

SPECIAL FIRE ISSUE

Arsonists suspected
Investigators are searching for clues that will lead them to those accused of igniting the fires that ravaged Laguna Beach, Villa Park on Malibu. See story, page 2.

Professor sees ruin
Communications instructor Shay Sayre, who was told of the fire by a student, fled from school to check the status of her Laguna Beach home. See story, page 2.

Some homes saved
Of the 296 units at the El Moro Mobile Home Park, only 40 were destroyed by the fire. Residents expressed joy in finding their homes spared. See story, page 2.

Reporter braves blaze
Daily Titan writer Justin Borg recalls his thoughts after going to aid his grandmother, whose house was destroyed in the Laguna Beach fire. See story, page 2.

RIISING FROM THE ASHES



Nancy Grant of Laguna Beach sifts through the burned out remains of her house on Bounty Way after last week's firestorm, which claimed 366 homes. More coverage of OC fires begins on page 3. Jeff Golden/Daily Titan

'Fake' fireman from CSUF Student firefighter feels heat of Malibu inferno

Man's arraignment for impersonation scheduled for today
By DAN ALBARNO
Daily Titan Staff Writer

A 22-year-old man who told fire investigators that he attends Cal State Fullerton is scheduled to be arraigned Friday on charges of impersonating a firefighter and possession of stolen property, Orange County fire Capt. Dan Young said.

Minh Quang Tran, a Lake Forest resident, was arrested Wednesday afternoon by fire investigators after he allegedly tried to buy a firefighter's uniform using false identification. Investigators then discovered a firefighter's helmet and jacket, two Orange County Fire Department badges and an emergency-band radio scanner during a search of Tran's vehicle.

"He (Tran) is someone who wanted to be a fireman and was getting the equipment to be one," Young said.

Young added that Tran is not being held as an arson suspect after being questioned by fire investigators.

Impersonating a firefighter and possession of stolen property both have been filed as felony charges.

"The amount of the stolen equipment is in excess of \$400," Young said. "The helmet itself is \$200."

Tran was arrested after 2 p.m. Wednesday when he allegedly claimed to be a firefighter and attempted to buy a uniform at a store in Orange.

Tran was held for questioning after the store owners called fire officials.

Tran, who's being held in Orange County Jail, is scheduled to appear at Central Court in Santa Ana at 8:30 a.m. Friday. Tran's bail has been set at \$10,000.

If Tran pleads innocent to the charges, he could opt for a trial by jury or judge and has the option of having a public defender appointed for his defense. If Tran pleads guilty, he could be sentenced Friday.

A Cal State Fullerton student was one of about 432 Orange County firefighters sent to battle the blazes that have swept through parts of Topanga Canyon, Woodland Hills and Malibu this week.

Student Stephen Concialdi, who works with the Orange County Fire Department, was part of 19 teams from the area sent to Malibu to help fight the spread of the Old Topanga fire, which has claimed one life and injured several others.

British screen writer Duncan Gibbins died Wednesday night after being severely burned Tuesday as he tried to rescue a cat from the flames.

Fire officials said 13 others, including 10 firefighters, have been injured so far in the blaze that erupted Tuesday morning.

As of Thursday afternoon, more than 4,500 firefighters on the scene had contained 70 percent of the fire, which continued to burn in Topanga Canyon above Pacific Coast Highway.

Los Angeles County Fire Inspector Brian Jordan said winds have made it difficult for firefighters to extinguish the blaze, which has destroyed more than 200 homes.

Officials are investigating arson as the possible cause of the fire.

FBI agents and Los Angeles sheriffs have joined the investigation efforts, and Gov. Pete Wilson announced that a \$250,000 reward has been offered for anyone with information leading to the capture and conviction of anyone responsible for any of the fires that have ravaged Southern California since Oct. 26.

Elementary school mourns death of fourth-grade girl
By GEOFFREY BILAU
Daily Titan Staff Writer

Friday afternoon, Orangehorpe Elementary School will celebrate the reopening of three buildings that were destroyed by a fire last March. But the excitement is blunted because one of their students is not alive to enjoy it.

Christina Mach, a student in Cynthia Arakaki's fourth-grade class, was killed along with her cousin, Alex Lee, on Halloween night when they were struck by a pizza delivery truck while crossing a Fullerton street. The two girls, each nine years old, were truck-treating when the accident occurred.

Please see SCHOOL/2

Thanks to strong ad sales, vigorous campus marketing and a large news staff, weekly arts and entertainment inserts help Daily Titan finance news coverage.

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Dec 1, 1994

HOT COFFEE

by Sherrie Ward & Elizabeth Hernandez

Whether you know it as Java, Joe, brown gold or mud, coffee is suddenly everywhere. Coffeehouses have sprung up throughout Orange County and offer more than just the famous bitter black brew. They offer an intimately comfortable atmosphere where people can enjoy any number of leisurely pursuits over a cup of freshly brewed Cafe Mocha. People frequent cafes to chat, exchange ideas, gossip, and be entertained. Sometimes they go to read, study or play board games. These meeting places are far from drab. Coffeehouses are colorful, interesting, and rich in culture. They're considered "hip" places to hang out — with friends or alone. Offering a pleasant contrast to the drunkenness found in nightclubs, coffeehouses are filled with literary, artistic and intellectual flavor.

"They are a booming alternative to bars, where people can sit, chat, play games, and listen to music," says Terence Love, owner of Steamers Cafe in Fullerton.

Coffeehouses are a fast emerging trend partly because, unlike nightclubs there is no age limit. People of all ages are welcome to soak in the unique atmosphere that permeates the cafe walls. Another appealing trait that attracts patrons is that there's no drink minimum. Whether they order or not, once someone finds a comfortable niche, the chair belongs to them for as long as they want to stay. There is no pressure to perform.

this old-fashioned community environment and is home to a handful of novelty coffeehouses. Within the last couple of months, two new coffeehouses, Rock N Java and Steamers, have joined the ranks of such established downtown cafes as the Winged Heart Cafe and Runbeez.

Located on Harbor Boulevard, Rock N Java is an artsy coffee brewing hang-out. Paintings adorn the earth-toned walls throughout the establishment. Forming a cozy living room parlor effect, red and purple chairs accompanied by couches are casually arranged around coffee tables.

Music by such popular alternative acts as Pearl Jam, filters through the sound system. The cafe's clientele is composed of a highly diverse group of people — young and old, conservative and wild.

"We wanted to offer a place where people could go that had a cool, artistic atmosphere," says owner, Harley Hall.

In addition to a variety of exotic coffees, Rock N Java serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner, seven days a week.

Malina Lake, a student at Fullerton College says she goes to Rock N Java to relax in between classes and after work.

"It gives me the opportunity to spend time with my close friend Tasha, and talk in a relaxing environment," says Lake.

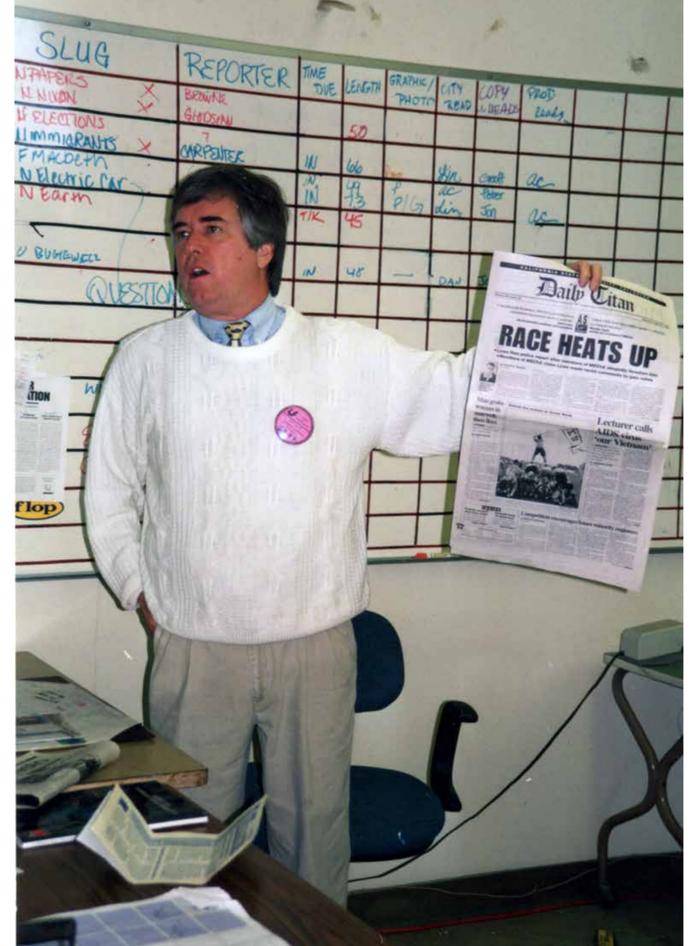
OPERA A LA CARTE
Gilbert and Sullivan's classic opera, "The Mikado" will be performed at Fullerton's Plummer Auditorium Dec. 3 at 8 p.m. The event is sponsored by CSUF's PAIR Celebrity Series. For more info contact (714) 773-3371.



1990s

A special award-winning issue covered the disastrous 1993 Laguna Fire (left); at right is Prof. Rick Pullen in 1994.

The 1990s and 2000s were also the high water mark for print ad sales, which were always strong.



DAILY TITAN

Los Angeles riots: past, present, future

1965 Watts uprising differed widely from recent revolts
By Warren Frisko
Daily Titan

The difference in the racial composition of the Los Angeles rioters and those who participated in the 1965 Watts riots led one Cal State Fullerton history professor to speculate that economic factors played a decisive role in L.A.'s violent reaction.

Lawrence de Graaf, said the L.A. riots suggested a breakdown in respect for law and order in general — by people of all races.

"Although both the Watts riots and the recent L.A. riots were initiated by racial anger and a feeling of economic frustration, the L.A. riots appeared to become more of a class-based riot (whereby classes are determined by economic status)," de Graaf said.

"Whereas the Watts riot was almost exclusively a black riot," he said, "it isn't true of the L.A. riots, in which we saw Asians, Latinos and whites participating."

Shortly after the Watts riots, de Graaf worked in the area on a volunteer "manpower program," which sought to teach "hard-core unemployables" the job skills necessary for employment amid growing technology.

Describing the economic plight Watts residents faced, he cited the black social psychologist Kenneth

Did the media do their job reporting on the violence?
By John Sinclair
Daily Titan

The fires of chaos can inflame people's hearts, and the tides of violence can send waves of emotion through their minds. But in times of social upheaval, most of society cannot witness the action first-hand — the media must deliver it to them.

After experiencing last week's riots in Los Angeles through newspapers, television and radio, professors at Cal State Fullerton commented on the effectiveness of the media coverage.

"There should be a clear journalistic reason as to why the violence is documented," Paul Lester, a photojournalism professor, said. "You want to photograph (the event) to educate and show the people how people can get so angry."

Carl Burrows, a journalism professor, said many people relied on television to bring them news of the riots, and that people should be cautious about

Student reacts to uproar near South-Central neighborhood
By John Sinclair
Daily Titan

White was in her home on the night the rioting broke out. "I slept five hours Wednesday night," she said. "I could not believe that the city around me was being burned to ashes."

More than 6,500 at Cal State Fullerton, and \$745 million in damages Central L.A. all her life.

As she looks back on the 64 deaths and 2,383 injuries reported by the Associated Press, she reflects sadly on the "lack of humanity that exists in our country today."

What answer does she have for her society?

"No one knows what the solution to the problem is," she said. "To find a solution, everybody must agree on the problem."

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6 years for rape not enough, say dorm residents

Convict could be paroled after serving about half of sentence
By Dawn Medeiros
Daily Titan

A guilty verdict and six years behind bars for convicted rapist Kenneth Dean Ray is too little, say many Cal State Fullerton dormitory residents following his sentencing.

Patrick Fisher, a communications senior, said he does not feel the victim was totally vindicated by Wednesday's municipal court decision.

"I agree with the verdict, but it probably should have been longer," Fisher said. "The verdict sends a message that you can't go around taking advantage of women."

The rape occurred Jan. 31 when the victim, a CSUF student, was returning to the Jewel Plummer Cobb Residence Halls after making a purchase at the Mobil gas station at York Linda Boulevard and Associated Road. Ray, tracked down through his brother-in-law, was taken into custody on Feb. 7.

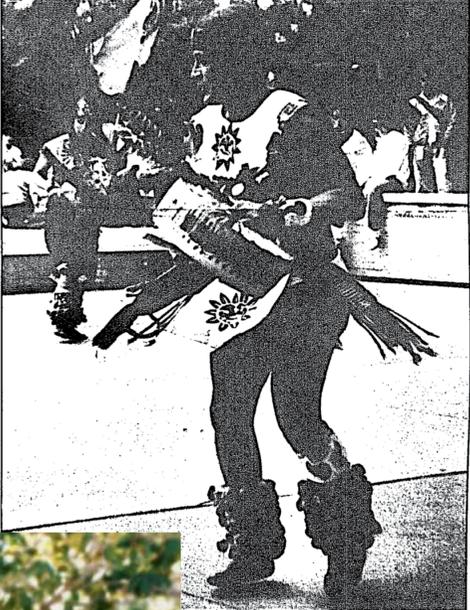
The incident caused many students to alter their daily routines and patterns, said Irene Castellero, a senior communications major.

"I think it has made a big impact because rape was something people never really thought a lot about before."

The reaction of dorm students was overwhelming, said Castellero, who also works at the

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Rattle and drum



Joe Latter / Daily Titan
A Malina spiritual dance wearing chachayetz around his ankles. He dances, rattle and drum in the Quad on Thursday.

Executive pay brought under investigation

Suspicion grows over Munitz's earnings as CSU Chancellor
By Mark Ryan
Daily Titan

In the wake of the controversy surrounding the University of California president's retirement package, California lawmakers have voted to investigate the system's compensation packages for its top officials.

The furor over the salaries given to the state's university officials began when UC Regents made closed-door decisions about UC President David Gardner's retirement package.

The transcripts of these meetings were kept secret until recent Jeremiah Halley broke ranks with other regents and disclosed the decisions.

While the state Legislature focuses on Gardner's retirement compensation, many in the California State University have begun to question just how much money Chancellor Barry Munitz will receive when he retires.

Munitz's contract signed in August 1991 — says that for "each year of satisfactory service as Chancellor... (he) will receive a one-time payment of \$10,000."

If Munitz's chancellor for five years, he will receive \$10,000 per year for five years.

Funds for Munitz's pension program will come from what his contract refers to as "non-state funds," which come from the CSU Foundation.

In comparison, Gardner will receive a yearly pension of \$126,000 and an additional one-time payment of \$875,000. These figures make him the highest paid of any California public official, according to the California Postsecondary Education Commission.

Munitz, whose retirement package is covered under a pension plan for state employees, earns \$175,000 per year.

The CSU Chancellor's salary was increased from \$145,000 to \$175,000 when Munitz was offered the job last year.

"CSU is the largest system of higher education in the country," said Colleen Bentley-Adler, a spokeswoman for the Chancellor's Office. "We don't think this is outlandish pay. In fact, it may be lower than a chief executive officer of another \$2-billion company."

"In a comparison with five similar university systems, the CSU Chancellor's salary is now equal to that of the highest-paying comparison system," according to a report published by the California Postsecondary Education Commission.

See PAY, Page 3

ter burnout phase time approaches

pending finals and stress levels high-water mark

unity colleges, they had try when it came time to study, but at CSUF things were different.

"It's just a free-for-all here," said Baker, a junior geology major. "I pay way more money to get a B than I do to get an A. It's not a hassle and classes aren't needed."

Senior communications major Rivera said he is fed up.

After five years and 160 units, he said, "For a moment I couldn't see a light at the end of the tunnel. Now I can, but it still seems very dim."

Susan Burnes, a junior liberal arts major, said she is tired of studying.

"It's awful," she said. "I get to school early every morning and I read between classes, after classes, before work, after work and in my sleep. I just wish finals were tomorrow."

"I had a real nasty mid-term after spring break," said Dylan Brennan, a junior business major. "I had to study through break instead of enjoying it. That's what did me in."

Some students also complained about their living conditions. Those interviewed who live at the University Village Apartments

See BURNOUT, Page 3



Hard news and investigative reporting dominated many Daily Titan issues in the 1990s (above) under faculty adviser Jeffrey Brody.

Meanwhile, Rick Pullen (left) became the first Daily Titan faculty adviser to become dean of the College of Communications. Prof. Jason Shepard is now the second adviser to make the jump.