

# AMERICAN CULTURES PASSES

## Faculty votes 227-194 to add racial diversity requirement

By Heather Jones  
Staff Writer

UC Berkeley faculty members approved the American cultures requirement yesterday in a decision that was hailed as an important step in fostering understanding among people of different colors.

By a vote of 227 to 194, the Academic Senate narrowly passed a proposal that requires all undergraduates to study the contributions of ethnic groups to American history.

Ethnic studies Professor Ron Takaki said the 33-vote margin was a positive sign.

"It's significant that we had such a large turnout," Takaki said. "More faculty became informed on the issue."

Beginning in 1991, students entering UC Berkeley will be required to pass a course focusing on three out of five ethnic groups — African American, Asian American, Chicano/Latino, European American, and Native American. The course may be taken in a variety of departments, and can overlap with existing breadth requirements.

Supporters have maintained that an American cultures course is necessary at UC Berkeley, where no ethnic group constitutes a majority but where incidents of racism still occur.

Approximately 350 students attended the meeting in Zellerbach Auditorium, and about 350 more listened to the meeting in Pauley Ballroom. The students gave a standing

ovation when the votes were counted. Political science Professor William Muir argued against the proposal during the meeting.

"We have a disaster looming ahead of us," Muir said at the meeting. The university does not have the faculty, teaching assistants, or classrooms to accommodate the 6,000 students who will need to fulfill the requirement each year, he said.

Executive Vice Chancellor Roderic Park disagreed, saying that the university plans to allocate sufficient funds to implement the requirement, and by 1994 the campus will add 15 classrooms the size of 145 Dwinelle Hall.

Park also said that the Academic Senate should view the American cultures requirement as "more of an educational issue than a resource issue."

Physics Professor Gilbert Shapiro expressed reservations about the proposal, saying, "It is a naive point of view to say that the way to learn something is to take a course in it."

Shapiro proposed an amendment to the American cultures proposal that would provide alternative ways to fulfilling the requirement, such as a term paper. The amendment was voted on and rejected by the senate.

Emeka Ezera, a student representative on the committee that authored the proposal, said he thought the requirement passed because faculty members have had a semester to consider the proposal since it was first presented.

"I think this is the product of a year

SEE PAGE 7



These students gathered yesterday to celebrate the Academic Senate's passage of the American cultures requirement.

By Tara de Funiak

## AGSE to hold strike May 3, 4

Members of the Association of Graduate Student Employees will hold a campus-wide strike May 3 and 4 to protest UC Berkeley's refusal to recognize them as employees, AGSE executive board member Collette Patt said yesterday.

Association members said they hope the walk-out will have a widespread effect on undergraduate classes, since a majority of the campus' 3,200 graduate students belong to the association.

"Support will be very widespread. Although it's hard to give exact numbers, we are expecting support from departments across the campus," AGSE executive member Eric Zakim said.

Zakim said he did not know the exact number of graduate students belonging to AGSE, which has voluntary membership. Last year the Public Employee Relations Board determined that 60 percent of graduate student employees on campus were members of AGSE.

The association, comprised of teaching assistants, research assistants, readers and tutors, voted to approve the strike April 5 and has been deliberating on the details of the strike since then.

The association is asking that faculty members cancel, and students skip classes for the two-day strike, according to Zakim.

"We want the third and fourth to be a complete boycott by undergraduates and faculty. We want to shut down the university," AGSE executive board

member Eric Zakim said.

In addition to the walkout, AGSE members will also hold teach-ins, rallies and pickets until the university recognizes them as employees, Zakim said.

Picketing by strike supporters will begin Monday in front of California Hall, he said.

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By Devin Odell

## EBMUD asks for water cutback

OAKLAND — East Bay Municipal Utility District customers will be asked to cut back water consumption by only 15 percent this summer — a significant relaxation of the current 25 percent conservation goal.

EBMUD's board of directors voted to ease the conservation goals Tuesday after hearing that the reservoirs used to supply the water to the district's customers are at 90 percent of capacity and filling.

But the board decided not to lift the water shortage emergency condition, which has been in effect for just over a year, and return the water rates — which currently penalize people who use a lot of water — to their pre-drought level.

As a result of the board's action, customers will face higher water prices, as well as a variety of restrictions on water use — including the use of shutoff nozzles on hoses, not washing sidewalks, and serving water in

restaurants only upon request.

In other action Tuesday, the board put off any decision on the Water Supply Management Program — including the controversial Buckhorn Reservoir — until May 9.

However, the board did hear from representatives of the state Department of Fish and Game and the Buckhorn Legal Defense Fund, a private environmental group. Both organizations are threatening to sue the district to prevent the construction of the Buckhorn Canyon reservoir.

Under the emergency condition, the district charges for water on an "inclining block rate" structure — that is, the price of water goes up by steps as the customer uses more. Under normal conditions the district charges a flat rate regardless of the amount of water used.

Tuesday's decision makes the rate structure's steps broader and less steep. The price for consumption of between 200 and 800 gallons a day will be lowered to 88 cents per unit.

The previous structure charged

## Campus plans more student housing

By Haleh Hatami

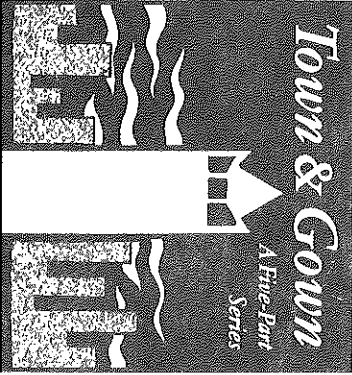
By the year 2005, UC Berkeley wants to guarantee that 70 to 75 percent of its student population will be housed close to campus.

The ambitious plan to add 3,400 beds to the Southside may alarm some residents of an already crowded neighborhood, but is welcomed by those who recognize that it may be the solution to a housing crunch that has caused friction between students, the

ARTS  
Lyle Lovett,  
Beatings, &  
More  
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UNIVERSITY  
UC Police review  
board bashed  
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SPORTS  
Baseball ends  
slide with win  
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# Engineering professor dies of cancer at 66

By Sherry Joe  
Staff Writer

Internationally acclaimed UC Berkeley civil engineering professor H. Bolton Seed died of cancer last Sunday in his Orinda home. He was 66.

Seed, who was renowned for his expertise in geotechnical and earthquake engineering, contributed to the fields of structural engineering design and highway engineering.

A recipient of the National Medal of Science, the nation's most prestigious scientific honor, Seed was best known for his study of soil behavior during earthquakes.

Seed was a member of an international team summoned to study the Aswan Dam in Egypt after several earthquakes raised questions over the dam's seismic strength.

He determined that the increasing depth in Lake Nasser probably caused the earthquakes, but that the dam could survive the seismic shocks.

As a consultant, Seed worked on the Jartela Dam in Pakistan, the Oroville Dam in California and the Alaska pipeline project.

A member of the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering, Seed received more than 40 international and national awards.

These include 12 major awards from the American Society of Civil Engineers and two of the highest honors given by the American Society of Engineering Education.

His son, UC Berkeley geotechnical professor Raymond B. Seed, said his father inspired him to become a civil engineer.

"His example led me to be what I

am now," said Seed, one of this year's Distinguished Teaching Award recipients. "That was primarily from watching him for 40 years and seeing how happy (engineering) made him."

Seed said his father influenced his personal life as well.

"He taught me ethics and morals, courage and commitment, and caring for other people," Seed said.

He added that his father "liked to do geotechnical engineering 80 to 90 hours per week" as a regular hobby.

In 1987, the elder Seed was named Faculty Research Lecturer and received the 1976 Berkeley Distinguished Teaching Award.

Born in England, he became a U.S. citizen, taught at London University and Harvard University before coming to UC Berkeley in 1950.

Dean of the College of Engineering, Karl S. Pister said Seed was an "extraordinarily accomplished professor" who excelled in teaching, research, professional competence and university and public service.

"As a person, he was a very straightforward, understated, no-nonsense person. He listened to people and was a man of action — very likable," Pister said.

"It was fitting and proper that a man of his stature was fortunate to have a son who is following in his footsteps — it's like a memorial," Pister said.

In addition to his son, Seed is survived by his wife, Muriel; and his daughter, Carol.

Family members said there will be no memorial service, and asked that, instead of flowers, contributions be made to an honorary memorial fellowship that will be established in his name.

Condolences may be sent to Muriel Seed at 623 Crossridge Terrace, Orinda, Ca 94563.

## Burglary

FROM PAGE 5

Guidici said he opened the store early at the suspects' request.

"I let them in because I have been waiting for the right moment to catch these guys and there were no other customers so I could keep an eye on them," he said.

The suspects allegedly split up once they were in the store. One of the suspects stuffed five tank tops and three pairs of shorts worth \$80 into a plastic bag, Guidici said, claiming that this was not the first time Richardson and Wiggins allegedly took his merchandise.

Guidici said the suspects left his store when he telephoned for the police.

"They'll never come in here again, I hope. Maybe they'll stop bothering everybody around here. I was glad to see them get taken away," Guidici said.

## Cultures

FROM FRONT PAGE

of rumination" by the faculty, he said after the vote.

The original proposal, which required that students study two ethnic groups in the context of American history, was criticized as too excitationary because it did not specify Europeans as an ethnic group. In November, faculty members postponed a vote on the requirement so that it could be revised.

Takaki said the passage of the requirement at UC Berkeley will affect universities nationwide in their decisions on whether or not to introduce similar requirements.

The University of Michigan's proposal of a required course on racism was voted down this month. Takaki said the revised proposal will probably be closer to UC Berkeley's "much more visionary" proposal.

"Today we articulated the Berkeley vision of an educated person," Takaki said.

## Water

FROM FRONT PAGE

EBMUD spokesperson Gayle Montgomery said that the rates will probably remain in effect at least until next year's rainy season. "Until then, this is probably it," he said.

The decision not to lift the emergency drought conditions met strong opposition from Board President Sanford Skaggs.

"It would be entirely unfair to continue the situation when we know we have enough water — when we know that with normal consumption we will still have enough water next fall," Skaggs said.

The district's staff project that water supplies next September will fall somewhere between last September's drought level and the normal level for that month. This would put supply well above what it was in 1987, when the board decided not to impose any emergency conservation goals.

Boardmember John Gioia defended the board's action Tuesday. He said that the standard for lifting emergency conditions should be higher than the standards for imposing them.

Skaggs also said that he felt the board would be derelict in its duty if it did not return to the pre-drought rates. "While we all agree that conservation is a worthwhile goal, I don't think that rates make all that much difference, and to the extent that they do make a difference, they end up hurting people," he said.

But Boardmember Helen Burke, who represents Berkeley, argued that the district could not lift the emergency condition because of the danger of a draught in the near future.

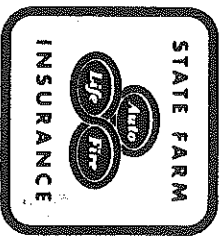
When the district's Chief Engineer Ted May when told the board that the reservoirs are half full and filling, Burke responded, "You mean, half empty."

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