streets adjacent to campus but was absented from most of the meetings. "I missed a majority of those meetings because I never knew when they were," he said. "The meeting times would change periodically."

Mark Leonard, director of community development in Arcata, said the parking committee's meeting time was changed only once. "He (Johnson) was continually contacted, but he just didn't show up. He's irresponsible as far as I'm concerned," Leonard said. Johnson missed only one SLC meeting since his appointment to the council in November.

"I was hoping I would be able to treat this like a 9 to 5 job, but now I know that can't be done," he said.

—Stephen Hartman



# Subcommittee action changes fee picture

By Martin Melendy  
Copy chief

In a legislative maneuver designed to settle student fee increases before last minute changes can be made, an Assembly subcommittee Monday changed course and recommended California State University fees rise \$1.

The Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education action alters its April 25 decision to recommend that Gov. George Deukmejian's \$230 fee proposal be rejected by the Assembly. The governor's plan would use the nearly \$70 million raised by increased fees to offset the state's approximately \$1.5 million deficit.

The 3-1 decision to recommend a \$1 increase mirrors a Senate subcommittee proposal May 9 that CSU fees go up \$1. The subcommittee also proposed language similar to the Senate plan that would limit the ability of the CSU board of trustees to impose fee increases or emergency surcharges.

If the earlier Assembly subcommittee plan had been accepted by the full house and the Senate subcommittee recommendation had been agreed upon by that body, the fee issue would have gone into conference committee scheduled for June 6.

Any budget items that differ in Assembly or Senate versions must be worked out in a conference committee made up of three members from each house.

The subcommittee wanted to

"throw it out of conference committee," Dale Shimasaki, consultant to the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, said.

"If it was kept in conference committee, fees could have been increased \$100, \$200 or \$300 — it's safer to keep it out," he said in a telephone interview from Sacramento.

The fact that college students will be done with finals before this issue is decided may have played a role in the change. "I think we're seeing them try to decide outside conference committee so students will know what they will be paying," Curtis Richards, California State Students Association lobbyist, said.

In the ordered confusion of budget decisions, the Assembly and Senate subcommittees' recommendations on fees still must pass full committee and floor votes before the plans are part of the budget. It is possible for the Assembly Ways and Means Committee, scheduled to meet Wednesday, and the Senate Finance Committee, scheduled for Friday, to alter the plans.

"We're gearing up to try to make sure that both Ways and Means and Finance adopt the recommendations," Richards said in a telephone interview from Sacramento.

But subcommittee member Richard Katz, D-Sepulveda, explaining the subcommittee action, said, "Why open it up as an issue in conference if we can resolve it now?"

Regarding the danger different fee

proposals would face in conference committee, Katz, in a telephone interview from Sacramento, said if the Legislature's budget plan faced a money shortage, the committee would probably raise fees to make it up.

After Monday's recommendation change the governor's position on the \$230 proposal is unchanged, Kevin Brett, Deukmejian's assistant press secretary, said in a telephone interview from Sacramento.

## Fish hatchery thrown lifeline, will remain open through July

If the Prairie Creek Fish Hatchery gets final approval of a \$55,000 California Coastal Conservancy grant it will be able to remain open through July.

The grant was awarded to the Redwood Community Action Agency Thursday.

The Humboldt County Board of Supervisors set July 2 as the date of closure for the county-funded hatchery if no operating money was raised.

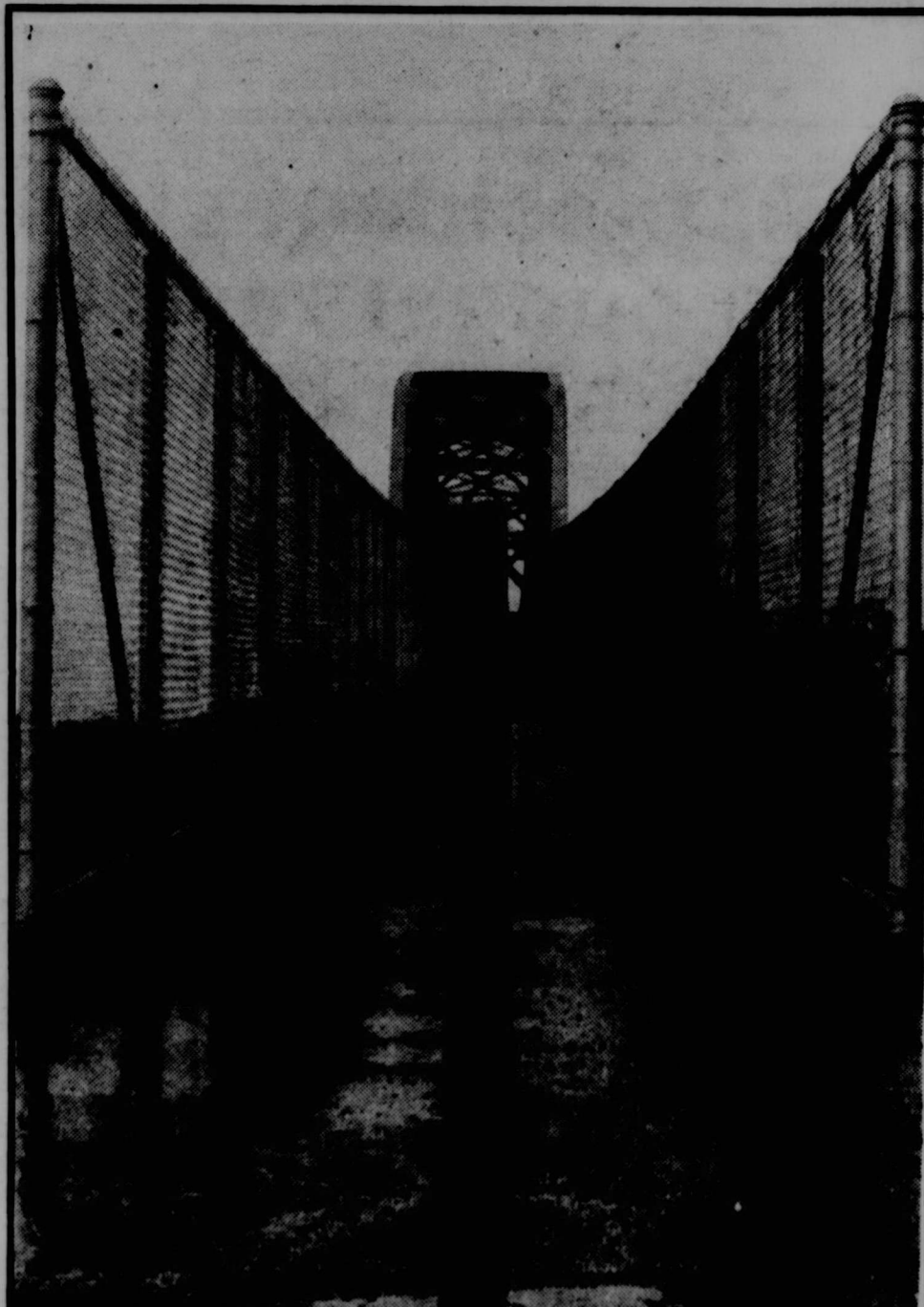
Dwight Streamfellow, a water resource planner for the action agency, said Tuesday the agency had not officially been informed of the grant.

"We're pretty sure the money will come through, though," he said.

Operation and labor costs will absorb \$22,000 of the total, Streamfellow said. The rest of the money will be used for development of a long-term funding solution and plan for the hatchery. The money will also be used for trail construction, salmon and steelhead rehabilitation and improvement of the educational potential of the hatchery, he said.

Dan Purnell, press secretary to Sen. Barry Keene, D-Eureka/Vallejo, said that although part of the grant is not directly related to hatchery maintenance, its use for salmon and steelhead rehabilitation will benefit maintenance.

— Kathryn Arrington



**Bridge on the River Mad** — Randy Thieben

The Hammond Bike Trail Bridge, dedicated Friday, connects Arcata to McKinleyville for bicyclists, pedestrians and equestrians. The bridge completes a five-mile segment of the Humboldt County trail plan. The trail will eventually stretch from Mad River to Clam Beach.

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# Council hears complaint, changes constitution

By Bob Nelson  
Staff writer

A complaint about a sexist advertisement and recommendations for next year's Student Legislative Council were among the topics discussed by the SLC at its Monday night meeting.

Comments from Ruth Ann Staples, a former member of the Veterans Club and a Veterans Upward Bound graduate, about a flyer she received from the HSU veteran's affairs office began the next to last council meeting of the year.

The advertisement for the "1st Annual Induction Vet's UB (Upward Bound) Hall of Fame and Reunion" ended with the line, "Thanks for the mammaries."



Staples said the advertisement is sexist and offensive to women. She asked that the SLC withdraw its support of the Veterans Club, which was responsible for the flyer.

The council decided to refer the matter to the Student Judiciary for its recommendation.

After the meeting, Associated Students' President Ross Glen said he favored reprimanding the Veterans Club if it cannot adequately explain

the matter.

SLC member Jay McCabe began the recommendation process by asking that a change be made in the A.S. Constitution and A.S. Election Code so that petitions be due 14 days before elections rather than 14-28 days as it is now.

If petitions are due 28 days before elections, students do not have enough time to get adequately organized, McCabe said.

A deadline set at 14 days prior to student elections would give students more time at the beginning of spring quarter to prepare petitions properly, she said.

Councilmember Bill Crocker said the recommendation should be subjected to further research before action is taken.

Councilmember Byron Turner said, "I don't see why we should pass the buck on making this recommendation. There's no reason to refer this to interim government."

By unanimous vote, the SLC recommended that next year's deadline for petitions be set at 14 days prior to elections, and that an interim council look for additional ways to involve more students in student government and the election process.

In other action, \$75 was allocated to set up an all-night study lounge in Goodwin Forum in Nelson Hall.

Free coffee and tea will be available from 6 p.m. to 8 a.m., June 5 through 9.

# City solar utility agreement approved

By Calvin Trampleasure  
Staff writer

By a unanimous vote Wednesday night, the Arcata City Council ratified a plan to create a joint powers agreement for a municipal solar utility in the county.

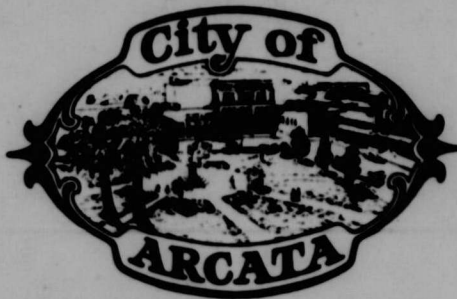
The utility would allow residents to lease solar equipment and receive tax credits for energy conservation.

But before the plan can be implemented another city must sign the agreement.

At the meeting, Larry Goldberg, representing the Redwood Community Action Agency, expressed certainty that at least two cities, Rio Dell and Blue Lake, would sign now that Arcata has acted.

Goldberg said he would also present the plan to the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors.

Goldberg, who spent two years researching and preparing the project,



joined with the community action agency to present the proposal.

The utility plan would allow for three types of solar energy use: hot water heaters, solar space heaters and photovoltaic power systems. Photovoltaic systems change sunlight directly into electricity rather than using the heat to make steam to drive generators.

Under the agreement the equipment would be leased through private companies.

In other action:

The council unanimously approved the appointment of Donald Hubbert to the Arcata Energy Commission.

The council reaffirmed its previously declared position and voted not to approve a Redwood Region Economic Development Commission amendment. The long-delayed, controversial amendment would expand the powers of the development commission.

The amendment was shelved again Wednesday but all council members expressed concern that the action not be misconstrued.

"We need to stress that we're really very interested in economic development and in a coordinated effort in the county," Councilmember Julie Fulkerson, a member of the RREDC board, said. "We don't want to be interpreted again as not being interested."

After a 40-minute closed session, the council got tough with Pacific Gas and Electric Co. concerning the deal to buy street lights from the company.

"We think PG and E is dragging their feet unnecessarily in coming to terms with the city on the purchase of street lights, so we are giving them an option of either coming to an agreement with the city or we will sue them in court to condemn the street lights," City Attorney Dave Tranberg said after the meeting.

April 20 the council voted to buy the street lights for \$203,425, but the agreement has not been approved by PG and E.

Edith Eckart, director of the Center for Creative Peacemaking in Arcata, presented a proposal to make Arcata a sister city with a city in the Soviet Union.

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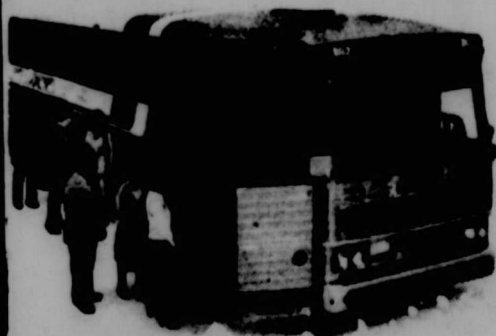
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## RESUMES



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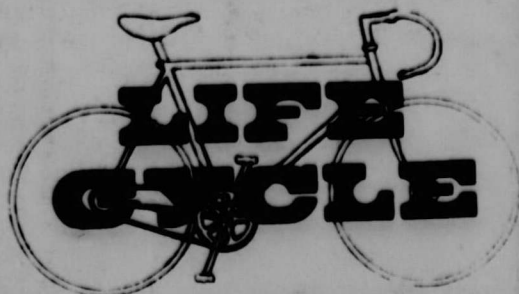
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## 'Honeys' style threatens straights

The "Are You a Humboldt Honey?" poster has generated much the same response from the community that befell alternative movements more than a decade ago.

Violations of the established social rules and customs in our society, especially behavior that angers and upsets the majority, elicits attempts to punish, correct or ostracize the individuals involved in such behavior.

### Editorial

In his book, "Demystifying Social Deviance" (1980), Stuart L. Hills, professor of sociology, St. Lawrence University, explains the absolutist and relativist views of looking at social behavior which deviates from the norm.

"The absolutist perspective is shared by the largest and most influential segments of the public. Fundamental human behavior may be classified as inherently proper or ... self-evidently immoral, evil and abnormal.

"For the absolutist, no ... psychologically well-balanced person would seek to ... participate in a deviant lifestyle."

In contrast, the relativist view, Hills states, is that behavior different from expected norms is not abnormal but is, instead, socially created by collective human judgments.

"Deviance, like beauty, lies largely in the eyes of the beholder and is relative to particular social standards and settings."

For the absolutist — in this case the pack of letter writers to the Times-Standard who have condemned the Humboldt Honey's idealized lifestyle — deviant activity is not an alternative, possibly valuable, way of living.

The absolutist has no time for various

conceptions of social reality and no empathy for groups that find conventional demands for conformity oppressive, unfulfilling and often dehumanizing.

To the absolutist, the possibility that alternative lifestyles might be meaningful is almost inconceivable.

Instead, the refusal to embrace the work ethic or the nuclear family is automatically considered undesirable.

The persons who have decried the traits of the Honey — and the alternative values of sexual expressiveness and spontaneous behavior — may be thinly disguising their own unfulfilled desires and fantasies, their own nagging doubts about the adequacy of their lives.

The hostility that persons with alternative lifestyles tend to arouse suggests that their lives are attractive to middle-class Americans.

Those who believe their views are "holier-than-thou" — who may feel a fascination and revulsion with alternative lifestyles — should not feel threatened by ideas and values they do not understand.

### Letter policy

Letters to the editor are welcomed at The Lumberjack, but should follow these guidelines.

Letters should be typed or handwritten clearly, double-spaced and no more than 350 words. Letters that exceed this limit will be subject to condensation.

They must be signed by the author in ink and include full name, address and telephone number. Those submitted by students must contain class standing and major, and those written by staff members should include their title. Addresses and telephone numbers are confidential.

Letters may be delivered personally to The Lumberjack office (Nelson Hall East 6), mailed or placed in the letters box in front of the library. Letters are published at the editor's discretion.

We also welcome Views from the Stump. Those wishing to write these guest columns should contact the editor at least a week in advance.

## Letters to the editor

### Pregnancy politics

Editor:

I would like to make a comment about Bryan Robles' cartoon found in the May 11 edition of The Lumberjack. Yes, Mr. Robles, you are correct in pointing out that some people support one issue for one reason and another issue for what seems to be an opposite reason. For instance, while many pro-life advocates fight to save an unborn child they in turn support the death penalty. How many pro-lifers are out protesting against the death mutilation occurring in Cambodia, El Salvador and Lebanon?

Pro-life advocates would have you believe that they are sincerely interested in saving an unborn child, but then they oppose many laws which would protect a child should they become a victim of child abuse. It appears that many pro-life advocates struggle for human rights up until the point when an individual is born, and then it becomes a "struggle of the fittest" world.

Accept it or not, abortion is one of the contraceptive technologies which allow women to control the spacing of their children. Having this control provides women with the opportunity to become a vital part of the labor force and economic system. Until people understand the politics of pregnancy in a macroperspective they will continue to cloud the issue with smokescreens like deciding when the fetus is a human.

In closing, I would like to point out that your cartoon illustrated my likeness in every detail except I have curly hair and the name of our organization is Students for Choice.

Glenn Strachan

Graduate student, social science  
Secretary, Students for (Pro)Choice

### A job well done, boys

Editor:

Congratulations on the combination of outstanding photography by Tim Parsons and excellent writing by Bob Lambie in your two-page spread on the May 8 rock concert at Redwood Bowl.

These two journalists captured the positive spirit of the occasion with such precision that their efforts should be brought to the attention of any organizations that make annual awards for excellence in university campus newspapers.

The pictures, including the front-page shot of the jubilant crowd reflected in Grace Slick's mirrored sunglasses, provide a good capsulation of the event, and the accompanying story combines careful research on the Jefferson Airplane/Starship history with insightful commentary that conveys the good vibrations of a most enjoyable and memorable concert. Thanks.

Bob Hunt

Professor, mathematics

### McGinty diatribe unfair

Editor:

Your blistering assault on Joseph McGinty and his campaign was rather unfair and abusive. McGinty's interview was buried on the back page while the other candidates received front-page coverage. What they may have lost in quantitative copy they were compensated for in front-page exposure.

I agree, though, it was unprofessional. How can one rationally label 50 percent greater voter turnout "campuswide apathy?" To lay blame on McGinty for the runoff ignores the basic premise of free elections, namely his right to run for office. The U.S. Constitution is careful to protect unpopular views as well as their counterparts.

McGinty may have made some silly remarks, but to excoriate him in an editorial as leading people to "drown in a sewer" is an outrage.

More letters, next page



# Rexx Ryan

by Bryan Robles



## More letters

Continued from preceding page

McGinty struck like a breath of fresh air and paid the price for his flamboyance. We can only hope these sophomoric diatribes will come to an abrupt halt in this self-proclaimed "strong paper." These apologists for The Lumberjack now have something to truly apologize for.

David K. Strand  
Senior, history

### Ignorance exposed

Editor:

Michael Fennell has a gift for writing fairy tales, but he's not much good at seeing past the fog of his own prejudices. In his letter last week he portrayed John Ross as a mild-mannered reporter during Ross' confrontation with Phillip Luce. Some people saw it differently. Michael Fennell, are you listening?

According to the Times-Standard, Oct. 30, 1982, Ross and his supporters began "heckling" Luce before the speech began; Ross argued with Luce "loudly throughout the speech"; Luce's supporters "continually asked Ross to be quiet and let the speech proceed." The reporter covering the event told me the speech was reduced to a free-for-all between all parties there because of Ross' disruptions. That you attempt to justify Ross' antics as "journalistic prerogative" exposes the flimsiness of your argument. That's not journalism; that's harassment, pure and simple.

Your letter indicates that because you disagree with Luce's opinions, such harassment is acceptable. But if someone gave the same treatment to you for the same reason, would you be so accom-

modating? Ross violated the most important of all American traditions by not allowing an opponent to speak freely, and you try to justify it. You are wasting your time.

Now for Tim Wright. Last week he complained that simply because The Lumberjack overlooked the Luce speech it has been accused of bias. Unfortunately, the evidence of bias is not restricted to a single example. The paper has a long history of promoting its one-sided political views and excluding or distorting those views it doesn't like. My letter, which worked both these gentlemen into a froth, was questioning the moral justification of forcing students to financially support these editorial policies. It is a flagrant denial of our right to choose which political tactics and philosophy we will promote. Perhaps Tim Wright ought to consider that question instead of hopelessly defending The Lumberjack as a fair and unbiased publication.

It was a curious and deceitful claim that The Lumberjack made on April 20, stating that letters are sufficient for expression of opposing views. Their philosophy permeates the entire paper, while a letter is very limited in what it can say. It is also subject to condensation, restructuring, distortions, long delays in printing, and being discarded, all for the convenience of the editors.

Campus newspapers are the only papers that enjoy forced contributions from their readership. To instill legitimacy into their claim of omnipotence, The Lumberjack should be financed entirely by advertising and other voluntary sources. That is the only fair solution.

Steve Miles  
Junior, political science

## The Lumberjack

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The Lumberjack is published Wednesdays during the school year, breaks excepted. Offices are at Nelson Hall East 6, Humboldt State University, Arcata, Calif., 95521. Phone 707-826-3271 (newsroom) or 707-826-3259 (advertising).

Funding for The Lumberjack is provided through advertising, the Associated Students and the HSU journalism department. Mail subscriptions are \$4 for one quarter and \$10 for the year.

Opinions expressed in Lumberjack editorials are those of a majority of the editorial board and are not necessarily those of the staff, the Associated Students or the university. Advertising material published is for informational purposes and is not to be construed as an expressed or implied endorsement or verification of such commercial ventures by the staff, the university or the Associated Students.

# Arcata, HSU mirror changing times

By Timothy Bingham  
Staff writer

Bob Dylan sang 20 years ago "The Times They are a Changin'," and the pendulum is finally swinging back. Arcata and HSU are becoming more mainstream or "straight," as some people say.

When I went to take my English Writing Proficiency Exam, one question was whether I agree with the statement, "The aim of education is not knowledge of facts but rather knowledge of values."

I wondered to myself, what kind of values are being taught at HSU? I started noticing that business majors are up and philosophy majors down. Everyone is taking computer classes as the wave of the future. Students are now going to school to be better prepared for the corporate world and the job market, instead of going to school for knowledge or wisdom in itself.

I've had professors tell me "the '60s are over" and to "get a hair cut" if I'm really serious about a job. And wouldn't you know, there is a barber shop right on campus.

A few years ago students were growing their hair long, and burning down the banks on campus along with their draft cards. Now hundreds of young men sign up without question, short hair

## Reporter's opinion

"is in" as my teacher says, and people play video games.

Fraternities and sororities are returning and the Young Republicans have formed at HSU. Is Humboldt turning elitist or is that about the only kind of people who can afford to go to school anymore?

As for the city of Arcata itself, the atmosphere has turned real stale. In its infinite wisdom the City Council decided to clean up the city and make it more attractive to the tourist. By outlawing drinking on the plaza, the city thought it would get rid of all those freaks who hang out and drink and keep all the respectable folks away.

When I first came to this city the openness and friendly atmosphere pervaded the streets. There used to be jugglers, clowns, tightrope walkers, musicians, poets, street people, townfolk and everybody you can imagine gathering, sharing and, yes, drinking on the plaza. It was an unusual atmosphere, especially compared to an inner city.

I walk around the plaza now and hardly ever see anybody out there. Businesses that complained

that the freaks were driving away business haven't reported any increase in sales. Was the drinking issue a scapegoat for the state of the economy and the collapse of the trickle-down theory? Or is it setting the stage for an all-out drive to make Arcata a fancy tourist town?

The Hotel Arcata is being revamped from a low-rent hotel to a expensive bed-and-breakfast inn. Is that for the low-income people in town or for the tourists the city is trying to attract?

The City Council had laws all along that outlawed drunkenness, vagrancy and nuisance problems. Why weren't these laws properly enforced? There was no need to say nobody in town can sip a brew on the plaza. That punishes law-abiding citizens.

The problem was that certain people who look down on others with long hair and stereotype them all as unemployed welfare dope smokers wanted them out of the way. Their rationale being that they drive away business and keep the respectable citizens from taking their families to the plaza. That was the same rationale racists used in the 1950s against black people.

The Humboldt Honey is nothing but a stereotype on a poster anymore.



# Highways

■ Last of a two-part series.

By Diana Brennecke  
Staff writer

Area officials from supervisors to transportation employees agree major improvements on U.S. Highway 101 and state Highway 299, Humboldt County's main highways, may move up the priority list.

John Vostrez, District 1 director for the California Department of Transportation in Eureka, said a combination of state and federal gasoline tax increases will help the district's road improvement budget increase by 20 percent in the next five years.

Last year, \$198 million was available for the district's 1982-87 five-year transportation improvement program compared to an expected \$235 million for the 1983-88 plan. Humboldt County highway projects will receive \$116 million.

A proposed bypass of Redwood National Park is expected to use \$86 million of the county's total.

District 1 includes Mendocino, Del Norte, Lake, Humboldt and parts of Trinity and Siskiyou counties.

"Money is always a factor. Overall, it will really help CalTrans with improvements," Vostrez said. However, he said maintenance and repairs on the highways would be done even without additional money.

The closure of Northwestern Pacific Railroad service from Willits to Eureka and Greyhound Bus Lines route cuts may mean more money because of increased highway use.

The legality of the railroad closure by Southern Pacific Transportation Corp. is under study by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

"With the railroad closing it will put a different light on things. When our priorities were set, there was no railroad closure," Harry Pritchard, Humboldt County 2nd District supervisor, said. He is also chairperson of the North Coast County Supervisors Association's Transportation Committee.

He said he spent a day discussing North Coast road problems with Mike Evanhoe, executive secretary of the California Transportation Commission.

## Gasoline tax increases to raise funds for road maintenance, more projects

"I think now they are looking at the roads more than in the past. It looks favorable when someone drives from Sacramento and spends time talking about and driving on the roads," Pritchard said.

Arcata Mayor Sam Pennisi, a part-time resource planning and interpretation lecturer at HSU, said he believes highway improvements may be helped by railroad and bus cuts.

"With the railroad closing and the bus routes curtailed, I would think it would make an impact on the Transportation Commission and the legislators — it would seem to give us a better arguing point," Pennisi said.

Vostrez, however, said he believed the railroad pullout would not make a big difference in road priorities.

"They are already a fairly high priority with the California Legislature and the Deukmejian administration anyway," he said.

## Highway problems interrupt, prevent student migrations

When the flood of 1964 hit Humboldt County, then dean of students, Don W. Karshner advised students to return from winter break by airplane and HSU bused students from the airport to their homes in Arcata and Eureka.

Road conditions on U.S. Highway 101 and state Highway 299 have not necessitated such action since. However, both affect some students' ability to travel to and from school.

Stan Mottaz, assistant director of the Academic Information and Referral Center, said last year there were a number of students who called the center because they could not get back to HSU after winter break because of road closures.

"We suggested they contact their instructors. Of course everyone (the instructors) knew about the situation and was reasonable about it," he said.

Instead, he said it only complicates the transportation problem from a reliability and expense standpoint.

In an effort to do something about the problems, Shasta, Trinity and Humboldt counties have agreed to work together for improvements on Highway 299.

Pritchard said representatives from the counties will meet in June to develop a priority list and improvement program. Pritchard and 5th District Supervisor Anna Sparks will represent Humboldt County.

Pritchard cited a bypass of Richardson Grove and work on a slide area four miles north of Leggett as improvements needed on Highway 101.

Humboldt County supervisors work closely with CalTrans in an effort to get highway improvements, he said.

"We invite CalTrans to our meetings to let them know our priorities and what we're doing — we get farther that way."

In addition, the North Coast County Supervisors Association submits a priority list to CalTrans for the five-year improvement program.

The board includes representatives from San Francisco, Del Norte, Marin, Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake, Napa and Humboldt counties.

"We've been following the North Coast supervisors' priority list in our five-year improvement plan for the last year or two," Vostrez said.

The list includes a bypass at Cloverdale, a four-lane section in Mendocino County between the Sonoma County line and Ukiah, a four-lane section north of Ukiah at Calpella and \$4 million for passing lanes on Highway 299 between Arcata and Willow Creek.

Cities and counties on the North Coast will have an opportunity to submit suggestions on CalTrans 1983-88 improvement program to the Transportation Commission at a hearing Thursday in San Francisco. Pritchard will testify on behalf of Humboldt and North Coast supervisors.

The Transportation Commission will make a preliminary decision on the plan in June, and following appeals, a final one in August.

As for improvements, Pennisi would like to see more done.

"There is probably a need for more long-term planning because I know it has an affect on us."

See HIGHWAY, page 15

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# Berkeley professor examines human brain

By Janet Morlan  
Staff writer

"All men by nature want to know."

Aristotle may have said it, but it was reinforced Wednesday as overflow crowds flocked to two lectures on the source of knowledge — the brain.

Marian Diamond, a University of California, Berkeley anatomy professor, tours the country lecturing on brain anatomy, her area of expertise.

She draws her lecture information from research conducted at Berkeley over the past 18 years.

Her visit to HSU was sponsored by the Biology Graduate Students Association, the biology department and CenterArts.

The topics for Wednesday's free lectures were "Environmental Influences on the Brain From Youth to Old Age" and "The Cerebral Cortex: Right-Left, Male-Female."

Diamond's research shows that there is no significant loss of brain cells with advancing age — even after 30 — as is commonly thought.

"Challenge what you hear — these negative myths about the brain," she

said.

Brain research is so complex, she said, that cell samples taken from areas only a millimeter apart can yield opposite results.

The Berkeley research is done on rats, which have a smooth cerebral cortex, the outer mantle of the brain, that can be accurately measured.

The brain's nerve cells do not divide after birth — you have what you were born with, Diamond said. The nerve cells resemble root systems, with branching dendrites which support smaller spines, somewhat like root hairs, she said.

Communication between cells occurs through the dendrites and spines with the aid of chemical communicators called "neurotransmitters."

Earlier research had shown that old rats exhibited dendrite and spine degeneration when placed in impoverished environments with no friends and no toys, Diamond said.

At Berkeley, "tender loving care" allowed experimentation with rats of advanced old age, she said. Rats from 766-904 days old were tested.

"In all cases, the rat's cerebral cortex thickness grew in the enriched en-

vironment," Diamond said.

The increased bulk of the cortex is associated with good mental health and possibly increased intelligence.

For humans, that means they should "Program (themselves) to live to 120," Diamond said.

Stimulating environments can change the structure of the brain at any age, as can isolation, she said.

In her lecture on left and right brain hemispheres, Diamond showed statistical differences between the hemispheres of male and female rats.

She did so with comparisons of cortex thickness between the left and right brain hemispheres.

In males, the right hemisphere dominates, particularly in the visual-spatial area. This difference is evident at birth, she said.

Females show left-hemisphere dominance, especially in the general sensory and language portions.

The reasons for such differences are not known, but behavioral scientists have supporting evidence that boys excel in spatial-visual areas, while girls excel in language acquisi-

tion, she said.

The fact that hormones influence the brain has been known for years, Diamond said. But recent work with enriched and impoverished environments reveals that "we're seeing sex differences in their (rats') response to the environment."

She said research has revealed that "during pregnancy the impoverished brain came up to the level of the enriched brain."

In the research, Diamond used a contraceptive on the market for humans, in equivalent doses on rats.

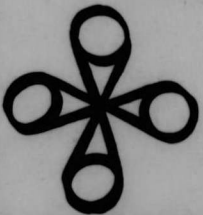
"We found that the contraceptive pill dampened the enrichment effect," she said.

This has implications for "the 50 million women out there" on contraceptive medications, she said. Like most health matters, the use of contraceptives is a risk-benefit choice, she said.

Diamond said the interaction of environmental and internal factors point to the great plasticity of the brain. The brain governs the body and the body governs the brain.

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# Entry into fine arts marketplace difficult

## Small market, stiff competition face artistic, musical students

■ Sixth in a series.

By Brenda Magnuson  
Staff writer

Art and music majors may take longer to break into their fields, but they have usually prepared themselves for the small market and stiff competition.

"There are limited opportunities within the music and art areas where the graduates can apply their skills. It may be two to five years before they can move into an occupation that is in their field," Louis Bombardier, Career Development Center career counselor, said.

The art and music programs at HSU are mostly in the fine arts, he said. With the competition in the small market, Bombardier said, many students develop a second area of concentration.

Many take more vocationally oriented courses to generate an income to allow them to continue their work in either art or music, he said.

"It makes a good deal of sense for the student to know his skills and look for a backup job not necessarily in his major," Bombardier said.

"It is important for the student to know what he can offer to a potential employer.

"The art and music students have lots of responsibility and are very realistic. Many prepare themselves for doing something other than in the field of art and music," he said.

Janet Spinas, music department chairperson, said music students are special. "They love music and take the courses although it is hard to get into the field. Music is something they will have forever, even if only for their own enjoyment."

Art department Chairperson Louis Marak said art students have a similar outlook on their major.

"Art is not really about getting an immediate job. The person who wants to be an artist would rather do something he would enjoy, so the job aspect is not the important aspect," he said.

But for those students who do want a job within their major, both the art and music departments are organizing programs to help students find jobs

within their fields after graduation, he said.

The art department is developing a class to help students learn about selling their work. The music department is trying to help students realize the types of skills they have and the kinds of jobs available, other than as a performing artist.

One area of concentration that might make a student more employable is graphic design, Marak said. Graphic design is communication with visuals, such as posters and advertising campaigns.

Marak said the art department encourages fine arts students to get a background in graphic design.

"In the commercial aspects of art, like graphic design, the job outlook is very good," he said. "It is a very sought-after profession."

A larger market for art and music students is in education.

"Ninety percent of the most serious (art) students look to graduate school for a teaching credential, then teach at a college level," Marak said.

"Humboldt has been fortunate in being able to place almost all of its (music) credential graduates," Spinas said.

She said many that do not go for their teaching credential go to graduate school. There were about 11 music graduates last year.

Bombardier said art majors with teaching credentials do not do quite as well as music majors with credentials. About half get placed, he said, while 75 percent of the music teaching credential students get positions.

A Career Development Center survey of the 45 1981-82 art graduates shows that of the 11 who responded five are working with art directly or are in associated fields, such as gallery owners.

Spinas said HSU music students have also become successful.

"Jay Byker, who graduated about 10 years ago, is making it in the rock business in Los Angeles and Megan Roberts, who graduated within the last 10 years, is doing well as a composer."

Spinas said she recommends that music students keep working at entering the field.



## Theater grads face tough act; extra experience good advice

By Mark Silva  
Staff writer

Theater arts graduates will have to have patience and total commitment to find jobs in their field this year, since most jobs are few and far between.

Beginning actors generally start in bit parts where they have only a few lines. If successful, they may progress to larger, supporting roles.

"Aspiring theater arts graduates who wish to stay in Humboldt County following graduation should take part in local plays whenever possible," Mikel Nalley, a 1978 HSU theater arts graduate and now a professional actor in Seattle, said.

"To enter this field without formal training in acting is like writing your own death wish. Most aspiring actors, including myself, have spent many years after graduating from HSU in intensive training and practicing before we really, if ever, get a good-paying professional job."

The large number of people who

want acting careers, along with the relatively small number of job openings, has resulted in keen competition, Nancy Lamp, theater arts department chairperson, said.

"Being a theater arts major, in particular an actor, is great glamour and fascination," she said.

"As we all know, only a few actors and actresses achieve recognition as stars on the stage. Most of our graduates have worked hard to find good-paying jobs."

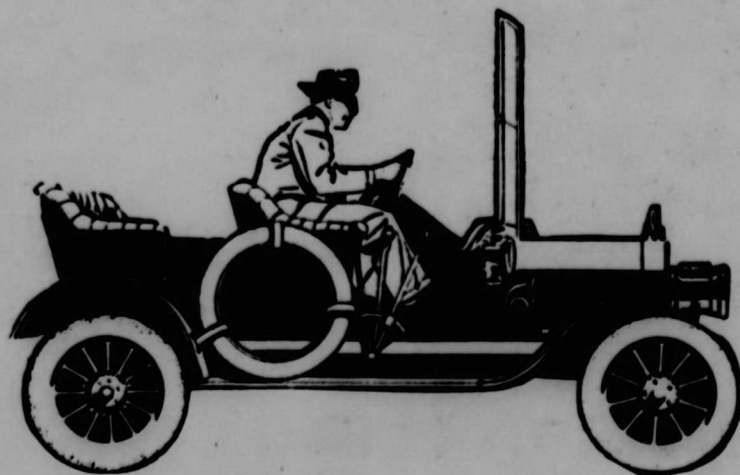
Two HSU graduates who have hit the big time are Chris Jones, on the soap opera "Edge of Night," and Lauri Walters, who played one of the daughters on the television show "Eight is Enough."

Most performers are not able to find enough work in their field to be employed full time, all year, Nalley said.

"Many of us have to supplement our incomes by working in fields not related to acting," he said.

See COMPETITION, next page

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# Railroad offers money, but no train service

By Meigan Murphy  
Staff writer

Industry and other users of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad will not accept a proposal offered by its parent company Southern Pacific Transportation Corp. and will continue to insist that the Eureka to Willits line be reopened.

The proposal offers a rebate of \$200-\$500 per railroad carload to users of the NWP line who would truck lumber to Willits.

## Competition

Continued from preceding page

"Only the most successful will ever make money. You go into the theater because you love the work, not the money to be paid."

Not all theater arts graduates elect to go into acting. Some other areas include drama coaching and television or stage directing. Others may go into teaching a particular aspect of drama, such as stage movement, speech or voice.

The message was delivered to the Interstate Commerce Commission Monday by Congressman Doug Bosco, D-Occidental, who also asked the ICC to take prompt action to make Southern Pacific lift the curtailment of service on the line, Mitch Stogner, a Bosco aide, said in a telephone interview from San Francisco.

The ICC is waiting for a response from Southern Pacific, expected sometime this week, before it takes any action, Bernard Gaillard,

There are still other fields that graduates can seek employment in. They include dancing and singing. But again, competition is very keen in these areas, because of the small number of openings each year.

"And remember," Nalley said, "any actor should be prepared to face the anxiety of intermittent employment and rejections when auditioning for work."

"It's definitely a tough field to break into."

associate director for the office of compliance for the ICC in Washington D.C., said in a telephone interview.

Bosco was asked by the ICC to talk with users of the railroad line to find if they would accept a proposal by Southern Pacific in lieu of starting up railroad service, Stogner said.

The consensus from those affected by the withdrawal of rail service, as reported by Bosco, is that the reimbursement is not enough compensation, Stogner said. So Bosco will recommend to the ICC that the curtailment be lifted.

"The concern is that if Southern Pacific's proposal is accepted, it will be taken as an admission that (area industries) are giving up on the idea of a railroad," Stogner said.

But opposition to the railroad's abandonment is still strong, Humboldt County 4th District Supervisor Danny Walsh said. Walsh is a leader of the coalition opposed to the abandonment.

The coalition formed after Southern Pacific discontinued rail service April 13 and took steps to aban-

don the NWP line that has serviced local timber industries since 1914. The coalition is gathering information it hopes can be used in court, if needed, to prove the curtailment is illegal and to fight the abandonment proceedings, Walsh said.

If Southern Pacific is forced to reopen the line from Willits to Eureka, a surcharge of as much as \$1,000 per carload shipped can be charged in addition to the regular shipping rate, Arthur Bacon, regional director for the ICC in San Francisco, said.

Southern Pacific maintains its curtailment is legal and has no plans to continue its rail service while abandonment proceedings continue, Ortiz said.

Slides occurring almost three weeks after the curtailment was imposed substantiate the legality of the embargo, Bacon said.

The slides, one at Scotia Bluffs and another seven miles south of Scotia, have both been cleared, Ortiz said. But service will not resume because Southern Pacific maintains the railroad line is still unsafe for service.

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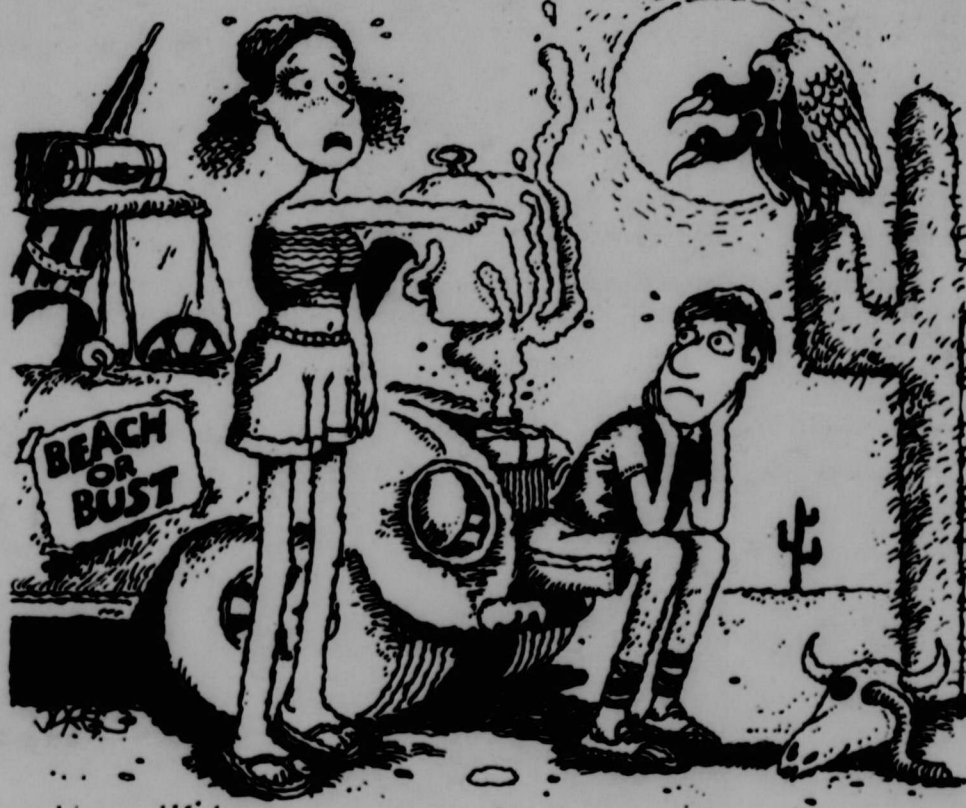
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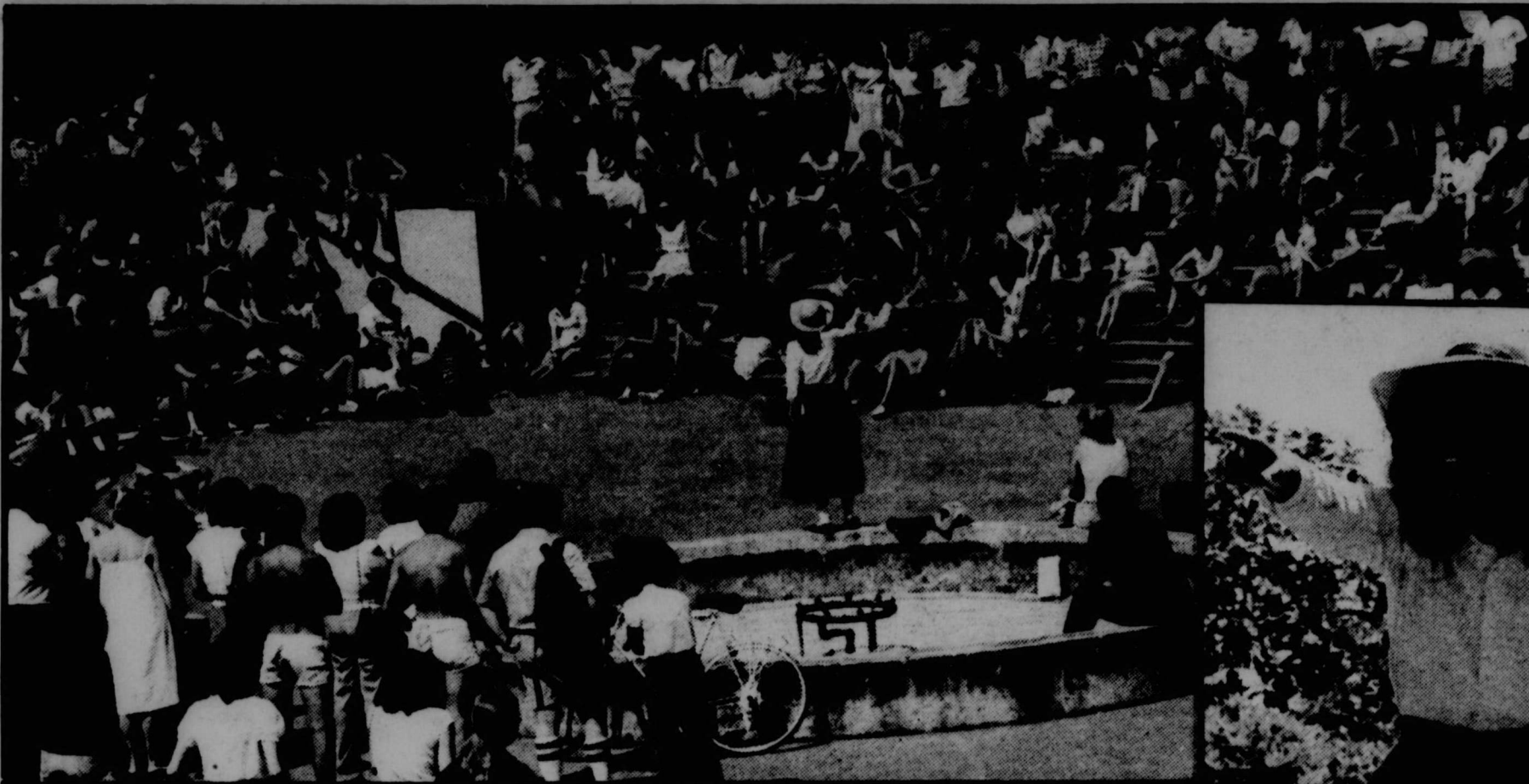
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— Robin Lutchansky

— Charlie Motivier

## Hellfire

About 2,000 HSU students listened to traveling evangelist Cindy Lasseter, 25, in front of the John Van Duzer Theater Thursday while she called them "fornicators, queers and lesies." Lasseter's marathon five-hour sermon was filled with emotions and complaints from the audience. When asked why her sermon was so radical, she replied, "I'm just working them up."

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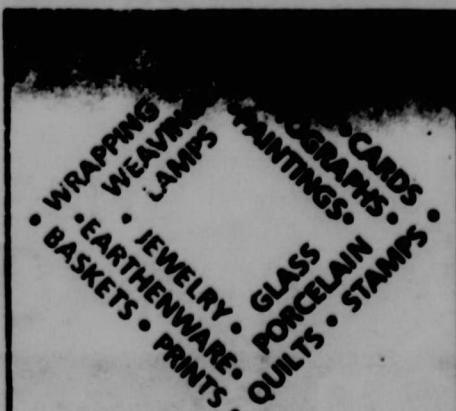
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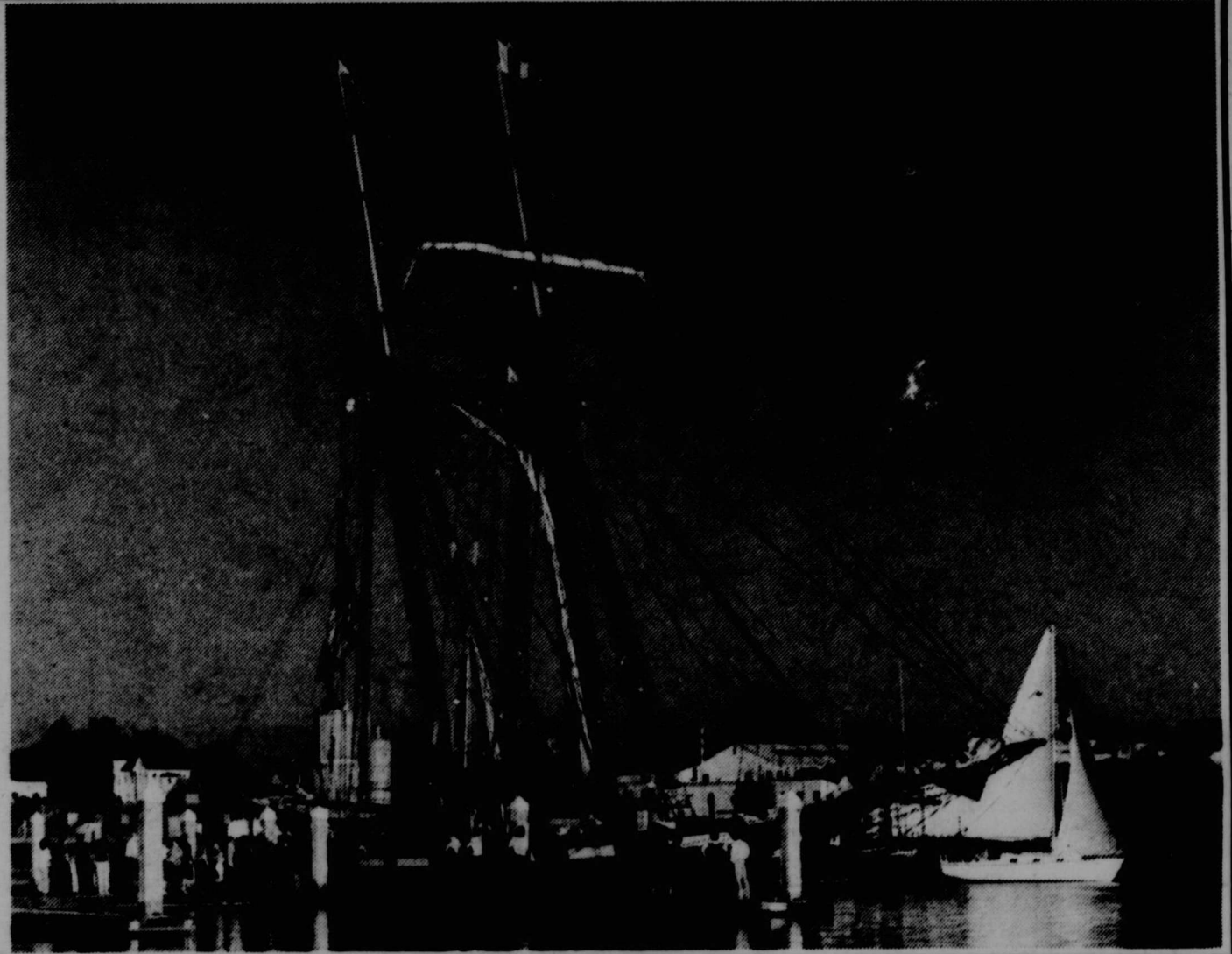
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## Baltimore's pride

The Pride of Baltimore was on display at Woodley Island Marina Friday and Saturday. The topsail schooner was due to arrive Tuesday, but was delayed by headwinds. Built in 1976, the ship is almost identical to the first ship to come into Humboldt Bay and establish a permanent settlement in 1850.

—Charlie Metivier



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"Jazz is a way to play music," Gil Cline, HSU music professor, said. Most symphonic musicians, those who specialize in playing in large orchestras, play a piece of music differently than a jazz musician would play the same music notation, Cline, director of HSU's two jazz bands, said. An orchestral player's task is to recreate what a composer has written. On the other hand, the task of a jazz musician is to use written music as an outline, he said.

Jazz players use music as an outline because they interpret the notation and improvise as they play, he said.

Val Phillips, an HSU music professor who teaches jazz improvisation, said improvisation affords musicians artistic freedom.

That freedom is experienced most by musicians playing in small groups (combos).

"When you are playing in a combo there is nowhere to hide," Phillips said, referring to the exposure combo musicians have because their part is not being doubled by anybody else.

"Performing in a small group allows musicians a great chance for personal expression. It is the most valuable experience a player can have," he said.

Phillips said music students studying jazz can learn more as a member of a combo than they can as a player in a larger group.

Cline said musicians in large jazz bands must reserve their personal expression and listen to the lead player of their section for stylistic interpretation of the music notation.

In turn, the lead players of the band must listen to each other and follow the interpretive direction of the band leader, he said.

Ensembles, large and small, play music that contain elements of popular music of the past, from the United States and abroad, Cline said.

In the United States, during the 1920s, popular music included ragtime and dixieland. In the '30s and '40s, the big bands rolled into popularity with swing music, he said.

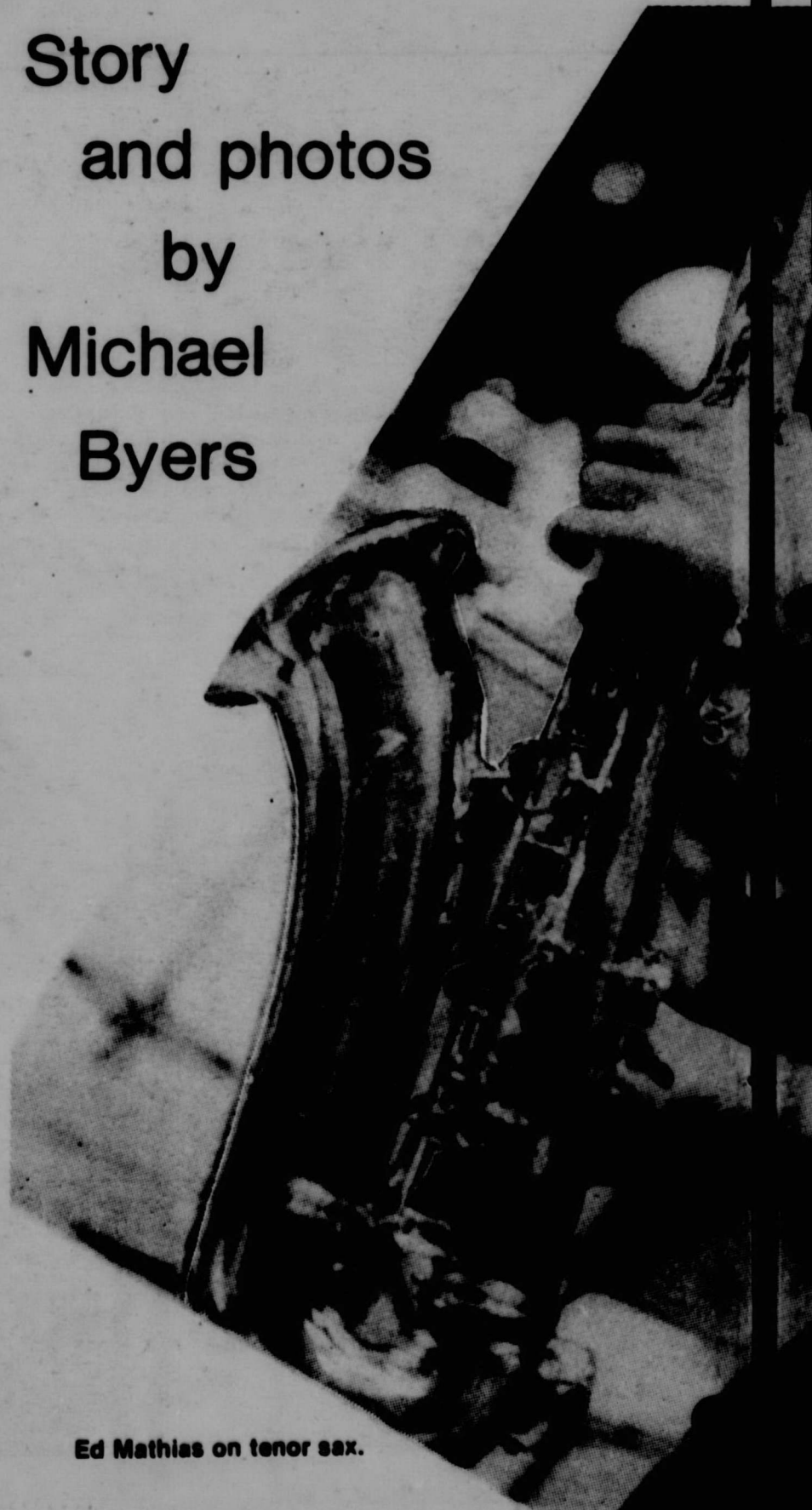
From abroad come many of the rhythmic elements of jazz, he said. African, Spanish, Middle Eastern and European rhythmic patterns can be heard in jazz music, he said.

Bill Curran reads a new piece of music on the

## Story and photos by Michael Byers



Karen Beal, left, Rebekah Justus and Susan Paul are members of the HSU Jazz Choir.



Ed Mathias on tenor sax.

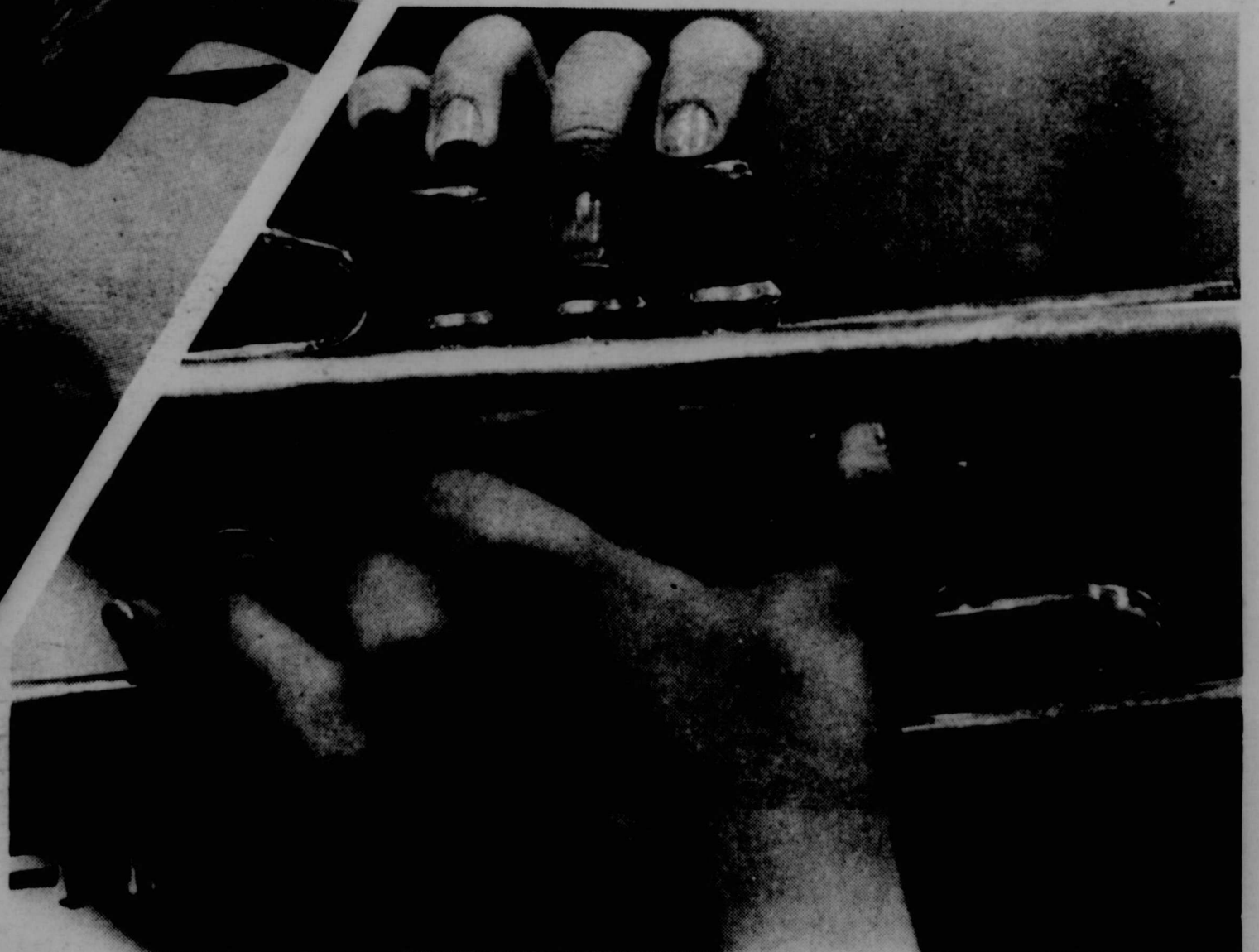




side in the A.M. Jazz Band.



Gil Cline instructs drummer on proper technique.





# Racers go for glory during 3-day event

By Lori Thoemmes  
Staff writer

The struggle for glory will still push kinetic racers toward the finish line, but there will be some changes in the World Champion Coors Great Arcata to Ferndale Cross Country Kinetic Sculpture Race this month.

The race, in its 10th year, attracts racers who build manually propelled sculptures to withstand three days of travel across highways, sand, mud and water.

Racers have come from as far away as Louisiana to participate in the race that was featured on the television program "That's Incredible."

Susan R. Williams, race coordinator, said the most significant change in this year's running of the cross country sculpture race is the date. It has been changed to Saturday, Sunday and Monday, Memorial Day weekend, from the traditional Easter weekend date.

"Due to life-threatening weather last year we decided to add two months to the starting time," Williams said.

She said the change should give racers a much drier and more enjoyable weekend.

Several other changes have been made in this year's race:

- The finish line of the race has been moved to

the pony track at the Humboldt County Fairgrounds in Ferndale. Williams said the site provides spectator seating, bathroom facilities, sound equipment and improved parking. In addition, "It gives the pilots one turn around the track — for the glory."

■ A fee to view the finish will be charged. Adults, \$1, 10-18, 50 cents, 10 and under, free and families, \$2.50.

■ Several new awards, including the Second to Last Trophy, the Mediocre Award and the Golden Dragon of Incompetence — given to the first sculpture to break down after passing the Arcata post office — will be handed out.

■ KATA/KFMI Broadcasting is a new sponsor, along with Adolph Coors Co., the main sponsor for the second year. Coors gives the race about \$12,000 in return for the exposure and advertising, Jim Hayes, sales manager for the Eureka Coors Distributing Co., said.

The race starts Saturday on the Arcata Plaza at the noon whistle. From there the course winds through the Arcata bottoms, along the beach, across the Samoa Bridge to the Eureka Inn.

The first 10 teams to get sculptures to the Eureka Inn receive a free room for the night. The racers leave at 9 on the second morning and enter chilly Humboldt Bay about 11.

At the end of the second day of competition racers spend the night at Crab Park in Loleta. At

noon the next day, the race begins with participants and sculptures fording the Eel River at Cock Robin Island near the Ferndale bottoms. From there it's a sprint to the finish line at the fairgrounds, where a 4-foot trophy awaits the champion.

Ferndale artist Hobart R. Brown, who refers to himself as the glorious founder of the race, said the event had a humble beginning — it began when he built a tricycle for his son.

Neighborhood competition expanded and in 1969 the first race — one block long — was held, he said.

"Now the cross country sculpture race is 38 miles long, with about 90 participants."

"Criteria for a sculpture include the environment. It must survive sand, mud, highways, bay water and river water. The kinetic sculpture is a work of art with its beauty in movement," Brown said.

The HSU Industrial Arts Club hopes flotation changes made on last year's sculpture will help it finish in one of the top four slots, HSU industrial arts Professor Don Miller said.

The kinetic craziness began May 8 with the Mother's Day Parade on the Arcata Plaza.

The last meeting for race participants and others will be at the Ramada Inn at 7 p.m. Thursday.



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# Highway

Continued from page 6

He said some students have withdrawn from HSU because of transportation problems on the highways. The center conducts exit interviews with students withdrawing from HSU.

Jay Francis, senior forestry major, said he has blown three tires traveling on Highway 299 in the two years he has been at HSU.

"The last time it happened, I had slowed down because I saw another guy changing his tire ahead of me," Francis said. "It cost \$62 to get towed to Willow Creek."

He attributed most of the problems to rocks ranging from small- to volleyball-size boulders on the road from slides.

"I think they should have put bridges in and

gone to the other side of the river or used the Forest Service road (South Fork Mountain) that goes over the mountain — then we wouldn't have the slide problems.

"It probably would have cost more, but when we went home this winter there were four or five workers standing there watching the slide. It seems it would cost a lot to do that," Francis said.

But he said waiting for roads to open has never affected his ability to return to classes on time.

Junior english major Julie Stull said she has encountered problems getting back to school from the San Francisco Bay area.

"Last winter when 101 was flooded, we had to go over to (Interstate) 5 and across 299 which was really a hassle.

"A couple weeks ago both going to and coming

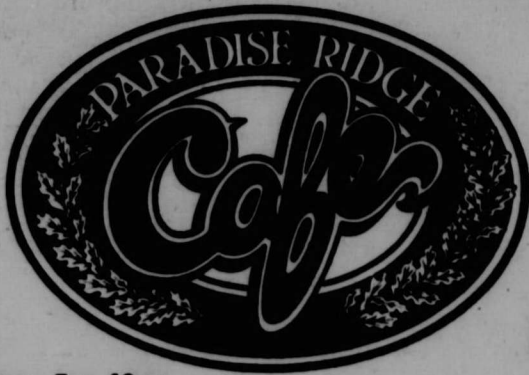
back from Redding we had to take a detour for about 20 miles. It seems like something should be done about slides — I don't understand why they don't plant something along the road," Stull said.

Stull said she has had to postpone plans to come back to school but has never had to miss classes.

Associated Students' General Manager Paul Bruno said he has heard of student transportation problems through the A.S. Ride Board. The board offers students a chance to share rides with others going the same direction.

"We just hear about it, mostly at Christmas. Students have tried desperately to get home and flights are all booked up. Some have had to go up through Ashland (Ore.) and down (Interstate) 5 — which is about six to eight hours out of the way," Bruno said.

— Diana Brennecke



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## 'Pippin' opens; get along Kid Charlemagne

By Jim Hammer  
Staff writer



Lawrence R. Weber as leading player in 'Pippin.'

In the HSU theater arts production of 'Pippin,' the number of good points easily equal the bad, but that is hardly a recommendation. This musical comedy follows the misadventures of Pippin, the son and heir of King Charlemagne, as he searches for fulfillment.

Pippin finds education disappointing and turns to the Crusades, but finds rape and murder in the name of God appalling.

The naive young man then tries sex, but finds himself literally carried away and then is later ridden with guilt.

See PIPPIN, page 19

— Smita Patel

## Musical stew

*Eclectic duo blends talents to stir pot*

By Scott Rappaport  
Staff writer

A variety of musical styles will emanate from the stage at Mojos Friday night as the Arcata club celebrates its premiere concert under new management.

Teresa Trull, a gospel-based rhythm and blues singer, and Barbara Higbie, a jazz and bluegrass-oriented pianist, fiddler and vocalist, will join talents to present an evening of rhythm and blues, jazz, fiddle, pop and gospel tunes.

Trull, who began her career in North Carolina singing gospel in church, has recorded two albums on Olivia Records and has performed and/or recorded with artists such as Joan Baez, Holly Near and Meg Christian.

Higbie composed most of the material and played piano on the duo album "Tideline" that was released on Windham Hill Records in 1982 and recorded with her husband, Darrol Anger, of the David Grisman Quartet. She is also a member of Saheeb, a San Francisco Bay area group that plays an eclectic blend of traditional jazz, bebop and bluegrass, and includes Anger and Mike Marshall from the Grisman Quartet.

In a telephone interview from Oakland, Trull described how she ended up in a duo with Higbie. "I knew of her and thought she just played bluegrass. She knew of me and thought I just played blues and soul. Anyway, we both ended up playing the same bill at a Reno rodeo and we met in the livestock pavilion. We hit it off immediately — personality-wise."

In August they made their first attempt at playing music together, and Higbie described her reaction. "She needed a piano player for a short gig and we



Barbara Higbie, left, and Teresa Trull

tried it, and it was incredible," Higbie said in a telephone interview from Oakland.

The feeling was mutual on Trull's part, and the duo began playing regularly. They embarked on a five-week tour of Alaska, the East Coast and the Midwest in February and encountered good reviews

and great audience response throughout the country, Higbie said.

After Friday's concert, Trull and Higbie will go into the studio to produce an album for Olivia Records. Trull said all the tunes planned for the album were designed for use by a duo in concert.

"I've played in a lot of bands and have usually played in a duo out of economics — because I couldn't afford to hire a band," Trull said.

"But Barbara and I have a duo that's a medium. There's real mutual support and we just really enjoy what we do."

Higbie, who has performed in this area before, said she is looking forward to her return to Humboldt County.

"I think it's great (Humboldt County). I'd live there if I thought I could make a living."

She paused for a moment and reflected on her musical collaboration with Trull.

"It's really great how our different styles combine, and they enhance each other. We have a great time on stage, get into some comedy and it's a really entertaining show."

Mark-Jeffrey Rosen, the new Mojos manager, said Friday's concert will be the "kickoff of a whole new image for Mojos" and announced that complimentary appetizers will be served to mark the opening celebration. He said the club, at 836 10th St. in Arcata, has a new sound system and described his plans for the club's future.

"It's been a rock 'n' roll club for as long as it's been there," Rosen said. "We will continue to have rock 'n' roll — the top bands in the area — but we'll also put in reggae, new acoustic music, jazz and classical."

"My personal goal is to turn it into an old-time cabaret where something is going on every night," he said.



# Beat News

by  
John Surge

HSU student Steve Samson likes to play bass. In fact he likes it so much he plays in two bands that will perform three times this weekend.

Samson plays bass for Desperate Men and Agent 86. The former a popular cover band and the latter a band that writes most of its own songs.

"I get satisfaction out of playing in both bands," he said. "I like playing all the art forms."

He said there are conflicts with shows occasionally but never any problems. The only problem he has is keeping up with his anthropology studies. "I barely find enough time to go to school."

Desperate Men will play Friday at the Arcata Veterans Hall from 8 p.m. to midnight and Agent 86 will play Saturday at the Me Festival and open for Black Flag Sunday at Mojoes.

■ Night Ranger, a San Francisco Bay area-based band that will play in Eureka Wednesday, has given a new twist to the inflated guitar ego that accompanies most heavy metal.

Guitarists Brad Gillis (late of the Ozzy Osbourne band) and Jeff Watson both play lead and it's a refreshing change to hear guitar lines harmonized.

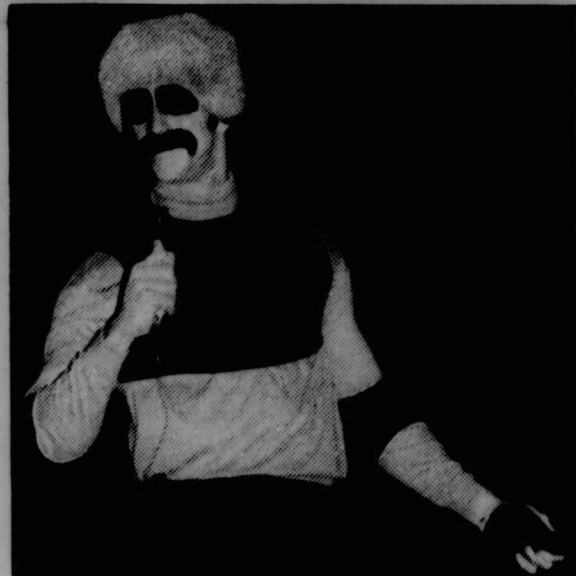
Night Ranger is best known for its single "Don't Tell Me You Love Me," from the album "Dawn Patrol."

The album shows that Night Ranger is mostly into selling records. Its production drips with sugar and the music borrows from the Sammy Hagar/Loverboy school of rock heroism.

Throw in a few inane lyrics about rock 'n' roll, tight pants and scoring with girls and you have Night Ranger.

■ Forget the US Festival. Arcata has the Me Festival.

Five local bands, The Upstanding Members, The Sea Hags, Agent 86, The Psyclones and The Dickblisters, along with Voice of America from San Francisco, will put on a marathon of music beginning at 5 p.m. on Saturday. Admission is \$2.50 and \$2 before 7 p.m.



— Robin Lutcnansky

Doug 'Mr. Roboto' Svendsen, a local mill worker, won \$1000 Friday night at the Second Annual Lip Sync Contest. The show attracted more than 1,900 people to the Eureka Municipal Auditorium.

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# Theater arts seniors offer original performance pieces

By Thomas Johnson  
Staff writer

Eight theater arts students and one professor have been very busy the last two quarters, and Saturday through Tuesday their efforts will be revealed in HSU's Studio Theater.

The eight students wrote and directed their own plays in a system modeled after a program at the University of Exeter in England, John Heckel, associate professor of theater arts, said. They also act in each others' plays and handle all technical aspects. Heckel is faculty adviser to the project and will appear in three pieces in the Theater Arts Building studio.

"This is an undergraduate version of a graduate thesis. It's a requirement for some of the people," Heckel said.

"This year it's an option, but it will be a graduation requirement for all theater students next year," he said.

The eight plays will be shown in sets of four on alternating nights. Shows start at 8 and admission is 50 cents. Saturday features the perspectives of Maragret Sloan, Katherine Kenny, Micki Goldthorpe and Theresa Love. Sunday's program will show the works of Sam Martinez, David Atherton, Meg Pokrass and Amy Vreeland.

Heckel said the department wanted to design a "culminating, creative project that turned over all the resources to create an original piece of theater."

"The pieces speak to the hearts of the individual personalities. They get to say whatever they want for a half hour. It gets very personal," he said.

Micki Goldthorpe's play, for example, is called, "Conversations of My Mothers."

"It's fictitious, but a lot is taken from my family," Goldthorpe said. "I wrote it for my mother, she put me through college, so I wanted to write it for her."

She described her piece as "corny and lurid at the

same." The play, which traces a female lineage through five generations, is about choices, Goldthorpe said.

The senior projects call for students in the company to draw on a variety of theater experiences.

"I don't think we knew what we were in for," Kenny, said.

Martinez, whose piece is titled "Laundry," said, "I found it difficult to write something, then direct it, and design it — you have to do a lot of different jobs."

"It's hard. You can't concentrate on any one aspect. I'm thankful for the help though," he said.

"What we've been trying to do, in terms of focusing eight different energies, is to make them work as a unit, to the same goal. You don't get the opportunity (to do so) as intensely as we do here," Atherton said.

"If you don't risk anything, you can't gain anything. We're creating an environment where we can risk," Vreeland, said.

The results run the spectrum of theater possibilities, from conventional to the avant-garde.

Kenny said her play, "A Study," is different from the ordinary.

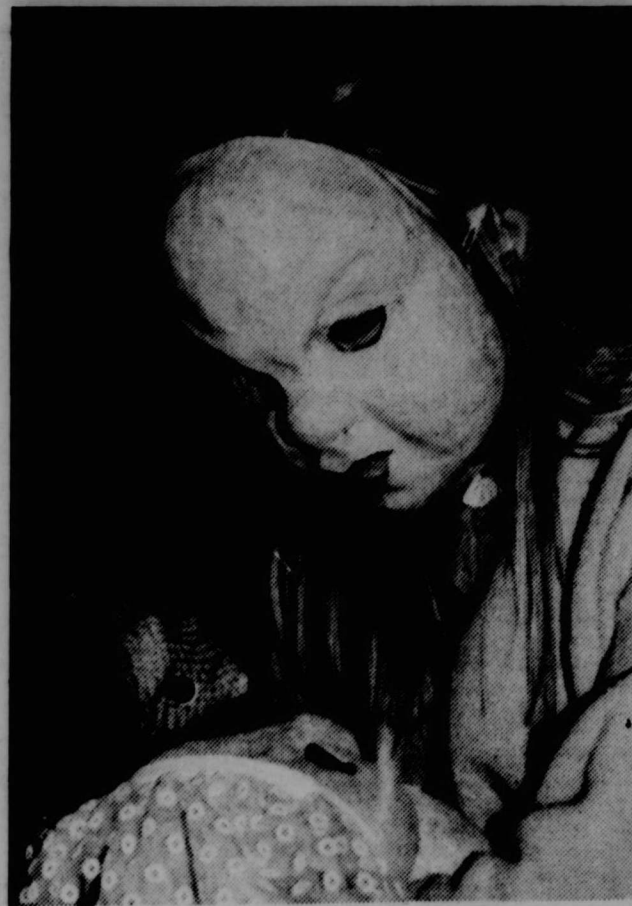
"It's about sensory awareness. It's noise in a way, it's all sound — not random noise," she said.

"The scene is a person's mind, like the way the creative power works; in everyday life we're constantly bombarded (with sound) but something will stick, the thought is filtered down," Kenny said.

Two of the pieces deal with theater conditions and the audience.

"I'd be acting, waiting in the wings, wishing the audience could see it from my perspective; that's as much of a show as the show they're watching," Atherton, who calls his play "Backwards," said.

"I don't want it to be a play, I want the audience to see Sam Martinez, or Theresa Love, the actor, preparing for the role," he said.



— Robin Lutchansky

Micki Goldthorpe plays Bebe in 'Masks.'

Vreeland's "Theater Goers" includes the entire company, and features stereotypical characters: the talker, confused person, critic, eater, lost person, playwright and the sick person.

"It's a parody of avant-garde theater, especially what happens to an audience," she said.

Sloan took another approach.

"I got everything on masks and read it. Most masks came out of religious ceremonies," she said. Many ancient cultures thought of masks as spirit ancestors or gods, she said.

"What I'm aiming for is the ancestry in handing down the masks. We treat the masks like people. You inhabit the masks, you become possessed by the masks. It frees you because your face is hidden. That's why Halloween is so popular," Sloan said.



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# Humboldt Calendar

## NIGHTLIFE

**YOUNGBERG'S:** Take Two, Fri., Sat., 9 p.m., no cover.  
**BERGIE'S:** Robert Clay Band, rhythm & blues, Weds., 10 p.m., \$4.50; Obo Addy, African Rhythm Jazz, Fri., Sat., \$3.50.  
**SILVER LINING:** Ken Trujillo and Jeff Lamagra, guitar, Fri., Sat., 8:30 p.m., no cover.  
**AL CAPONE'S:** Mark & Sandy, Fri., Sat., 6 p.m., no cover.  
**RAMADA INN:** Merv George, Fri., Sat., 9 p.m., \$2.  
**OLD TOWN BAR & GRILL:** Comedy Night, Weds., 7:30 p.m.; Dream Ticket plus Fox, rock & roll, Thurs., Fri., 9:30 p.m., \$2.50.  
**MOJO'S:** Black Flag with Agent 86 & Dickblasters, Sun., 8 p.m., \$5.  
**THE WATERFRONT:** Monk Whiting, Weds.; Mimi LePlant, jazz and blues, Thurs.; Raul Ochoa, guitar, Fri.; all at 6 p.m., no cover.  
**THE SURF ROOM, HARBOR LANES:** Jerry Thompson, guitar and organ, Weds. through Sat., 9 p.m., no cover; Closed Fri. through Tues.  
**EUREKA INN LOUNGE:** Jan Grayling, piano, Weds. through Sun., 7 p.m., no cover.  
**RED LION INN:** Eddie & Nancy, Top 40s, Weds. through Tues., 9 p.m., no cover.  
**THE RITZ:** Something Else, jazz, Weds., 9 p.m., no cover; Forethought, jazz, Sat., 9 p.m., no cover.

**JAMBALAYA:** Thurs., Fiddle Hill Band, open bluegrass jam, 8 p.m., \$1; Fri., Cajun House Party with the Uniontown Ramblers, 8:30 p.m., \$2.50; Sat., Swingshift, 9 p.m., \$2.50; Sun., LCD, rock music jam, 9 p.m., \$1; Mon., Monday Night Jazz, 9 p.m., free; Tues., Toyon Poetry Reading, 9 p.m., \$1.

## MOVIES

**"ANIMAL CRACKERS":** Cinematheque, Fri., 7:30 p.m., Founders Hall Aud., \$1.50.  
**"TREASURE ISLAND":** Sat., 7:30 p.m., Founders Hall Aud., \$1.50.  
**"THE BEST YEARS OF OUR LIVES":** Cinematheque, Sun., 7:30 p.m., Founders Hall Aud., \$1.50.  
**"DARK STAR" with "SILENT RUNNING":** Second Screen, Fri., Sat., Kate Buchanan Room, 8:30 p.m., \$2.  
**"TOOTSIE" with "S.O.B.":** Arcata Theater, Weds. through Tues., 7:45 p.m., \$2.50.  
**"SAINT JACK" with "COUP DE TORCHON":** Minor Theater, Weds., Thurs., 7 p.m., \$1.99.  
**"THE GODFATHER," "GODFATHER II":** Minor Theater, Fri., Sat., 7 p.m., \$1.99.  
**"THE GRADUATE," "THE PAPER CHASE":** Minor Theater, Sun., Mon., 7 p.m., \$1.99.  
**JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL:** "A Time to Remember," "Denmark '43," Goodwin Forum, Tues., 8 p.m., free.  
**OUTDOOR ADVENTURES FILM SERIES:** "The Greatest Show on Water," Kate Buchanan Room, 8 p.m., free.

## MUSIC

**COFFEEHOUSE CONCERT:** Fiddle Hill, bluegrass, Rathskeller, 8 p.m., no cover.  
**CONCERT:** Madrigal Singers, Vocal Jazz Ensemble & Chamber Singers, Fri. through Sun., Fulkerson Recital Hall, 8:15 p.m., free.  
**BLACK FLAG plus AGENT 86 and DICKBLASTERS:** Sunday at 8 p.m., Mojo's, \$5.  
**THE ME FESTIVAL:** Upstanding Members, Agent 86, Sea Hags, Psyclones, Dickblasters, Voice of America, Arcata Veterans Hall, Sat., 5 p.m. till midnight.

## EXHIBITS

**SCANNING ELECTRON MICROSCOPE PHOTOGRAPHS:** By HSU students, library, through May 30.  
**PAINTINGS:** By Richard Marks, library, through May 30.  
**ETHIOPIAN ARTIFACTS:** Shown by Barbara and Bruce VanMeter, library, through June 27.  
**MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPES:** By Jim McVicker, library, through June 30.  
**"BEYOND PERIPHERY":** Quilted cyanotype by Elisabeth Bennett, library, through June 30.  
**MURALS:** "Chanting of the Bees," "Soaring After Velma," by David Walker, library, through June 30.

**PAINTING:** "First Song," by George VanHook, library, through June 30.  
**HONORS EXHIBITION:** Foyer Gallery, through June 11.  
**PAINTINGS:** By Noel Heaton, through June 2, Music Building Lobby; opening reception, Thurs. 6 p.m.

## THEATER

**"JUDY'S FLOATING HEAD":** comedy, Tues. Wed., 8 p.m., Danceter, 1251 9th st. info 368-5156.  
**"PIPPIN":** Musical comedy, Fri. Sat. Van Duzer Theater, 8 p.m., \$3.50 general \$2.50 students.  
**STUDENT PRODUCTIONS:** HSU Theater Arts students senior projects, Sat. through Tues. Studio Theater, 8 p.m., \$50.  
**"DEATHTRAP":** Ferndale Repertory Theater, 8:15 p.m., \$6 reserved tickets.

## VARIETY

**TOYON CONTRIBUTORS' READING:** Tues. Jambalaya, 9 p.m., \$1.  
**9th ANNUAL SPRING TEXTILE EXHIBIT:** by HSU handweavers, apparel and textile design students, opening reception Wed., 5-8 p.m., exhibit and open house continues Thurs. noon till 8 p.m. and Fri. noon till 6 p.m.

## Pippin

Continued from page 16

He later tries to rid the kingdom of his father, a tyrannical ruler, but in all cases his desire to be an extraordinary person is doomed.

The basic flaw in "Pippin" lies in the script. Roger O. Hirson advises the members of the audience to be satisfied with their existence instead of searching for an unattainable dream.

The dialogue he uses to achieve this is too plain, but here the adage applies: "If you want to deliver a message, send a telegram."

Music and lyrics are by Steven Schwartz, composer of "Godspell," which this production resembles a little

too closely in style and design.

Direction by HSU master's student Jane Hill seemed to be a hodgepodge of confusion, with only occasional brilliance.

During serious solos there are slightly humorous actions in the background which only serve to upstage the soloists.

Much of this action takes place on a dimly lit stage, which makes the audience wonder if they are supposed to give it their attention.

The lighting and sets both seemed below average for this show, which is a tragedy when you realize how much work went into it.

This, however, seems to be a result

of the original conception. "Pippin" is presented as a traveling road-company production operating from a small stage centered on the Van Duzer Theater's massive stage.

Although this is a nice idea, the huge stage wings tend to dominate the view and rob the audience of a clear conception of the set.

While "Pippin" has its obvious weak points, it also has its strong ones. Lawrence R. Weber is the leading player, a role somewhat like a narrator or omniscient observer, but which includes a definite personality. Weber has the best male voice and delivers an excellent characterization.

Alexandra E. Lloyd and Michael

Vanderhoofven provide a lot of laughs in their roles as the overbearing queen and her wimpy son.

Steven J. Golin, as Pippin, turns in an adequate but not overwhelming performance. Golin at times suffers from a script that mirrors Pippin's lack of purpose.

Both the instrumentals and vocals shine throughout the play, while the dancing excels in spots.

"Pippin" is scheduled for Friday and Saturday at 8 in the Van Duzer Theater. Tickets are \$3.50 for general admission and \$2.50 for students.

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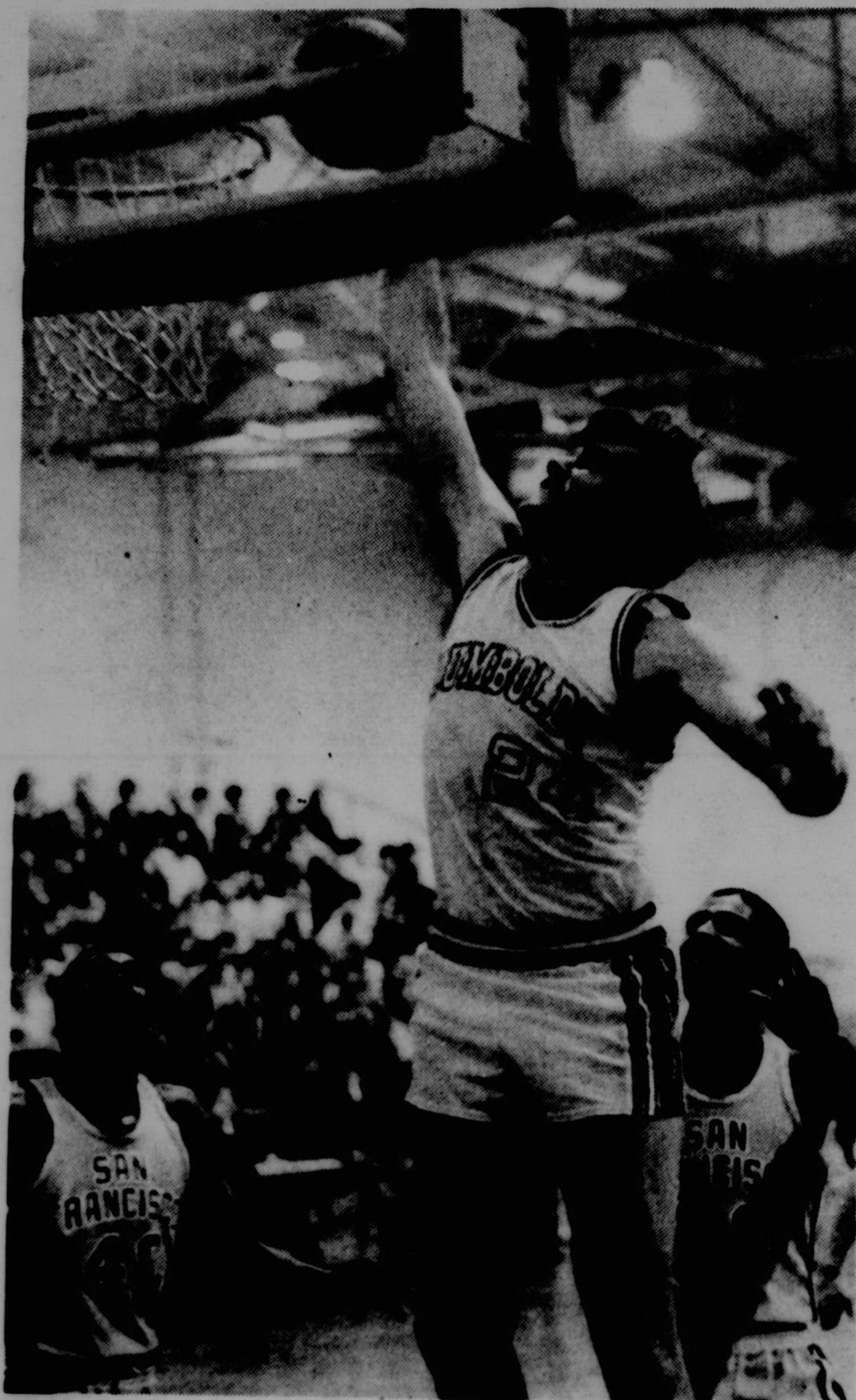
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# BERGIE'S

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## Jammin' to Europe

Jeff Fagan hopes to make slam dunks, like this one against San Francisco State University, for a professional team in Europe next season.

## Basketball for bucks possibility for Fagan

By Mark Murray  
Staff writer

There is a good chance HSU hoopster Jeff Fagan will be playing professional basketball in Europe in the fall.

The 6-foot-10 center led the team in scoring and rebounding this year, averaging 16 points and nine rebounds a game.

"I'm getting excited, but at the same time I don't like having to sit around and wait," Fagan said. "I'm kind of in limbo."

Fagan, a first team All-Northern California Athletic Conference selection, is waiting to see if he will get a tryout with any one of a number of European and Australian teams.

"They (the teams) pay for a round-trip ticket over there and you try out. I don't think it's going to be a tryout with 40 or so other guys," Fagan said. "I think that if you try out your going to be on a team."

Fagan, a business administration senior with an emphasis in marketing, completed his final year of eligibility this year. He transferred from California State University, Long Beach where he had a basketball scholarship.

"That was probably the biggest mistake of my life (going to Long Beach)," Fagan said. "Coming out of high school or a successful junior college you think a scholarship's the only way to go."

After two years at Long Beach, Fagan, who is from Orange County, decided it was time for a change.

"I became really discouraged with the school. I really didn't like the closeness of the school to my house. I felt like I wasn't growing up," he said.

Fagan's choice of Humboldt was made in a way probably not to uncommon to students looking for a change.

"I wanted to stay in the California state system so I looked on the map to see which one was the farthest away

and this is where I ended up," he said. "I got up here and fell in love with this place after the first day. The people are so much nicer. You can say 'hi,' and they won't give you a funny look."

Fagan led the Lumberjacks to a second place conference finish and their first NCAA Division 2 regional playoff berth.

"I'm happy with the season. We went out and did something that a team here hasn't done on the Division 2 level," Fagan said. "Looking back on the year we had a lot of disappointing losses. And even though we won 18 games, I think we could have won five more."

The possibility of playing basketball in Europe has had an impact on another person: Fagan's fiancée, Laurie Jones.

Because of the prospect of going to Europe in August, the couple has moved their wedding date up to July 23.

"I think she wants this more more than I do. She is completely behind me and my basketball," he said.

In European basketball there are five divisions, with Division 1 the best. Fagan is trying to get on a Division 2 level team. On that level he can expect to make about \$20,000 during the seven-month season.

Fagan said he would like to play basketball for another five years and hopefully put away enough money to finish school.

"I would like to come back, finish school and go to law school," Fagan said. "(Eventually) I would like to become a player agent."

When asked about his chances of playing professional basketball in this country after a few years in Europe, Fagan is cautious.

"I don't know what kind of player the pros will look for over there. Some guys have made it, like (Kurt) Rambis of the Lakers," Fagan said. "If I could play basketball I'll do that over anything."

## Rock hitting makes for good summertime sport

By Jim Noonan  
Sports editor

After two long, rainy years at HSU it is time to head south to Sonoma County.

With just a few units standing in the way of graduation (which I can complete at Sonoma State University) it is time to have some fun in the sun — hitting rocks with a baseball bat along the banks of the Russian River.

Not many people know about the sport of rock hitting. I was only introduced to it last summer by Tom Weir — now a sportswriter for USA Today.

I'd gone to Tom's house to help him celebrate his 30th birthday (and Mick Jagger's for that matter).

As we were loading his truck for a day on the river, I noticed Tom slide in a couple of Louisville Sluggers.

"What's with the bats?" I asked.

"Home run derby," was all Tom said.

The first step in rock hitting is to find an adequate stadium. Necessities for rock hitting are ample rocks and an absence of buildings, people

## Comment

and anything else that would not benefit from being pelted by batted rocks.

However, to truly enjoy a day of rock hitting, one needs a hot day and cold beer.

Power hitting is the name of the game in home run derby. The goal of each swing is to send the batted rock over a designated fence. Tom and I used a sand dune. Anything that fell short of the dune was void.

Hitters alternate. The player who hits his rock farthest wins the round and scores a point. The first player with 15 points wins.

To be successful at home run derby requires a certain swing. Being a line-drive hitter, I was forced to alter my cut — needed to get under the rock more.

Rock selection is another integral part of home run derby strategy. Round rocks are the conser-

vative approach, but a flat rock, if hit on the edge, flies like a Frisbee.

Because Tom was a better hitter than I (he'd been batting rocks for several years), I was forced into hitting flat rocks. Usually I hit the flat part of the rock rather than the edge — sending it into the sand 15 feet ahead of me.

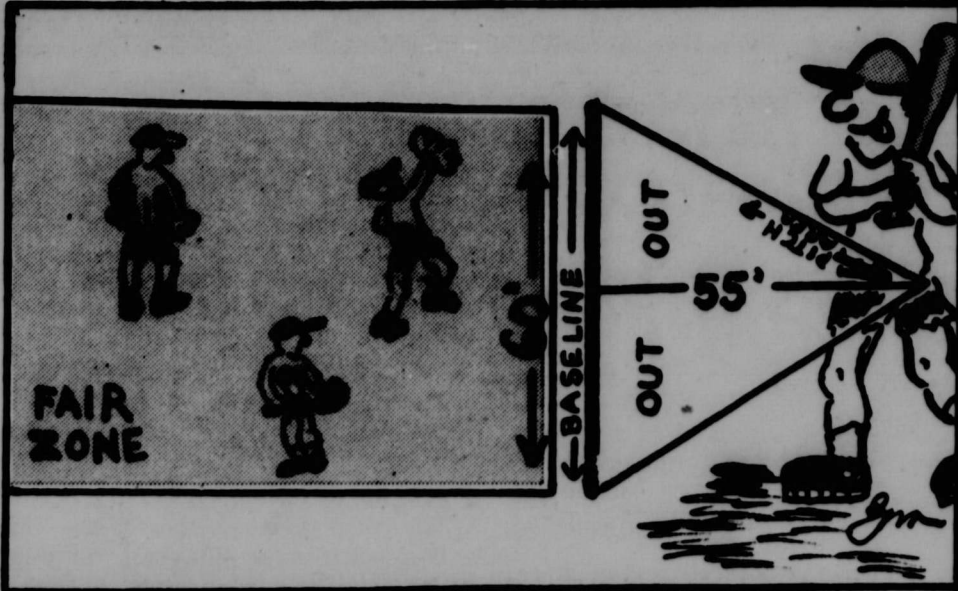
As a result, Tom beat me seven games in a row. While taking batting practice in preparation for the eighth game, I did the smartest thing I did all day: when Tom went to the store for more beer I built a fire and burned his bat.

**Clark named  
All-American**

See SPORTS ROUNDUP, page 22



# Beach baseball variation makes road trip to HSU



By Mitch Lilly  
Guest writer

Over-the-line, a variation of softball played on Southern California beaches for almost 30 years, arrives on the North Coast Saturday when the first Clam Beach OTL Tournament swings into action.

The name of the sport implies the object of the game — hitting a softball over a line 55 feet away.

Each team consists of three players in a sport where there are no bases —

runs are scored by hits. The batter stands at the tip of a triangle, with its sides extending to two boundary lines 60 feet apart, forming an endless rectangle called a fair zone. A teammate pitches the ball from anywhere outside the triangle.

Each ball batted "over the line" (the base of the triangle) into the fair zone without being caught by the defense is a single.

Three singles score a run, and succeeding singles drive in runs. Hits that clear the last defensive player in the field are home runs. Homers clean the

"bases," and the procedure starts again.

Players are allowed two pitches, but only one strike. Any ball that lands inside the triangle, is caught, or hits the baseline is an out. Like softball, three outs ends an inning.

While the rules of OTL might take some getting used to, they are easy compared to playing it. Serious players spend months developing both uncanny batting skills and precision pitching.

Tournament Directors Brad Foster, a senior oceanography major, and junior Eugene Owens, engineering, said they believe the contest will be a great chance for people to learn the game and have some fun.

"I figure a lot of guys like me who haven't played might like to," Foster said. "We're offering a chance for people to get involved in a sport not offered in intramurals."

## Endurance powers crew team

By S. Jane Grossman  
Staff writer

Coach Jack Donaldson called, "most prestigious."

Rowers are a staunch lot. The women who have guided the lightweight boat to victory in all but one race this season possess endurance and a common love of rowing, whether it be competitively in a regatta or peacefully in Humboldt Bay.

Saturday the women traveled to Redwood City for a Pacific Athletic Conference regatta, where they were seeded No. 1, an accomplishment

"For the Humboldt team to have been invited is a great honor. The Pac-10 conference has the best schools and athletes on the West Coast," he said.

In the 1,000-meter race at the regatta the women finished fourth behind Oregon State University, University of San Diego and University of Southern California.

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# PEACE CORPS—



# Sports roundup

## Clark named All-American; Warner new volleyball coach

HSU softball standout Cheryl Clark was named to the second team National Collegiate Athletic Association All-America last week — the first time a woman athlete from HSU has received All-American honors in a team sport.

Clark, who was the Northern California Athletic Conference Most Valuable Player, pitched every inning for the Lumberjacks this year.

The junior led the conference in five categories this year. Her 10 wins and 57 strike outs were tops among conference pitchers.

Equally at home at the plate, Clark had the highest batting average in the conference, .408, and also had the most triples — five.

To round things out, she proved herself to be a capable fielder with a conference-high 66 assists.

In her three years as a Lumberjack softball player, Clark has made all-conference every season.

Other HSU women to achieve All-America honors (in individual sports) were: Karen Menne, twice swimming All-American in the 50-yard and 100-yard backstroke, 1977-78; Grace Brosnahan, swimming All-American in the 200-yard butterfly

in 1979-80; and Claudia Bergsohn who recieved her honor in cross country in 1981.

Two of Clark's teammates were named to the conference first team: outfielder Becky Immel and Christi Hulse at first base. Both players finished the year with .362 batting averages.

### Golf benefit

Supporters of Lumberjack football will be teeing up to support the fall sport at Baywood Golf and Country Club June 3. Tee off is 1 p.m.

Prizes will be awarded, including a 1983 automobile.

A donation of \$22.50 is requested in addition to the \$12.50 green fee. Free beer and soft drinks will be served. For more information about the tournament call Fred Siler at 826-4372.

The field is limited to the first 100 entries.

### Warner's new post

Lynn Warner has been named HSU volleyball coach. She succeeds Barbara van Putten, who will devote her time to teaching full time.

Warner, a member of HSU's Women's Hall of Fame, has coached field hockey, track and field and softball at HSU. This year her softball team shared the conference championship and she was named Northern California Athletic Conference Coach of the Year.

Van Putten started the volleyball program at HSU in 1961. She guided the team to consecutive conference championships in 1969-71.

### Men's track

Ramon Morales will join eight other HSU athletes in Missouri this week for the NCAA Division 2 track championships at Southeast Missouri State University.

Morales qualified last week in the 1,500 meters, running a 3 minutes and 51.7 seconds at a mid-week meet at California State College, Stanislaus.

Other athletes competing in the men's nationals are: Ed Taylor, Ron Hurst, Garrett Moore, Danny King, Tim Gruber, Ray Webb, Octavio Morales and Mark Conover.

Representing the women will be Laurie Ramirez.

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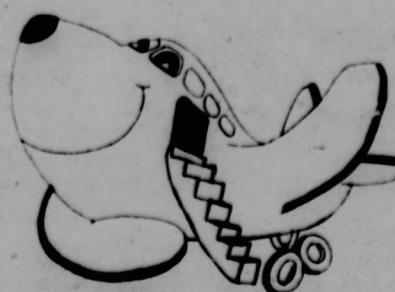
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The Lumberjack  
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**REWARD!** Lost dog. Pure white Samoyd-Shepherd. Name is Shasta. Please call 826-0877. 5-25.

**LOST—** A TI-30 calculator either in Founder's Hall or in the VW Van I helped jumpstart on the weekend. Please call Scott, 822-9456. 5-25.

## Personals

**JUGGLER—** Here's to being single! Cadbury candy bars, late nights, "the boys," the track, the beaches and the weekends! May the rest of your life be half as happy! Ha. Ruff Ruff. 5-25.

**VAL, JULIE, LISA,** Dave, Dan and Dean: Thanks for the bubbles and the memories for my B-day. Love ya, Sue. 5-25.

**MR. HEAD—** I smell chlorine, corn, enchiladas and vitamin E. I hear blenders grinding a mix of off-key Vegas and pounding blues. Ah, the summer wind. 5-25.

**DANGER BOY—** I really do love you. Sometimes I can't show it. You're very special and this weekend is OURS. Love, Squirrel. 5-25.

**HOT AND SLEEPY—** It's been a great year, PALS! Except...never-mind!!! Well folks, we are the musketeers (not the stooges). You're both wonderful individuals. XOXO. Hungry. 5-25.

**RUFF RUFF—** Here's to Scott and all our men, all the fun, talk, understanding and Rocky. I'm going to miss you, kid Juggler. 5-25.

**PHAEDUS—** The future's not ours to see, so just let it be. Thanks for the care, may you "fly" free. FWYC, only for love. Juggler. 5-25.

**T-BEAR—** "You're a 20 on a scale of 10." See you soon in the land of anxiety. You "got my number(s)." 8675309. Kidnap plans in the making...don't say making. J-Bear. 5-25.

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# Alternative energy house bucks system

*Project completed; compatible lifestyle center's message*

By Jill Henry  
Staff writer

Hot sunshine beating down on solar roof panels set the stage Saturday afternoon for the grand opening of HSU's Campus Center for Appropriate Technology demonstration house.

The opening of the Buck House was the culmination of three years of hard work by student volunteers who reconstructed the house with workable models of alternative energy systems and recycling projects.

"It's a monument to the people who have created it," David Smock, co-director of CCAT and a senior political science major, said in his opening speech. He added that it was a monument to the commitment to, and vision of, an alternative way of living.

Several other speakers addressed the crowd of about 65 people, including Ernest Callenbach, author of "Ecotopia" and "Ecotopia Emerging." He discussed the ways in which the Buck House, and other houses like it, are helping society move toward an ecotopian lifestyle, which is basically learning to live compatibly with nature without abusing it.

Callenbach said the house was a house of hope and a sign of very great changes for our society. He said he feels that when he comes to Humboldt County, he is entering "an



— Tim Parsons

April Green, a Campus Center for Appropriate Technology volunteer, stands in front of the Buck House greenhouse.

enclave of Ecotopia that exists already."

He went on to say that the Buck House could illustrate to society how to "minimize our damage" to our environment and reach the people who are wasteful.

"The Buck House will now go on living and growing as a community of its own," he said.

The house will serve as a social in-

stitution which exemplifies cooperation, an equalitarian social arrangement with a justice system of rewards for the volunteers that have helped and a human environment that suits our species, he said.

Callenbach's final thoughts were toward the future of houses like the Buck House. He said the main objective is to have "thousands upon thousands" of Buck Houses all over

the world, all "living in an ecotopian way."

Other guest speakers included Peter Lehman, assistant professor of environmental resources engineering, who discussed the history of the project, and who Smock said has put in a lot of time on the project.

Assemblyman Dan Hauser, D-Arcata, focused on Arcata's and the university's great strides in alternative energy. William Murison, a lecturer in resource planning and interpretation, talked about the educational value of the project. Third District Supervisor Wesley Chesbro spoke about the necessity of community support for the project and the importance of following the role model set by the Buck House.

HSU President Alistair McCrone, the final speaker of the afternoon, reflected on the history of the Buck House and noted the way in which this project has allowed the university to better serve its community.

He then proclaimed the Buck House open to the community and cut the ribbon on the greenhouse in ceremonial fashion.

Tours were given throughout the afternoon, and the house will be open to the community on a daily basis.

Smock said the Buck House's first renovations began in the summer of 1979 and CCAT formed shortly afterwards. He said the project has been funded by a budget allotment from the Associated Students, grants and donated materials from local businesses.

He said the house is run on three basic systems. The energy production system includes the greenhouse, which contributes 80 to 100 percent of the house's space heating, and the photovoltaic panels which convert sunlight into electricity. A wind turbine is scheduled to be built sometime this year to aid energy production.

The food production system consists of a garden and greenhouse.

The waste disposal system includes a compost toilet which recycles human waste for fertilizer and a water system that treats and filters dish water for irrigation use in the garden.

## Futuristic author explains 'Ecotopia,' advocates ecologically sound lifestyle

By Scott Rappaport  
Staff writer

When Ernest Callenbach attempted to sell "Ecotopia," his first novel of life in the future, it was rejected by 25 publishers in New York.

So Callenbach decided to take matters into his own hands. With the help of 10 friends, he formed Banyan Tree Books and published the novel in 1975.

Eight years later, "Ecotopia" has sold almost 200,000 copies, been translated into eight languages and become a topic of discussion for college students and environmentalists throughout the country.

"Ecotopia" is the fictional name Callenbach gives to a new, environmentally sound country formed in the 1990s in the Pacific Northwest.

Dismayed by America's rush toward economic and ecological suicide in the 1980s, Washington, Oregon and Northern California secede from the United States and set up a nation designed to help preserve the environment and the future of humans.

In an interview at Saturday's dedication of HSU's Buck House, Callenbach explained how he got the idea for "Ecotopia."

"I was unhappy with the way American society actually was, and I wanted to invent an imaginary world that I could spend some of my time in."

"I came from the country — from a tiny little town in central Pennsylvania and things were much more ecological there in my youth."

Everything was recycled because there was nothing else you could do with it. So I was very conscious of our modern urban world being kind of crazy from an ecological point of view."

The novel itself grew out of an article Callenbach began writing on how to reform sewer systems. He said he found he was working on only a small, isolated part of a much larger problem.

"The real problem is that we live in a society where the cash criterion dominates everything, including biological things, so we do things that are literally suicidal from a biological standpoint — like the way we're treating our farmland now for example."

"It makes sense economically, but it doesn't make sense from a long-range biological point of view."

But at appearances he made after publication of "Ecotopia," Callenbach was frequently asked how it would be possible for an ecotopian world to come about.

Callenbach responded with "Ecotopia Emerging," his latest novel published in November 1981, that goes back in time to illustrate how Ecotopia came to be.

In the book, spawned by a nuclear power plant accident that makes part of Washington virtually uninhabitable and the discovery of a new way to tap solar energy, a new political party, the Survivalist Party, forms on the West Coast in 1986.

Dedicated to sound economic and environmental principles, it fights to bring cheap, nonpolluting electricity to millions of homes. After a determined struggle against utility companies and the government, the new nation, Ecotopia, is born.

In "Ecotopia Emerging," Callenbach's depiction of life in America up until the beginning of the 1980s includes a portrayal of actual events. The book only becomes a clear work of fiction when he begins to describe the future.

"The nearest thing I know to the Survivalist Party is really the Citizens Party which I've recently gotten connected with," Callenbach said. "And they're active all over the country."

"Barry Commoner, who is a very famous ecological thinker, was their presidential candidate in 1980. And they've actually elected some local officials here and there in Vermont, and, I think, a couple in Ohio."

Callenbach said the United States could now have the makings of either a new political party or a coalition that could take over the Democratic Party.

He said if the feminist, labor and environmental movements were to combine resources, they would be a "formidable force, clearly far more massive and powerful than the shreds of the Democratic Party, which is really kind of a balloon that blows up at election time, but the rest of the year is a very small, flabby sort of an organization."