

U News and Notes

2 B PC or Not 2 B PC

Welcome back, college men and women. Or is it womyn and men?

Aw heck, who knows nowadays.

As you can see, this year's first issue of *U.* is crammed full of political correctness — the movement that has swept across college campuses, seeped into classroom discourse and confused everyone in its wake.

Some call PC a new McCarthyism that threatens to redraw the boundaries of free speech. Others call PC a much-needed correction of historical oversight and institutionalized racism.

Others say it's just a bunch of media hype. Being the media, we of course resent that notion....

Behind the Scenes

If you come to Santa Monica, Calif., you may meet the new staff of *U.* editorial fellows wandering around. Valerie, Jeff, Laurel and I were plucked from middle America, transplanted here, and given the power to select, commission, edit and design the best work of college journalists across the country.

We get a free apartment one block from the beach, editorial control of a publication with a 1,425,000 circulation, and occasional free tickets to Dodger games. It's a lot better than standing on the street corner holding signs that say, "Will edit for food."

You see, the entrepreneur who founded the paper five years ago was adamant about hiring young journalists whose fingers are still on the pulse of the collegiate student body (or at least somewhere near the wrist). That way, we don't have a bunch of stuffed shirts in board-rooms saying, "Yeah, Herb, I think college kids want to read more articles about mutual funds...."

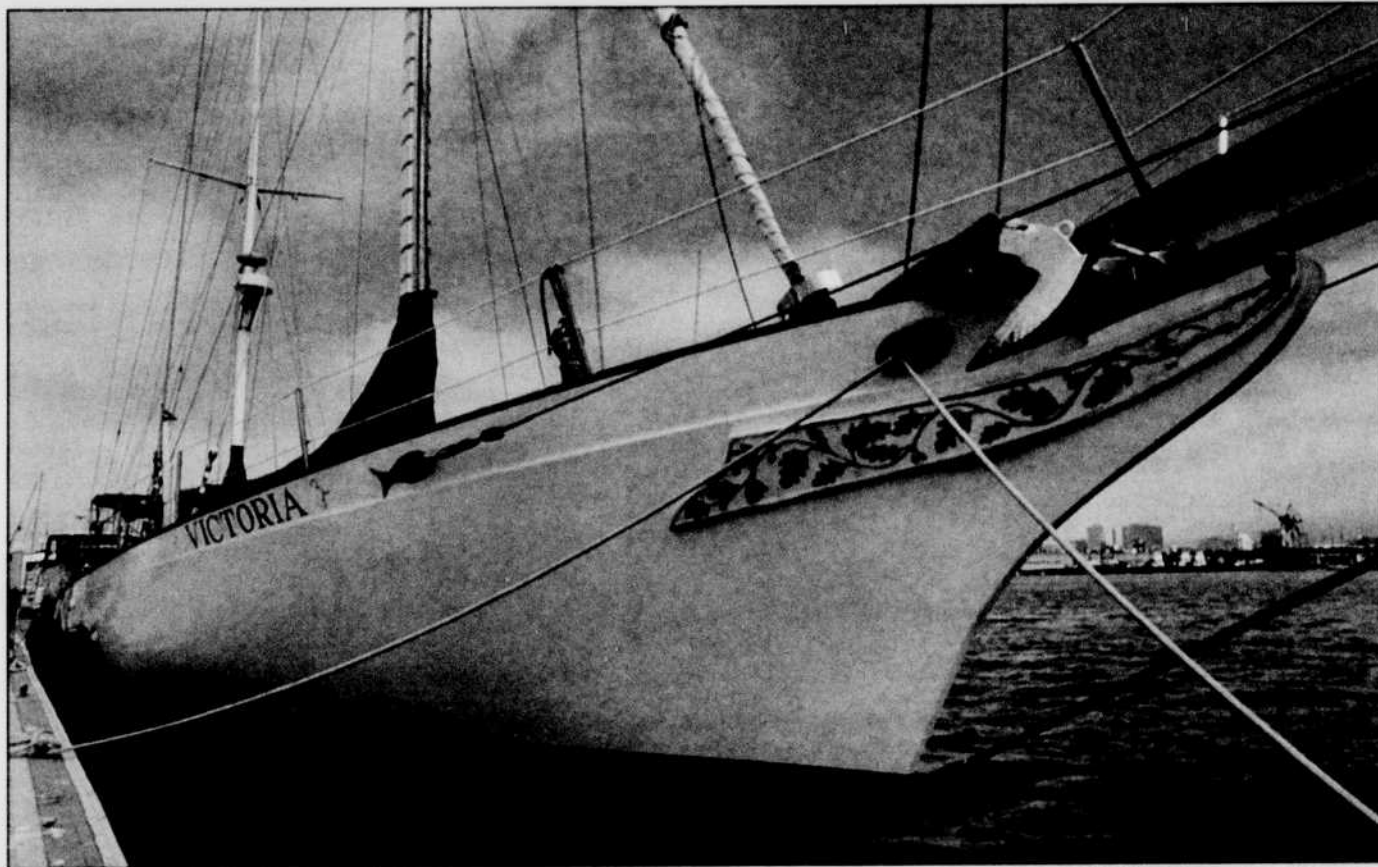
Lots of New Stuff

And it gets better. This year, *U.* is making some changes for the better. As well as reprinting the best articles from college papers, now we're sending more college students out to write original articles for us, (kind of like *Time*, except we're not owned by a vertical media monopoly.) There's even going to be a new entertainment magazine, *In*, which will be a sister publication to *U.* (or is sibling publication more PC?).

In addition, this year we editors get to take turns penning this "News and Notes" column, where we can write about the hot trends and issues we uncover while reading every ink-stained page of more than 400 college newspapers.

So, kick back, relax and enjoy the hard work of the 53 college journalists (count 'em) who worked like crazy to bring it all to you.

—Ty Wenger,
Editor on Fellowship, *Ohio State U.*



RAJIV CHANDRASEKARAN, STANFORD DAILY, STANFORD U.

The Office of Naval Research says Stanford has misspent \$200 million in research appropriations, including funds for this yacht.

Probe cracks down on research

By ROXANNE PATEL

Daily Pennsylvanian, U. of Pennsylvania

A federal investigation into mismanaged funds at more than 20 U.S. research institutions may force universities to absorb more of their research-related expenses and revamp federal grant guidelines.

Officials said the congressional investigation, which began last spring when federal auditors uncovered what they believe to be \$200 million of unnecessary charges from Stanford U., will strictly limit the amount of government money universities receive for research-related expenses.

According to Dennis Fitzgibbons, spokesman for the congressional subcommittee heading the review, schools have uniformly misinterpreted "vague" federal guidelines, causing administrators to misuse taxpayers' money at numerous institutions.

"As John Dingell (D-Mich., and head of the subcommittee) said, Stanford is unfortunately more the rule than the

exception," Fitzgibbons said.

The congressional probe involves government support money, including administrative and maintenance costs accrued from federally funded research. These expenses make up indirect research overhead, which is money added to a research grant for sufficient research support.

Indirect overhead falls into two categories — administrative expenses and maintenance expenses — and is tacked onto every federal research grant.

Administrative support money is used to pay research assistants and administrators who spend time on particular projects. The maintenance money is used for the upkeep of research buildings and helps pay for utilities, equipment and supplies.

Stanford's indirect overhead rate was 78 percent at the start of the probe, which means for every \$100 a researcher received, the university got an additional \$78 for support costs. Stanford's current overhead rate is 55.5 percent.

During the past decade, Stanford

administrators used hundreds of thousands of taxpayers' dollars, intended to cover overhead costs, to fund the campus shopping center and for depreciation of the school's yacht.

Stanford President Donald Kennedy resigned in the wake of the Stanford investigation, saying it would be difficult to lead the university with the controversy surrounding his role as president.

But Stanford spokesman Terry Shepard said the \$200 million the university may have misspent is in dispute by administrators who believe Stanford should not have to pay back money the government already has approved toward indirect research appropriations.

The Office of Naval Research said Stanford has not proven its costs were higher than the allotted percentage provided by the government. It says Stanford should have to pay a lot of that \$200 million back.

Stanford administrators disagree, Shepard said. Stanford began paying back the government for misspent government appropriations this year, and \$1.35 million has been paid back thus far, he said.

Tom Robertson, deputy regional inspector general for the Department of Health and Human Services, said many of the schools charged the government for "entertainment" expenses — charges he said clearly are not related to research support.

"The federal government should not have to pay for membership in country clubs... or for things like the yacht at Stanford," Robertson said.

Stanford's misspendings also included \$7,000 in linen for the president's house, \$2,500 to refurbish a grand piano, \$3,000 for a cedar-lined chest, \$2,000 a month for flowers in the president's house, \$4,000 for

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Winsford acquires majority ownership of *U.*

The Los Angeles-based Winsford Corporation has acquired majority ownership of *U. The National College Newspaper*.

"Winsford brings financial strength and stability to a unique publication that has been highly successful in reaching its target audience among college and university students throughout the country," said Gayle Morris Sweetland, chairman of Winsford and its newly formed subsidiary American Collegiate Network.

J. Scott Schmidt, formerly publisher of *The Daily News of Los Angeles* and a senior

executive of the Tribune Company of Chicago, has been named president and publisher.

Mr. Schmidt is also a director and shareholder of ACN.

Albert T. Ehringer, founder of *U.*, has been retained as a consultant to ACN and continues as a shareholder.

Sweetland, who was previously First Vice President - Investor and Media Relations for H.F. Ahmanson & Company and Home Savings of America, will be the editorial director of the newspaper.