

new indicator

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CalPIRG Chair Heads SUDS Slate for A.S.

Students United through Diversity for Strength (SUDS) is the name chosen by a coalition of individuals from varied backgrounds that have come together to change the atmosphere of the ASUCSD student government. The slate was motivated by concern that the present A.S. does not address the issue of affirmative action, that it does very little for the divestment movement, that it decimated the nationally respected UCSD alternative media, and that they were obviously nonsupporters of student rights issues in general.

The SUDS candidate for A.S. president is sociology major Greg Wilpert, who was a core member of once active CalPIRG. CalPIRG researched and published consumer information for San Diego county on such issues as health care for the aged, banking costs and services, and its popular food price surveys. In a campus funding referendum last year the students voted in favor of CalPIRG, but the chancellor moved to defund the group anyway. The present A.S. refused to confront the chancellor on this issue (as well as several others), and CalPIRG remains in an unfunded limbo. Wilpert is the current local chair for the group.

Carlota Ponds is the SUDS V. P. Administrative candidate. The Cognitive Science major is a junior and active in the Black Students Union. She works as a resident advisor at Warren College and as an O.A.S.I.S. writing tutor. She was also once the president of the Young People's District Club with the A.M.E. church.

For V. P. External Affairs the SUDS slate offers Yong Yim, a senior majoring in Economics. Yim is a member of the Asian Pacific Student Alliance, Korean-American Student Alliance and the Chinese Student Association.

Pam West, the SUDS V. P. Finance candidate, majors in Animal Psychology. She functions as Activities Coordinator for the Black Students Union and is Assistant Business Manager for the UCSD Gospel Choir. She was once the president of the Youth Slate with Miracle Baptist church, and she reigned as Debutante of the Year (1983) for Alpha Kappa Alpha.

The SUDS Commissioner of Public Relations candidate is Debbie Shreve, a Literature major. She was the publicity manager at Grossmont Community College, and she is presently a core member in charge of public relations with the Women's Resource Center.

Byron "Beer Run" Morton is the SUDS candidate for Commissioner of Communications. The Visual Arts major has been a photo-journalist for the Coalition for a Free South Africa, *Voz Fronteriza*, *new indicator*, *L'Chayim*, *People's Voice*, *Sappho Speaks*, *Birdcage Review*, *UCSD Guardian*, *Student Handbook 1981-82*, *Disorientation Manual*, and *Early Warren* newspapers. He also produces documentary videos.

Running for Commissioner of Programming on the SUDS slate is

Robert Smith, a double major in Sociology and Physiology. He is current president of the Black Students Science Organization, and he is also active in the Black Students Union and Royal Brotherhood of Excellence. He volunteers as a Big Brother in the Third College Big Brother and Big Sister Program, and he is a peer tutor for Physics 1A. He is also an ardent supporter of the Coalition for a Free South Africa.

The SUDS Commissioner of Academic Affairs candidate is Richard Castellanos. He is a member of Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan (MEChA) and was the coordinator of MEChA's high school recruitment day. He presently is the Equal Opportunity Program intern for the Student Affirmative Action Committee and is the Associate Affirmative Action Director for the ASUCSD Lobby Annex.

Crystal Nichols fills the SUDS Commissioner of Operations/Services and Enterprises slot. The Biomedical Engineering major is a member of the Black Students Union and the Black Students Science Organization as well as the National Society of Black Engineers and the Bioengineering Society.

The SUDS Revelle Junior Senator candidate is Arnie Schoenberg, a member of the Coalition for a Free South Africa and the Ché Cafe. He also performs flawlessly as a master drummer in the Subversive Rhythm Collective.

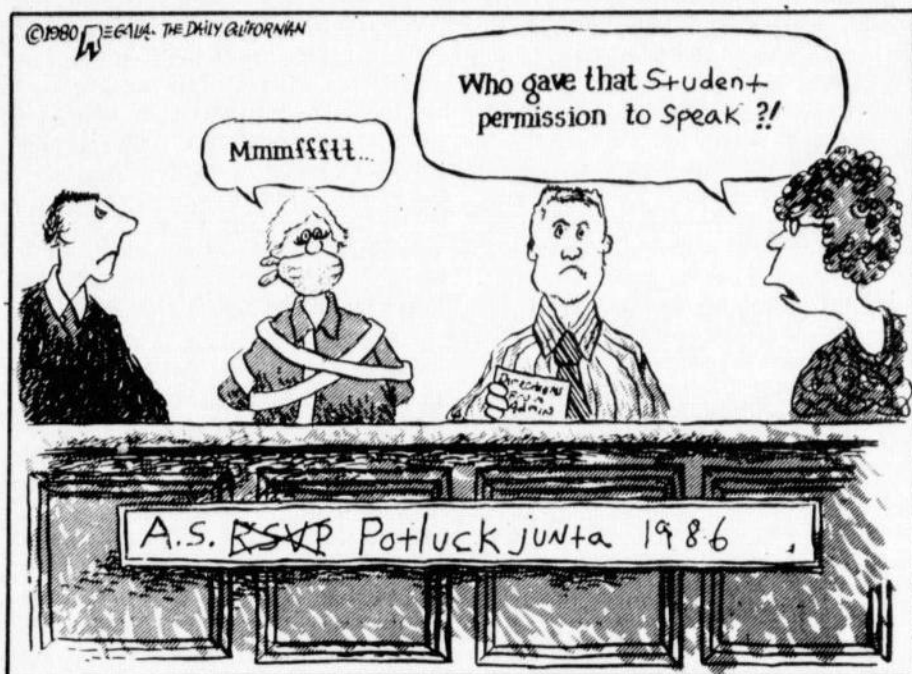
The Revelle Sophomore Senator position on the SUDS ticket is filled by Rafael Rubalcava, a General Biology major. Rubalcava is a member of MEChA and the Revelle Third World Alliance. He is also active in the A.S. *ad hoc* committee for cultural programming.

Running for Muir Senior Senator on the SUDS slate is Rita Gonzalez, who majors in European History. She is active in the Organization of Arab Students, the International Club, and the November 29th Coalition. She enjoys Palestinian dancing (Debke).

Chandra Clady is running as SUDS candidate for Third Senior Senator. She is not only active on the UCSD campus, but in the San Diego community in general. Majoring in Urban Studies and Planning, her campus activities include the Third College Council, the Third College Naming Committee and the Black Students Union. In addition, she works with the Southeast Development Committee and is an intern for the Southeast Development Corporation. She is a member of "Neighborhood Concern."

SUDS offers Fernando Fajardo as its candidate for Third Sophomore Senator. He is active in MEChA and the Third College Naming Committee.

Saba Quraishi fills out the SUDS slate as candidate for Warren Sophomore Senator. He has been an intern for Congressman Dymally (1985) and residence hall president at UC Santa Barbara.



Woodard/Watson Ruling

A.S. Constitution Ruled Lawful; SCU to Appeal

On March 6, 1986, the Student Cooperative Union (SCU) filed a legal challenge contesting the validity of the constitution being used by the current UCSD Associated Students Council. The disputed constitution was adopted by the A.S. Council—and hence, by the Chancellor—following a vote by only 633 (less than 6%) of UCSD's 12,000-plus undergraduate population.

The SCU contends that 1) the creation of *new constitutions*, are mentioned in the old (1977-1985?) constitution only

within the section describing constitutional conventions, 2) the A.S. Council held no constitutional convention, 3) the A.S. Council and higher administration officials ignored campus precedent requiring substantial minimum voter turn-out for all referenda on student government constitutions (1972, 1975, and 1977—the lowest turn-out required by the Chancellor was 25% in 1977), and 4) the old constitution is lawfully still in effect,

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Upcoming Referenda Feature Co-ops, Media

The April 8 and 9 ASUCSD elections will include several referendum questions ranging from the UC Regents' divestiture in South Africa to the use of student registration and activity fees for on-campus recruitment by the military, CIA, Secret Service, FBI and INS. The most controversial referendum, however, deals with funding of the nine campus newspapers known as the Alternative Media.

The Alternative Media have been engaged with the current A.S. government in a bitter funding struggle for several months. The A.S., led by President Mary Rose Alexander and Communications Commissioner Michael Fahlbush, has been accused by many students involved with the Alternative Media of trying to drastically slash the funds of those newspapers with which it disagrees politically. These students have seen not only censorship in the tactics of the A.S., but racism as well.

All nine campus newspapers of the Alternative Media unanimously condemned the A.S.' handling of the funding issue in a statement read before the A.S. Council at its meeting of February 26. For A.S. Vice President Ariel Anguiano, the Alternative Media funding issue was the last straw. Anguiano resigned in disgust in late February, citing the A.S. Council majority's refusal to tolerate alternative views.

The Council set up an ad hoc committee to design an Alternative Media funding referendum, but the committee's only meeting in early March ended in yet another quarrel. The two Alternative Media delegates and one student-at-large representative stormed out of that meeting in protest after the A.S. majority refused to compromise. The remaining members of the committee, all of them very closely tied to the current A.S. government, proceeded to construct an Alternative Media funding referendum for the April 8/9 ballot.

The referendum that the committee eventually crafted calls into question the very existence of each of the campus newspapers. Most of the Alternative Media strongly urge a boycott of this one referendum question.

Other referenda, however, are likely to spark enthusiastic voter participation. The questions on divestment in South Africa and whether or not student money should be spent on recruitment by the CIA, FBI, INS, Secret Service and the military, for example, will probably attract many students to the polls.

Other important referendum questions on the April 8/9 ballot are those relating to student co-ops. Student run cooperatives such as the General Store, Food Co-op, Groundwork Books

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Notes from the Collective Desk

A.S. House Needs Cleaning; SUDS Might Be the Answer

As we have repeatedly seen, our current A.S. has proven the adage that "absolute power corrupts absolutely." Much like the comprador classes in the Third World who sell out the interest of their people to the superpowers, the current A.S. has sold out the interest of students to the Administration. As a result, we, as students, have witnessed the gradual loss of our rights, rights which were won only a decade ago through the struggles of thousands of students against the UC Administration and the state. We have seen our A.S., a body which is supposed to represent the interest of students, become merely a rubber stamp for the Administration. The A.S. has become a tool to legitimize the erosion of our rights by having them, our "peers", okay it.

All is not bleak though, because for the first time in years there is an alternative to the usual parade of "Tupperware", "AS Express", "RSVP", etc., type slates that have been forced upon us in the past. A broad coalition, comprised of Third World students, Women, and progressive whites, has banded together to return the A.S. to the

students. These students have united in an effort not only to make sure that their own "special" interests are represented, but also that the general interest of students as a whole is represented. After all, Third World students, Women, and progressive whites are also "general students," with the exception that they are more accustomed to fighting the Administration (like most of us) than collaborating with it. They call their slate S.U.D.S. (Students United through Diversity for Strength).

Most certainly, many of those on the right will claim that the slate merely represents "special" interest groups. Politics has always been a game of special interests, as anyone who follows politics at any level is aware. What matters most is what those special interests represent. S.U.D.S. is a broad based student slate dedicated to representing the students' interests. Furthermore, one would have to be either incredibly ignorant or just plain dishonest to deny that the current A.S. regime, and its 1986 slate, represent a well defined special interest. Their interest is the Fraternity/Sorority one -

as well as the interest of the individuals themselves.

While the S.U.D.S. slate, too, represents "special interests", it does so because those interests have not been represented in the past, neither on the A.S., nor more generally within the U.S. political system. As we all well know, Third World people have been historically excluded from power in this country, and as a result have faced continuing attacks on their rights, growing racism, declining enrollment/retention in universities, and debasement of their culture and history. Women have faced similar exclusion, and now confront mounting assaults on, for example, their right to control their own bodies. These attacks are becoming more and more common, with the perpetrators ranging from the President on down to the abortion clinic terrorists.

Obviously, winning some representation and power in the A.S., in itself, will not drastically affect the overall situation. But it is a start, and it can have an effect on the atmosphere on this campus; an atmosphere which drastically needs to be altered given the decline of student input and representation on this campus.

With a Third World/Progressive slate in the A.S., a new emphasis can be put on the role of student government. The A.S., after all, should be more than a body which merely puts on "bread and circus" type events to placate the student body. This is not to say that the A.S. should not sponsor recreational events, like T.G.'s, bands, movies, etc. (though they could be of much better quality), but that the A.S. should also be a part of the effort to educate students and to involve them so they will be better prepared to succeed outside the university and to know how to fight for their rights.

SUDS PLATFORM

The SUDS platform has nine main objectives:

1. Permanent affirmative action constituency chairs be included on the A.S. with full voting rights.
2. The A.S. Council institutionalizes third world cultural events.
3. The Women's Resource Center be given a full time coordinator.
4. Special academic personal counselors for all women in the undergraduate program.
5. A commitment to defend and support the alternative media.
6. A commitment by the A.S. to defend and support student co-ops and student run enterprises.
7. The maximization of student input into the University Center.
8. A commitment to represent students and to promote student rights.
9. A commitment for immediate and full divestment of UC funds from South Africa.

Co-ops/Media in Referenda

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and the Che Cafe have provided UCSD students with quality goods for low prices for many years.

Two other referendum questions are suspected by some informed students to be a ploy of the current A.S., which has consistently colluded with the Administration while ignoring the rights of students, to gain student approval for expensive, superfluous projects. Specifically, one referendum question asks students if they "support the building of an 8000-15,000 seat amphitheater" without addressing its proposed cost or who would pay for it. A similar question asks students if they "support a tram/shuttle system that would run at frequent intervals

The university experience should be more than just four, or, more typically, five years of narrow education that (hopefully) ends up in a degree and a subsequent job. College should also be an experience which stimulates the mind, rather than dulling it. It should make people think, challenge, and question what we have accepted as truths all our lives. In order for that to happen, we need people in office who will push for diversity rather than homogeneity.

The S.U.D.S. slate seems to offer the best alternative to the current crop of self-serving candidates who promise to be just like the "representatives" we have been saddled with for so long. S.U.D.S. would seem to best represent the interest of all students, by fighting against Administration-inspired attacks on student rights instead of compromising them away. After all, what have the past Fraternity-dominated A.S. regimes left us? Third World students are facing increasing racism on campus, stricter rules plague students living in the dorms, our right to consume alcohol on campus is under attack, the campus police have increasingly harassed students who represent non-Administration ideas, and the alternative media has been subjected to Administration-backed attacks (conducted through the A.S.) to name a few.

Most essentially, you as a student must ask yourself, "What has the A.S. done for me, or to me, and what are my alternatives?" Will it be more of the same? Or will you take a chance and go with something different? If you feel that enough is enough, that you want true representation rather than mouthed representation, then consider S.U.D.S. on April 8 and 9.

THE CENTER FOR U.S.-MEXICAN STUDIES UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO



The Research Seminar is an internationally recognized interdisciplinary forum for presentation of new research and public policy perspectives dealing with Mexican development issues and other issues affecting relations between Mexico and the United States. All members of the UCSD community are welcome, as well as faculty and students from other universities and members of the general public.

All seminars will be held in the second-floor conference room, Institute of the Americas Building, 10111 North Torrey Pines Rd., UCSD Campus, La Jolla. A brown-bag lunch is held from 12:00-2:00 p.m. The presentations will begin at 12:30.

Wednesday, April 2

OIL AND TRADE DIVERSIFICATION IN MEXICO

GABRIEL SZEKELY, political scientist, El Colegio de Mexico and Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies

Thursday, April 10

THE PRIVATIZATION OF HIGH EDUCATION IN MEXICO

DANIEL LEVY, political scientist, State University of New York, Albany

Tuesday, April 15

MEXICO'S RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION

WILLIAM HARRISON RICHARDSON, historian, Wichita State University

Wednesday, April 23

PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH AMONG THE POOR IN THREE SITES OF SOUTHERN MEXICO

BORIS YOPO, rural sociologist, United Nations Childrens Fund, Mexico City and Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies
note: presentation will be in Spanish

Wednesday, April 30

THE PROSPECTS FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN BASIC FOOD STAPLES IN RAIN-FED AREAS OF MEXICO

HELIODORO DIAZ CISNEROS, agricultural economist,

Colegio de Posgraduados, Chapingo, Mexico and Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies

note: presentation will be in Spanish

Wednesday, May 7

In celebration of Mexico's "Cinco de Mayo," the Center offers a free showing of Felipe Casal's historical film reconstruction of:

EMILIANO ZAPATA

There will be an informal discussion immediately afterwards lead by ALAN KNIGHT, historian, Essex University
note: film to begin promptly at 12:00 in Spanish and discussion in English and Spanish

Wednesday, May 14

COMPARING THE U.S. AND MEXICAN LEGAL SYSTEMS

Panel discussion led by:
JORGE VARGAS, international legal scholar, Mexico-U.S. Law Institute, USD
JORGE MARTINEZ SANTISTEVAN, international law lawyer, COCHEAUX and Mexico-U.S. Law Institute, USD

Wednesday, May 21

THE FUTURE OF POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN THE MEXICAN COUNTRYSIDE

GUSTAVO GORDILLO, rural sociologist, Universidad Autonoma de Zacatecas
note: presentation will be in Spanish

Wednesday, May 28

STRUCTURALLY SELECTIVE INSTITUTIONS IN MEXICO: THE CASES OF CONASUPO AND THE CENTRAL BANK

JONATHAN FOX, political scientist, MIT and Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies
SYLVIA MAXFIELD, political scientist, Instituto Tecnologico Autonomo de Mexico and Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies

Wednesday, June 4

THE ROLES OF OPPOSITION PARTIES AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR POLITICAL AND SOCIAL CHANGE IN MEXICO

FERNANDO ESTRADA, political scientist, Instituto Tecnologico Autonomo de Mexico and Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies

A.S. Constitution Ruling to be Appealed

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from the UC and CSUC systems were looked at and considered. The process was open to all (Item A)

- 2) On January 7, 1985 a letter was sent to all student organizations outlining the input process. (Item B)
- 3) On January 9, a letter and flyer was sent out and posted throughout the campus. In addition a letter was sent to all student organizations, media, college councils, residence halls, and services listing the hearing times for providing input. (Item C)
- 4) Advertisements, articles, and bulletins appeared in the *Guardian* on the following dates:
 - Monday, January 7, 1985
 - Monday, January 14, 1985
 - Monday, February 4, 1985
 - Monday, February 11, 1985
 - Thursday, February 14, 1985
 - Tuesday, February 19, 1985
 - (Items D-I)
- 5) Distribution notices were sent to all Student Organizations, Resident and House Advisers, and Media outlining the locations where the proposed constitution could be picked up. The notices also listed the additional hearing dates. (Item J-K)
- 6) On January 9, 1985, the ASUCSD passed the initial referendum question by a vote of 12 yes, 2 no, 3 abstain. (Item L)
- 7) On January 23, 1985, the council passed the language for the referendum question by a vote of 12 yes, 1 no, 3 abstain. (Item M)
- 8) On January 30, 1985, the A.S. Council endorsed the proposed Constitution as presented by the Constitution Committee by consensus. (Item N)
- 9) The development of the question and the referendum process followed the guidelines as stated in the ASUCSD

constitution; specifically Article VIII. Amendments, Section A which states:

Amendments to this constitution may be proposed by either two-thirds (2/3rds) of the Council or by a petition signed by twenty (20%) percent of the members of the ASUCSD.

As I pointed out earlier, the Council approved the Constitution referendum by a vote of 12 yes, 1 no, 3 abstain on January 23, 1985. This is an approval percentage of 82%. The following meeting, the council endorsed the proposed constitution by a percentage of 100%.

10) Article VIII. Amendments, Section B states:

Upon receipt of such a petition or upon a Council resolution proposing an amendment, the ASUCSD President shall hold an election for the purpose of presenting the amendment to the members of the ASUCSD for approval within twenty-four (24) academic days of receipt of the proposal, unless the general election is scheduled within sixty days, in which case the proposal shall be placed on the ballot of the general election.

1. Amendments shall be approved upon concurrence of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the members of the ASUCSD voting.

I would like to point out that the referendum was held 18 days after the passage of the referendum question.

The voter turnout of 633, with 510 (80.6%) voting yes and 123 (19.4%) voting no not only meets but exceeds the constitutional requirement which states;

"Amendments shall be approved upon the concurrence of two-thirds (2/3rds) of the members of the ASUCSD voting." The minimum voter turnout was established by the then existing constitution. (Item O)

resulted in an accepted and approved constitution as voted on by the students.

Sincerely,

Randon E. Woodard
Director
Student Government/Student
Organization
Support Services

REW/ps
Enclosure
cc: J. Watson
P. Irons
M.R. Alexander
T. Tucker
N. Aguilar

March 7, 1986

JELGER KALMIJN
STUDENT COOPERATIVE UNION

Dear Mr. Kalmijn:
I have forwarded your March 6 letter regarding the ASUCSD Constitution to Student Organizations Advisor Woodard for appropriate action and reply.

I trust that Mr. Woodard's response will satisfactorily address the concerns raised in your letter.

Joseph W. Watson
Vice Chancellor

JWW/dw
cc: Chancellor Atkinson
J. Irons
M.R. Alexander, ASUCSD
President
R. Woodard
T. Tucker
N. Aguilar

Constitution Challenged

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and proceedings under the new constitution, including the allocation of the .5 million dollar Campus Activity Fee funds, have been unlawful. (The text of the SCU challenge appears in *new indicator*, Vol. 11, No. 11.) The SCU claims that it filed its legal challenge after accidentally discovering the alleged violation while conducting research on un-related A.S. Council history. "It amounts to an annual .5 million dollar fraud perpetrated on UCSD students, and railroaded into existence by the corrupt 'A.S. Express' slate (many of whom are running for re-election on the 'new' slate). The A.S. regime is notorious for using their position for personal gain. One example is their voting to start paying A.S. Council members stipends despite the overwhelming student vote against stipends. In addition "They have used their position to pursue their own ideological agenda by cutting campus media budgets after students voted for media budget increases, writing new election by-laws which seek to prohibit all 'non-undergraduate' members of the campus community from voicing opinions about student elections and referenda, and preventing students from speaking at Council meetings," declares SCU spokesperson Jelger Kalmijn.

The SCU filed its request that the old constitution be reaffirmed as the sole, lawful, A.S. Constitution, under University regulations, and in accordance with established standards of administrative law. The challenge was filed with Vice Chancellor of Undergraduate Affairs Joseph Watson. On March 7, 1986, the Vice Chancellor assigned the case to Student Organizations Advisor Randon Woodard. Woodard's ruling of March 25, 1986, upholding the new constitution, exhausts the Vice Chancellorial level of legal challenge. The SCU, which finds Woodard's ruling to be legally incorrect, says it will now file an appeal with Chancellor Atkinson. Beyond Atkinson, the appeal process could go to U.C. President Gardner's office, and, if necessary, into the California state court system.

Woodard's ruling is based on the argument that the new constitution was adopted as an amendment in full, of the old constitution. As an amendment, it could have been adopted by any one of 3

methods outlined in the old constitution. The SCU agrees with this interpretation of processes for adopting amendments, but argues that the new constitution was never presented to the student body as an amendment. The texts of the 2 constitutions are vastly different not only in wording, but in organization and substance. The new one is not in any obvious way an amendment of the old document. Kalmijn concludes, "The only way a totally new constitution could lawfully be adopted, is by means of a constitutional convention. This is the bottom line." All of Woodard's observations regarding the so-called "input process" are irrelevant to the legal issue at hand. This "input process" is not spelled out by the old constitution and amounts to Marcos-style phony democracy. This involves a lot of money, and some heads may roll before this is settled."

The text of the March 7, 1986 Watson letter, and the Woodard ruling are printed below. The "items" of enclosure mentioned in Woodard's ruling, are available from the office of the *new indicator* or the *UCSD Guardian*.

March 25, 1986

Jelger Kalmijn
Student Cooperative Union

Dear Mr. Kalmijn,

I am responding to your letter to Dr. Watson and dated March 6, 1986.

In your letter to Dr. Watson you listed a number of reasons to overturn the Associated Student Constitution Referendum conducted on February 19 & 20, 1985. I have concluded that there is no reason to overturn the referendum as the process preceding and during the referendum was in accordance with the A.S. Constitution and University Policy. The following facts pertain to the referendum:

- 1) On December 13, 1984, a letter was sent to all students outlining the input process to the A.S. Constitution Committee. The committee was open to all students who desired to have input. It was not an exclusive committee of the A.S. Council. College and University constitutins

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Long Stories In Short

Who's the Son of a Bitch

"Sons of bitches," said Reagan after reporters had been ushered from the Cabinet Room where the President had been questioned about the political turmoil in the Philippines.

Later, as he left for his Camp David retreat in Maryland, Reagan was asked by reporters whom he had in mind, and he replied, "I thought it was one of you saying it about us." When that was greeted by a good-natured chorus of "No," the President, smiling, said, "It wasn't me." Aides said Reagan did not recall making the remark nor hearing anyone else make it.

But the phrase was clearly audible on the sound system and United Press International verified that it was Reagan who made the remark by viewing a tape made available by CBS, the only network that had a camera on Reagan at the time....

Deputy White House press secretary Larry Speakes said, "He doesn't recall saying it. If he said it, Speakes joked, he said, "Its sunny and you're rich."

Newark Star-Ledger

University Perpetuates Monarchies

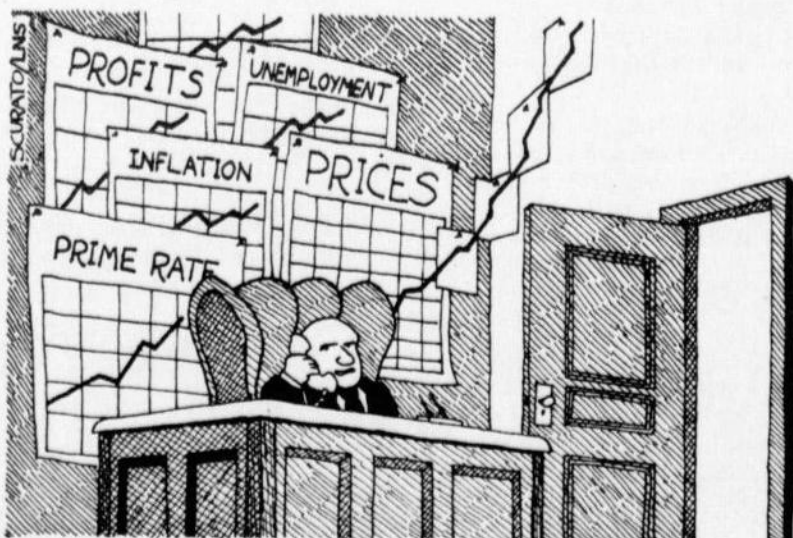
A recent survey of Stanford and Harvard university alumni found that the vast majority of those alumni were "very content" with their lives.

Such a response was, of course, virtually a foregone conclusion given the capitalist class status of so many of the alumni. As the survey revealed, the median household income for the alumni was \$72,000, 20% of the alumni have a net income of more than \$1 million, and the median net worth of those polled was \$345,000.

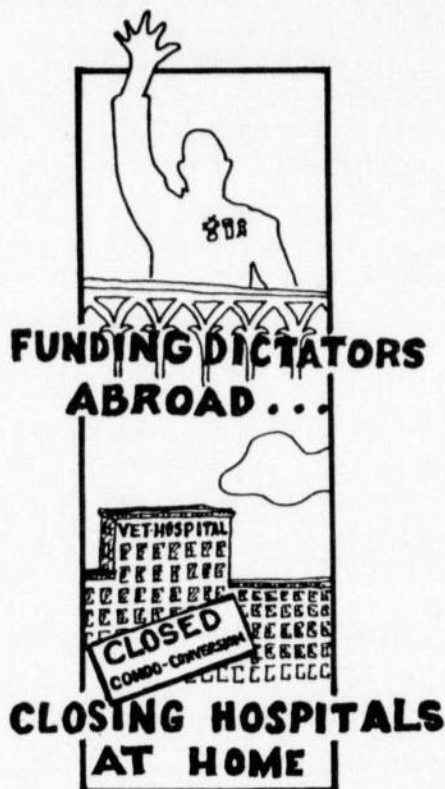
In comparison, the median net worth of all U.S. families in 1983, the last year for which figures are available, was only \$24,000 and the median household income was about the same. And since the category of "all U.S. families" includes the very wealthy Stanford and Harvard alumni among them, even these figures hardly reflect the economic status of U.S. workers.

No wonder things look so rosy for most of the Stanford and Harvard alumni. Like the rest of the capitalist class in general, they live the lives of kings and queens in comparison to the hand-to-mouth existence of the great majority of the working class.

The People



THAT'S RIGHT MR. PRESIDENT, ALL OF OUR ECONOMIC INDICATORS FORECAST AN UPWARD TREND!



Workers Re-Unite

On May 1st through 5th, workers from around the world will participate in an International Labor Conference called to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Haymarket events and to discuss the common problems facing workers today.

Unions and rank-and-file activists from Canada, Denmark, England, Japan, Poland, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the U.S., and Venezuela are currently expected to participate, with many others expressing strong interest in attending if circumstances and finances permit.

Details of the Conference will be published in the May *Industrial Worker*. Also being organized are North American speaking tours for delegates whose schedules permit. Among those slated for the tours are delegates from Solidarnosc and the South Africa Allied Workers Union. Funds are urgently needed to meet the expenses of these tours and to enable delegates from impoverished unions to participate.

Contributions should be sent to the Conference Committee, 3435 North Sheffield (Suite 202), Chicago, Illinois 60657.

Industrial Worker

Health Benefits for Contras

Links, a newsletter on health and social change in Central America, largely written by doctors and health workers, is powerfully trenchant. It is also sometimes frightening. Nicaraguan medical school Vice Dean Dr. Gustavo Sequiera writes of visiting the Bluefields region of his country to fight an outbreak of measles: "Our team arrived the afternoon of the 25th of January. Early the next morning, gunfire and a shower of bullets woke us up. When the gunfire stopped and we left the health post to look for wounded we were captured by *Misurasta* one of the *contra* groups...after about half an hour I heard a blast of gunfire and felt a burning sensation in my left leg....At this point, the *contras* said they would kill me, since it would be too much trouble to take a wounded person with them." This is the "humanitarian aid" administered to the citizenry of Nicaragua. The *contras* spared him when they found out he was a doctor.

Alternative Media

A Penny Saved Is a Penny Burned

Danny Mladenka was pretty surprised when the city of Houston spent 17 cents to mail him a letter threatening to sue if he didn't pay a delinquent tax bill.

His bill was for 8 cents.

"This is all kind of funny. But if you want to know the truth, I think the city is just wasting money going to all this trouble over an 8 cent bill," said Mladenka.

City officials said Tuesday that the amount was considered delinquent taxes because Mladenka's check for his 1983 taxes apparently was a nickel short. The remaining 3 cents is a penalty payment.

"We usually catch these things. We just didn't catch this one," said Gerald Schmelter, city supervisor of tax administration, explaining that the office usually does not mail bills for such small amounts.

"Hey these things happen," he said.

Mladenka says he is going to ask the city to mail him a receipt.

The Southern Libertarian Messenger



'Progressive' Predicts

Ronald Reagan has only two-and-a-half years left to overthrow the Sandinista government of Nicaragua, and he's beginning to get a little anxious. No time to waste.

This spring, the President is planning to propose a \$100 million aid package to the *contras* — \$70 million of it for lethal aid. Odds are he'll get at least a hefty chunk out of Congress, even though the Democrats cut off aid to the *contras* at one point and then only begrudgingly agreed to \$27 million in so-called nonlethal aid last year.

"There's no doubt," says White House communications director Patrick Buchanan, "that Congress has shifted towards the President's position." Representative Roberto G. Torricelli, Democrat of New Jersey, who opposes lethal aid agrees with Buchanan's assessment: "Support for the Administration's position has been slowly building."

Democratic acquiescence has turned to Democratic cheerleading, and liberals are enjoying their new roles as Reagan's pom-pom girls. Their rah-rah may not stop until (North) American boys start coming home in body bags.

The Progressive

Kirkpatrick vs. World Court

Jeane Kirkpatrick may have performed a valuable service for (North) American democracy by giving a good look at the Reagan Administration's true face.

In a recent newspaper column, Mrs. Kirkpatrick denounced Professor Abram Chayes of the Harvard Law School for representing Nicaragua in its World Court suit against the U.S.. A (North) American lawyer who thus opposes his government, Kirkpatrick said, violates "a citizen's obligation to support decisions made through normal democratic processes".

But by what "normal democratic process" did the (North) American people approve of a war against Nicaragua? Approve the creation and funding of a "contra" force to fight the war? Approve (North) American direction of that force? Approve the use of terrorism? Approve the mining of harbours, the destruction of crops, the bombing of health clinics, the shooting of wedding parties?

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