

## U News and Notes

Spring Break is back. Before you ditch your books and head for fun and sun, take some time to check out this month's issue. Turn to page 6 to get the lowdown on the upcoming presidential election. We'll keep you updated on the issues and candidates, but it's your responsibility to register to vote.

### Holy dead rodents, Batman...

A U. of North Dakota student was fined \$75 for throwing a dead badger onto the rink during an ice hockey game between UND and the U. of Wisconsin Badgers. Seems it's tradition at UND hockey games to throw a dead version of some opposing teams' mascots on the ice during games. Duane Czapiewski, UND police chief, said police search the arena prior to each game since most of the rodents are hidden there beforehand.

I can just see them searching people at the door: "Excuse me son, is that a dead badger in your pocket...."

Oh, never mind.

### The hottest tickets in town

Three Eastern Kentucky U. students drove three and a half hours to Indianapolis to get in line for courtroom passes to Mike Tyson's rape trial.

When they got in line at 4:30 a.m., there were only three guys in line ahead of them. One man offered EKV sophomore Robbie Phillips \$150 for his pass, but Phillips turned him down, saying he "just wanted to see. (Tyson) real bad."

Phillips and his friends watched the jury selection and finagled an autograph from Tyson.

### No nude oil Twister on blind dates...

Scott Gold and Sam Ruff, columnists for *Omnibus*, the weekly entertainment section of the U. of North Carolina *Daily Tar Heel*, had never been on blind dates and decided that needed to change. The pair had readers send in their names for a drawing in which the two lucky winners got to go out on dates with them.

Almost 250 women entered the contest, but as it turns out, the winners, UNC seniors Ellen Kossow and Shannon Nichols, didn't have to enter because their roommate, Hillary Cox, did it for them as a joke.

Frankster Hillary signed her roommates up for "The Dark Side" date — described by the columnists as including drinking and dancing — and if the ladies wanted to, bungee jumping and nude oil Twister. Ellen said they drank and danced, but "We had our limits," she said, when it came to the nude oil Twister.

— Valerie Loner,  
Editor on Fellowship, Berry College

# Students lash back at tuition hike

By MICHAEL LAWRENCE

*The Daily Bruin, U. of California, Los Angeles*

A new tuition hike has sparked hunger strikes, sit-ins, rallies and marches across the U. of California system this spring. And the rumbling of student opinion will only get louder as the tuition increase forces them to pay more for the second straight year.

The \$550 increase, which will raise annual in-state tuition to \$2,824 and out-of-state tuition to \$10,735, has helped increase the cost of college by 67 percent since 1990.

About 1,500 UC-Davis students stormed a campus auditorium shortly after the Board of Regents voted almost unanimously to approve the increase. Three days later, about 35 students remained in the building.

The rallies come as a last-ditch effort for UC students at a time when higher education systems across the country are feeling the effects of an interminable recession.

The State U. of New York system (SUNY), for one, is facing sharp increases authorized by Gov. Mario Cuomo. If enacted, the cost of attending some SUNY schools will have doubled in the last two years.

At six of the nine UC schools, including UC-Berkeley and UCLA, students held hunger strikes on campus, hoping to persuade university officials to roll back fees for the 1992-93 year.

"Last year when they raised fees by 40 percent, nobody did anything about it. This year it happened again," said Rosa Sanchez,



NEIL MICHEL, THE CALIFORNIA ANGEL, U. OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS

Hunger strikes, sit-ins, and rallies — students still get passionate when issues are personal.

a Berkeley student who participated in the fast. "Going without food is going to be difficult, but something must be done. Students must be heard."

But some university officials, including UC President David Gardner, defend the increase, saying it is necessary when the state is saddled with growing prison, welfare and secondary education costs. The state currently faces a \$6.6 billion deficit.

But after enduring the dramatic 1990 hike, students have little sympathy.

An estimated 400 students attended a rally at the state capitol in Sacramento, calling on

state legislators to reject the increase.

"We wanted to make sure the legislature and the governor knew that students will remember this," said Andy Gavtan, a Davis student who joined the Sacramento protest. "Students are not going to forget this come election time. We're here because we can't afford to go to a private school."

Some state legislators are hearing the message. "We need to turn around the priorities of the state of California," said State Assemblyman Tom Hayden. "Higher education is at a crossroads, and the destiny of the students is at stake."

# Prague: a haven for bohemian graduates

By CHRIS ZIEGLER

*Daily Nexus, U. of California, Santa Barbara*

Prague. The word conjures up images of a medieval city, a playwright president who lives in an actual castle, Kafka and Kundera, and a Velvet Revolution.

But to thousands of Americans who have flocked to the city in the two years since the Czechs threw off communism, Prague is home. An estimated 10,000 Americans — including a host of recent college graduates and twentysomething bohemians — have found that what started as a tourist visit has become an indefinite stay.

Many have been drawn to Prague by reports of a cultural mecca — a breeding ground of intellectualism and underground thought akin to Paris in the 1920s. But others have come out of financial necessity.

"There's a lot more opportunity here than in the United States," said Susanna Cooper, a 25-year-old journalist. Cooper left a reporting job in Pittsfield, Mass., to freelance in Europe, and is now a reporter for *The Prague Post*.

The stagnant U.S. economy, combined with Eastern Europe's low cost of living, has encouraged many young Americans to come to Prague to pursue dreams and projects which would be virtually impossible to achieve in the United States. For instance, two English-language newspapers, *The Post and Prognosis*, were started last year by several U. of California, Santa Barbara, graduates. And two other former UCSB students are establishing an English-language literary journal called *Twisted Spoon Press*.

"You get this sense that there's something to do here," said Mark Baker, 31, the *Prague Post's* business editor.

Clearly, Prague's history as a center of culture helps foster young Americans' eagerness to dive into the city's thriving art scene. But

the idea of Prague as the "Paris of the '90s" is debatable among some Americans living there.

"That's a very romantic version of the whole thing," said Nike Mikes, 28, a Czech-American from Hayward, Calif. *The Post's* Cooper agrees, saying economics, not art, is the real story of Prague.

Yet Prague does possess a quality which makes Americans living there vague about when they intend to leave. "It's hard to explain," said Howard Sidenberg, who left his Ph.D. in political science on hold at UCSB for the lure of the city. "Prague has a certain aura, a certain magic."

If a nebulous sense of magic initially draws Americans to Prague, the city's cheapness keeps them there. Many Americans in Prague say they can live on \$100 a month — although just barely.

"I am only working 15 hours a week (teaching English)," said recent U. of Virginia graduate Gretchen Geggis, 22, "and I'm able to pay for food and rent."

To support themselves, most Americans teach English. Teaching jobs can be found through the Czech Ministry of Education, American-Czech Friendship organizations, or Czech firms wanting Americans to teach their employees English.

Housing is very cheap — as low as \$30 per month — but hard to find. But the low rent has its own cost in low quality and no tenant rights.

U.Va. grad Eric Leckbee found this out when his landlord kicked him out on New Year's Day, saying simply, "Eric, Happy New Year. I want my apartment. Be out tomorrow."

Still, something about Prague still woos boatloads of eager college graduates to its door. And its special sense of *je ne sais quoi* is even making some in Paris see red.

"After being in Paris for a week, I was really happy to be back in Prague," Geggis said.



WADE DANIELS, THE DAILY NEXUS, UCL, SANTA BARBARA

Hangin' out in the Paris of the '90s.