



Sharon Flynn, a UCSF nursing student, testified about abuses by doctors of voluntary sterilization during a public hearing last week on proposed regulations of this procedure.

## Vice Chancellor Harlins Resigns

Charles Harlins abruptly resigned his position as vice chancellor for personnel and student services last Friday. Harlins, who had been at the university for four years, said he was leaving due to a chronic heart condition, which had kept him out from work for several months recently.

Because of the suddenness of his resignation, no plans for choosing a successor have yet been formulated. It is expected that Peter Lindberg, director of student services, will serve as acting vice chancellor in the interim.

Harlins began his association with the university when he was hired as dean of students in January, 1971. Later that year, his position was upgraded to vice chancellor, and he took on responsibility for the functioning of the personnel office as well as student services.

Harlins came to UCSF with a background as an ordained minister, teacher, and community worker. He was active in the NAACP and Urban



Vice Chancellor Charles Harlins

League and directed an Oakland job-finding center for the hard core unemployed before working at UCSF.

Harlins was always candid about his preference for the duties of his job which involved direct contact with people over the more bureaucratic aspects of the position. As his

responsibilities increased with the upgrading of his job, however, the bureaucratic duties and pressures also grew.

Harlins was the highest level minority employee in the UCSF administration. His resignation leaves the campus without any minority employees in top administrative jobs.

### Confusion Reigns

## ASUC Elections Reorganized

The 1975 ASUC elections were postponed and reorganized at a special meeting of the executive board of the ASUC last Thursday after a heated dispute over whether or not the previously scheduled elections had been set up constitutionally.

In the original election setup, several amendments to the ASUC constitution were to be presented to voters in addition to candidates for office.

One of the amendments would change the names of the offices of Executive Director and Executive Vice President to Co-President of External Affairs and Co-President of Internal Affairs, respectively, and distribute responsibility more evenly between the new offices.

Another amendment would shorten the required period of time a student must be enrolled at UCSF to be eligible for the office of Executive Director (or for both Co-President offices should the other amendment pass) from four quarters to two quarters, in order to give more students an opportunity to run.

(Under the current constitution, nursing students and others enrolled in two year programs are denied eligibility for these positions.)

The dispute arose after the executive board assumed that the amendments would be passed and allowed students to run for the as-yet constitutionally unapproved of-

fices of Co-President of External Affairs and Co-President of Internal Affairs, and in one case allowed a

student who has been here only 3½ quarters to run for the position of Co-President of External Affairs.

ASUC Executive Director Nancy Gordon said at the meeting that this student, Mark Cave, should be allowed to run for the top position on the assumption that the amendment would pass.

"If Mark can't run, that leaves only one candidate for the office," Gordon said. "At least this way the students have a choice."

There was also disagreement over whether Cave had actually been at UCSF for the required four quarters. Cave said that since he had been here last year for a summer session in addition to this year, the board should consider him a four-term student. But Anita Washington, Vice President for Community Health, said that according to the Registrar's office, a summer session amounts to only half a quarter.

Cave then said that he would give up the office to his opponent by default should he win the election and the amendment not be passed.

"If we're going to let Mark run," Washington said, "then we should allow other freshmen to run for the same office and publicize that fact."

But Washington added that such a move would probably be unconstitutional, since the student body has not approved the amendment opening the top offices to first-year students.

After more than an hour of discussion, the group finally decided to postpone the election; have the candidates run for the offices presently described in the unamended

constitution; and present the amendments in this election, but not permit them to go into effect until the 1976-77 academic year.

Cave, who was running for Co-President of External Affairs as part of the CHE slate, has decided to run for Executive Vice President, for which he is qualified to run under the present constitution.

San Juan Garza, another member of Cave's party who originally was to run for Co-President of Internal Affairs, will take Cave's place as candidate for Executive Director. Garza has fulfilled the four-quarter requirement for that office.

The elections are to be held the week of June 2. Petitions of candidacy are due May 22.

## Synapse Staff Search

The Synapse is seeking students with energy and ideas to fill editorial and staff positions for the next academic year. The editorial jobs include the positions of Editor-in-Chief and Associate Editors (two positions available). We also need reporters, artists and photographers. Previous newspaper experience is welcomed but not necessary.

Students interested in these positions should contact the Synapse office (x 2211) or leave their names and numbers in the Synapse box at Millberry Union Central Desk so that we can contact them.

We encourage applicants to participate in the monthly production of the Synapse during the summer if their schedules permit.

## Public Hearing On Sterilization Abuse

by Chris Jacobson

Representatives from women's health, minority and legal organizations said there is a need for stringent government regulation of sterilization operations at a lengthy public hearing on Monday.

They related incidents in which they said doctors and hospital staffs had pressured or deceived women into being sterilized without gaining their informed consent. Poor, minority and non-English speaking people are disproportionately victimized in this way, stressed the speakers.

The State Department of Health held the hearing to obtain testimony on government regulation of sterilization operations performed on MediCal patients. The regulations were put into effect on an emergency basis in February. They are similar to federal regulations which were issued last year by HEW after a court order required the agency to do so.

The regulations require prior authorization except in emergencies; "legally effective" informed consent; a voluntary request for sterilization; notice to the patient that he or she will not forfeit MediCal benefits by refusing consent; and a 72 hour waiting period prior to a nontherapeutic sterilization.

However, said those who spoke at the hearing, these regulations are sorely inadequate and must be strengthened and broadened if they are to be effective.

Erica Black Grubb, an attorney who is working with the Coalition for the Medical Rights of Women, described some of the group's objections to the state regulations.

"A definition of informed consent is totally absent; there is no provision for maintaining data on sterilization or for enforcement of the regulations; and they don't protect the vast majority of the population, since they only apply to MediCal recipients," she said.

Grubb urged the state to adopt a set of regulation revisions which were prepared by the coalition of groups that attended the hearing. She said the revisions would provide adequate legal protection against coerced sterilization.

The revisions would require maintenance of follow-up data and enforcement of the existing regulations to assure that they are followed. They would require a complete definition of informed consent

presented in English, Spanish and Cantonese. They would stipulate in detail how the informed consent process is to be followed in order to safeguard patients' rights.

The revisions would also make these protective regulations applicable to all sterilization procedures, not just those for patients on MediCal.

Grubb's comments followed statements by a number of people about abusive sterilization practices they had witnessed or experienced.

One speaker read an affidavit by a 26-year-old Spanish speaking woman who delivered her first child by Caesarian section at County-USC hospital in Los Angeles several years ago. Three months later, said the woman, she learned the doctor had performed a tubal ligation followed the birth of her child without her knowledge. She has filed a \$6 million damage claims suit against the hospital with two other women who allege they were also involuntarily sterilized there.

Sharon Flynn, a third year UCSF nursing student, said that at the beginning of her nursing training, she witnessed an involuntary hysterectomy performed in a private Bay Area hospital.

"I asked the doctor why he was performing the operation, and his answers made it clear that informed consent was not obtained," said Flynn.

"The woman had complained of a pain in her stomach. She was Spanish-speaking. Without further ado, the doctor scheduled her for a hysterectomy. After all, he said, she's in her mid-40's and already has several children!"

Flynn's emphasis on the insensitivity and disregard shown by some doctors for their patients' wishes and legal rights were echoed by many of the speakers.

Jackie Boyette of Black Women Organized for Action spoke of her groups' concern about the disproportionate numbers of Black and Spanish-speaking women who undergo sterilization.

"Physicians, especially interns in teaching hospitals, are encouraged to perform tubal ligations and hysterectomies on poor women for practice," she said.

In an affidavit, a pregnancy counselor who works with Spanish-speaking women said she had encountered several

Continued on page 4



Editorial

Do Students Have Rights?

The case of Carol Wiercinska continues. Fourteen weeks after she was dismissed from her core clinical course with vague charges of clinical incompetence, the second year nursing student remains out of class and almost out of money and time.

Despite guarantees from nursing school Dean Dunlap and Chancellor Sooy that if found innocent she will graduate with her class, Carol has now missed such a massive amount of instruction that she seems caught in a Catch 22 situation.

Originally, she was not even offered the opportunity to contest the failing grade assigned her by the instructor on her fourth day of clinical instruction. Apparently, nursing school administrators hoped she would quietly withdraw under pressure as many students had previously done. This reveals a lack of any fair dismissal process.

Further difficulties in Carol's case have resulted from the appalling amount of time that has passed, as even Dean Dunlap agrees. Initially, two weeks elapsed between the day the instructor "disqualified" the student and the day she presented her charges in writing to the students and administration.

This punishment without a hearing (and without evidence) exhibits a deplorable lack of due process. Twelve more weeks have slipped by; time spent in organizing and recruiting the Grievance Committee members, developing special procedures, working around the attorney's other commitments, and hearing a multitude of witnesses.

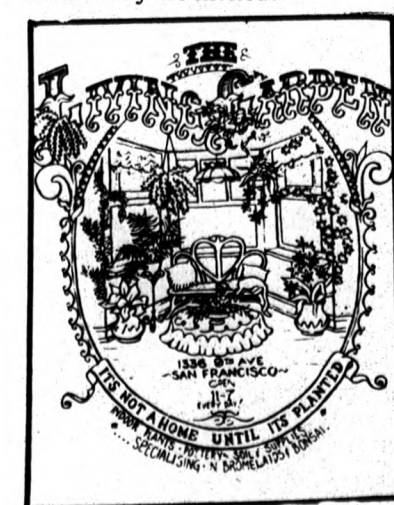
Another time-consuming aspect of the procedure is the apparent vagueness of what is being heard or tried. In this pseudo-court, the lack of a judge to declare testimony relevant or irrelevant, the endless string of witnesses on diverse subjects, and the committee's silence on the question, "What is being tried at the hearing?" indicates the answer is not simply Carol's competence or incompetence.

Dean's Prize

Two medical students will be awarded the Dean's Prize in Student Research and will give 30-minute presentations on their research next Wednesday.

Dean Julius Krevans will present a certificate and a cash award to William Bradley, MedII, for his research entitled *Altering Properties of Collagen for Drug Delivery Applications* and Karen Magnusen Tait, Med I, for her research of the *Replication of Mitochondrial DNA in Bacteria*. Thomas Padgett is being awarded a runner-up prize.

The event will be held from 2:30-4:30 p.m. in 301-HSW, on Wednesday, May 28. All members of the campus community are invited.



Students and faculty outside the committee view the secretive proceedings with concern. Students are hopeful this case will set a precedent for future grievances and lead to the development of a more accessible, fair and open grievance procedure in the School of Nursing. Some faculty are fearful that such a gain in students' academic freedom will threaten faculty positions, challenge their decisions and lead to a loss of faculty academic freedom. It is clear, however, that a standardized, fair and open procedure would benefit both groups.

An accusation commonly thrown about during this conflict is, "You only know one side of the issue." True as this may be, for both sides, it is a result of the closed nature of the hearing. Carol Wiercinska was willing to have the hearing open, but the instructor was not.

Student support for Carol remains strong. Currently, students are holding benefit bake sales each Friday to contribute to paying her mounting legal costs. After demonstrations, confrontations with the dean and discussion with the committee, no avenue remains but to invest faith in the committee to make a fair decision.

However, the committee's decision comes only as a recommendation to the department chair, who, inexplicably, is a witness for the instructor. If the chair defers, the final decision lies with the dean.

Clearly, Carol Wiercinska is a victim of an inept system. Her time, money and emotions have been toyed with for 14 weeks.

The new nursing school curriculum has been fraught with conflict and protest. Carol threatens the nursing administration because she is a symbol of students who are determined to defend their rights. But we will not let Carol become a symbol of students' powerlessness. The conflict will continue until our rights have been granted.

MU Theatre — "Nightwatch"

Tickets are now on sale for the Millberry Repertory Theater's production of "Night Watch" by Lucille Fletcher at Bear's Wares, first floor Millberry Union.

Performance dates are May 29th, May 30th and May 31st at 8:00 p.m. in the Steninger Gymnasium, Millberry Union. Tickets may also be purchased at the door as available. For further information call 666-1078 or 666-2109.

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Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

The School of Nursing, for the three years I've attended UCSF, has continued to outdo itself in absurdity. The latest example is the newly offered prep course for the Nursing Boards. Several nursing faculty have arranged for a four-day crash course, for \$50, to be offered to graduates during the summer.

Granted, crash reviews for the bar and MCAT are common. But for faculty of a school rated third in the nation to offer a course at a \$50 premium, teaching material which should have been part of the \$225-plus per quarter curriculum, reaches to the heights of exploitation.

Student dissatisfaction with the nursing school is not new. Students have felt ill-prepared for the Boards, partly because the school teaches theoretics, and the state tests for specifics.

But even that which is taught here is often dealt with superficially.

Rather than offering a Board review for \$50, the school should attempt to teach more content in more effective ways. UCSF's School of Nursing should orient its curriculum to student needs, instead of trying to force students into a preset mold. This requires not only curricular, but also attitudinal changes.

The faculty offering this review are relatively new to the school, and probably have noble intentions. However, many of us finishing the three years at the school are left with the same resentment and anger we had two years ago, and for valid reasons. I hope conditions at UCSF School of Nursing do not remain as deplorable, but I seriously doubt the possibility of real change.

Nancy Gordon, N III

SHS Summer Insurance

Financial Aid

All registered UCSF students have the Student Health Service automatic health insurance coverage for three quarters (Fall, Winter and Spring) only..

All students registered for the summer or returning in the Fall quarter who wish to obtain coverage for the full Summer quarter can do so by paying a premium of \$7.20.

Checks should be made payable to the Puritan Life Insurance Company and brought to the Student Health Service, Room 380-U, between 8:30 and 11 a.m., Monday through Friday.

Summer premium deadline is June 13, 1975.

Attention graduating students and academics! Any student leaving this campus in June, 1975 who received student loans on this campus, please call Ext. 1348, Student Loan Accounting office, for an Exit Interview. It is mandatory that an exit interview be conducted before you leave this campus!

The annual spring meeting of the Faculty Wives was held May 7 during an outdoor luncheon at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Krevans. A donation to the Faculty Wives' Student Loan Fund was presented to Mr. Claude Muzio, financial aid officer, who accepted the donation on behalf of Dr. Sooy.

The donation of \$3,800 will be used for long-term loans to health professions students in their graduating year, and brings the total amount donated since 1970, to \$17,032.

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Published Thursdays by the Board of Publications

University of California, San Francisco, California 94143

Phone: (415) 666-2211

Editor-in-chief: Jim Seward

Associate Editors: Michael Darby and Linda Gattman

Issue Editor: Linda Gattman

Co-managing Editors: Chris Jacobson and Jacquelyn Brown

Staff: Howard McKinney, Richard Unger, Penny Lowenstein, Peter Bissell, Sherry Mendelson, Jim Cone, Bob Rowley, Rosemarie Delahaye, Marc Fine.

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Announcements should be submitted to Synapse, c/o Millberry Union Central Desk, by noon Friday, the week before publication. Letters shall be published at the discretion of the editors and must be signed; however, the name may be withheld if so desired by the writer. Subscriptions may be obtained through the Synapse Office for four dollars per academic year.

The Synapse seeks to act as a forum for responsible dialogue between the authors and the readers of the campus community, representing the spectrum of belief and action. Articles and columns published in the Synapse represent the viewpoint of the authors and not necessarily those of the editorial staff.



## Public Service Awards

The UCSF Chancellor's Awards for Public Service ceremony will be held next Thursday to honor 16 individuals who have been nominated for these awards and to bestow awards on three of them.

These annual awards were established in 1970 by former Chancellor Philip R. Lee to give recognition to individuals whose service to others extends into the community beyond the scope of their university duties.

Two awards are for \$500 each; and one, designated the "Thomas N. Burbidge Public Service Award," is for \$600, \$100 being given by the UCSF Black Caucus. The selection committee for the awards is chaired by Dr. Joseph Spinelli. Nominees for the awards are:

Dr. Joan Ablon, department of psychiatry, whose expertise in anthropology has enhanced understanding and treatment of ethnic patients in community mental health programs.

Mr. A. Freeman Bradley, Jr., cardiovascular and anesthesia research laboratories, for valuable contributions to the Black Caucus and programs furthering equal educational and employment opportunity.

Dr. John E. Conte, Jr., department of medicine, for outstanding services to the Hospitals and Clinics Disaster Committee and directing the recent UCSF "disaster" exercise to prepare UCSF to meet a major community-wide emergency.

Mr. Otis Daniels, physical plant department, for helping to improve employee-student-administration relations and introducing minority culture and art to the campus community.

Ms. Patricia Diridoni, department of medicine, for significant contributions toward desegregating schools and helping establish the Riles Commission to help solve school district problems in S.F.

Mr. Vincent Faber, G. W. Hooper Foundation, for his activities in the Inner Sunset

Action Committee and its 1972 tree-planting project.

Ms. Kathryn J. Forbes, outpatient department, has long been involved in aiding youths, the blind and the sick in the community and in helping raise funds for disaster victims and UBAC.

Dr. Miriam Gould, department of psychiatry and student health, for founding and directing the Haight-Ashbury Childrens Center; leading a city-wide crusade to release surplus government food to feed the poor; and working with SENEX, which aids and feeds the aged in S.F.

Mr. Lee Jackson, building service, for playing Santa Claus for 15 years at the all-campus children's Christmas parties.

Dr. Nicholas Petrakis, Hooper Foundation, for aiding sickle cell anemia and breast cancer screening procedures in the community.

Mr. Eugene S. Salazar, dean of students office, for valuable liaison with the Latin community and motivating Latin students to enter the health professions.

Dr. David J. Sanchez, Jr., for improving health care delivery to the Latin community by setting up the Urban Health Program at San Francisco General Hospital and working with the S.F. schools.

Mr. Alphonse A. Seubert, pharmacist, for aiding character molding of youths and planting trees to beautify a neighborhood hill.

Dr. Sol Silverman, School of Dentistry, for outstanding contributions in the field of oral cancer and cancer rehabilitation.

Dr. Marvin M. Stark, School of Dentistry, who established mobile dental clinics to provide free dental care to thousands of needy children in northern and central California for ten years and, since 1971, extended this care overseas to hundreds of needy children in Israel, Greek and Yugoslavia.

Dr. Malcolm S. M. Watts, School of Medicine, for far-reaching involvement with developing community health resources (The Consortium) and allied health programs.

**Doctor Wanted:** California Licensed Physician for position of Medical Director at the Haight-Ashbury Free Medical Clinics Drug Detoxification, Rehabilitation and Aftercare Project. Salary open. Please call 621-2014 or 621-2015, or send resume: 529 Clayton, San Francisco, Calif. 94117.

## ASUC Elections

by Mary Walcek  
Vice President Student Affairs

Due to the unconstitutionality of the way elections were being handled this May, the ASUC Executive Board has decided to reopen the ASUC elections for all offices. Petitions from candidates for office are due by Friday, May 30, and the elections will be held the first week in June.

The offices available will be as written in our present ASUCSF constitution as follows: Executive Director, Executive Vice President, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Vice President of Community Health, and Vice President of Student Affairs.

The proposed amendment to divide the Executive Director and the Executive Vice President into two separate-but-equal positions of Co-President of External Affairs and Co-President of Internal Affairs will be voted on in this election but, if passed, will not take effect until the 1976-77 school year.

All full time students who have attended UCSF for two quarters or more are eligible to run for any vice president position. To run for Executive Director, full time students must have attended UCSF for four quarters or more.

Please pick up petitions to run for office in the ASUC office, 249 MU, by Friday, May 23. Petitions will be due by Friday, May 30. Any election statement should be written by May 22 and submitted to Synapse, c/o Millberry Union Central Desk. Statements must be typed and be no longer than one half a double spaced typed page.

For further information, please call the ASUC office at 666-2010. We regret any inconvenience or confusion this change of plans has caused.

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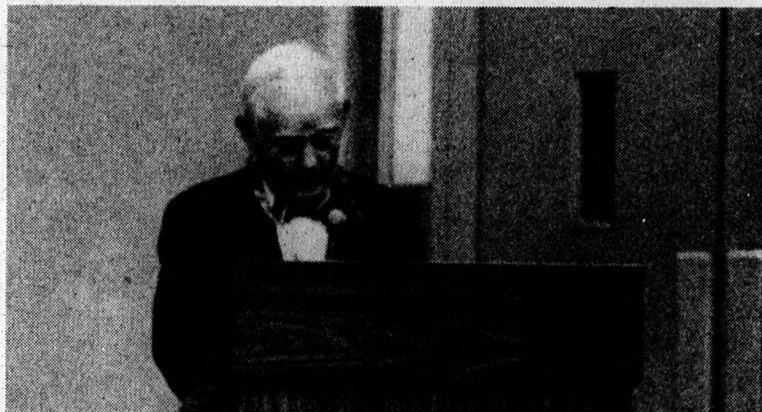
## Quality of Life: Should Doctors Determine It?

A surgeon's duty is to relieve suffering and to restore health, not to prolong life, Dr. J. Englebert Dunphy said last Tuesday. He spoke in the first of a series of lectures exploring medical ethics, entitled "Quality of Life." The series is sponsored by C.A.L. and the UCSF/Pacific School of Religion Joint Program on Bioethics.

The lecture was based on the question, "Should surgeons

abdominal carcinoma, for example, Dunphy said that he would not perform a terminal colostomy to prolong a life of misery a few days or a few months.

Life support systems such as respirators also present ethical problems to doctors, Dunphy noted. He said that if the patient is unable to support his or her life from the cerebral point of view, that is, if the respirator is the sole means of



Doctors can offer help to "helpless" patients in the form of encouragement and optimism, said Dr. Englebert Dunphy.

decide the quality of life?" In most cases, Dunphy said, surgeons must make this decision.

"In an acute emergency situation, doctors are faced with saving a life. We have no way of determining here what we are saving — we may save a life but not a brain. In this case the decision is not a clear one."

But in many other cases, Dunphy said, the surgeon can and must to a great extent determine what the quality of his or her patient's life will be, and whether it is right to use every possible means to extend it.

In the case of inoperable

keeping the patient alive, he feels it is ethical to turn the respirator off.

Dunphy stressed, however, the difference between stopping a support system and acting positively to destroy life. Many times doctors are frustrated by their inability to help in the face of great suffering, Dunphy said, but a positive act to end a life reflects a philosophy like that of Nazi Germany.

Dunphy stressed that the doctor can offer something to the "hopeless" patient. He said that encouragement, optimism and care can often

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# Synapse Calendar

Thursday, May 22

**Campus:**

Philosophy Lecture: "The Arts, the Humanities and the Technologies," Chauncey D. Leake, 12 noon, 214 S.

Basic Science Lecture: "The physiology of macrophages," Dr. Zanvil A. Coan, 3:30 p.m., 303-HSW.

Film of Annaperna Climb, presented by the Smilie Company, 7:30 p.m., Cole Hall. Outdoors Unlimited.

**Community:**

"Tom Thumb the Great," a burlesque on Shakespearean satire by Henry Fielding, 8 p.m., Durham Studio Theatre, Dwinelle Hall, UC Berkeley, 642-2561, \$1.

Open House for women interested in resuming their education, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Diablo Valley College, Pleasant Hill, 685-1230, X480.

Friday, May 23

**Campus:**

Behavioral Sciences Lecture: "Ritual roles in child delivery: Guatemalan midwives," Lois Paul, 8 a.m., 332 HSE.

Cole Hall Cinema: "Clockwork Orange," 7 and 9:30 p.m., Cole Hall, \$1 UCSF students, MU members, senior citizens; \$1.25 other students; \$1.50 general.

Two Day Human Sexuality Workshop: "Sex and Disability," May 23-24. \$35 professionals, \$7.50 disabled people and students. For more information call Susan Knight, 666-4787.

**Community:**

"State of Siege in Argentina," a talk with slides by members of the Young Socialist Alliance, 8 p.m., Militant Labor Forum, 1519 Mission, \$1.00/\$1.50, 864-9174.

The 9th Annual Jazz Festival, with Eddie Harris, Taj Mahal, Gil Scott-Heron, 7:30 p.m., Advance ASUC students \$4.50, others \$5.50 - \$7.50, Greek Theater, UC Berkeley, 642-3125.

Saturday, May 24

**Community:**

"The Bay of Pigs," Film in Spanish and English subtitles, benefit for Chilean resistance; 8:30 p.m., The Farm, 1499 Potrero/Army, \$2, 824-4960.

Chinese Cultural Exhibition, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., SF State Library, 1600 Holloway.

The 9th Annual Jazz Festival, with Stanley Turrentine and others, 7:30 p.m., Greek Theatre, UC Berkeley, 642-3125, \$4.50 Advance ASUC students. Others \$5.50 - \$7.50.

Sunday, May 25

**Campus:**

Pt. Reyes National Seashore Day Hike, Call Carolyn Johnston, 681-8591. Outdoors Unlimited.

**Community:**

9th Annual Jazz Festival, with Les McCann and others, 7:30 p.m., Greek Theatre, UC Berkeley, \$4.50 Advance ASUC Students, \$5.50 - \$7.50 Others.



This photograph by Dorteia Lange is part of an exhibition of women's photography on view through mid-June at the San Francisco Museum of Art, Van Ness and McAllister.

"All Quiet on the Western Front," 2 p.m., SF Museum of Arts, Van Ness/McAllister, 863-8800, \$1.00/\$.75 members, srs., under 16.

Film for African Liberation Day, including "Aluta Continua," and "Last Grave at Dimbaza," 7 p.m., UC Extension, 55 Laguna, 922-9154, \$2/\$150.

Monday, May 26

**Community:**

Fats Waller and Cab Calloway, 7:30 p.m., at the Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell Street, \$2.50.

Tuesday, May 27

**Campus:**

Folkdancing, 12 noon, MU Gym.

**Community:**

Attorney Mandy Hawes of the Bay Area Committee on Occupational Health and Safety talks on new laws to protect working people, KPFA, 1 p.m., 94-FM.

"Black Women in the Women's Movement," a discussion with Margaret Sloan, 3-5 p.m., UC Berkeley Women's Center (Bldg. T-9), also 8:30 p.m., Full Moon Coffeehouse, 4416 - 18th St., S.F., 864-9274, \$1.

"Rules of the Game," by Jean Renoir, 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., Pacific Film Archive, 2621 Durant, Berkeley, 642-1412, \$1.50.

Wednesday, May 28

**Campus:**

Radiology Grand Rounds: Interesting cases from St. Francis Hospital, 5 p.m., 303-HSW.

**Community:**

Slideshow/lecture with music on the history of Jazz in the Bay Area, Herb Wong, 130 - 3:30 p.m., James Moore Theatre, Oakland Museum, 1000 Oak. Free.

Learn how to fix your VW at a class for the Small Wonder Car Co., 7:30 p.m., 624 Stanyan St., 668-3313, free.

Thursday, May 29

**Campus:**

Family Forum: "Sex problems as the norm," Bernard Apfelbaum, 11 a.m., Carr Auditorium, SF General Hospital.

CAL Performance: John Brebner and Phil Sheridan in "The Thirties," 12 noon, MU Gym.

Millberry Reportory Theatre: "Night Watch," directed by Christian Burst, 8 p.m., MU Gym, \$1.50 students, \$2 general.

Thursday, May 29

**Community:**

Last evening of Maria Muldaur, 8:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m., Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell, 885-0750, \$5.

## Personality Test

# Nursing Admissions Controversy

by Marc Fine

The School of Nursing is considering the use of personality tests as a criterion of admission. They have already tested over 100 applicants for the 1975 fall term, although admissions officials deny that the test will be used to influence selection of applicants who are admitted.

In the past, admission was based upon the fulfillment of certain minimum requirements such as grade point average and the completion of two years of college. Personal recommendations and previous experience also had some bearing on the selection process.

The number of qualified applicants always exceeded the number of available spaces. Last year, the names of those admitted were literally picked out of a hat.

In response to criticism, the administration devised a procedure to justify selection & rejection of applicants for next fall. One factor in the selection process was the school's commitment to certain groups

such as R.N.'s, minority students and men.

Students, faculty and administration alike are not entirely happy with this method. Each applicant is now interviewed by one faculty member, and is given the above-mentioned personality test, the OPI (Omnibus Personality Inventory). The test is designed to measure broad personality characteristics, such as autonomy, aggressiveness, and self-image.

Many students and applicants are disturbed by the use of any kind of personality test for a number of reasons. Even if a test has been shown to give valid and reliable results, the question remains — how will this data used?

The OPI has been used as a research tool on outgoing students, but there is no proof of its value in determining nursing competence.

Specific questions on the test, it is feared, can be used to weed out certain types of students.

Examples of such questions

are: *Do you believe there is a God? Is Communism the most hateful thing in the World today? Have you always hated regulations? Do you feel that one of the most important things children should learn is when to disobey authorities?*

The nursing administration has said that if this test is not used for admissions purposes, some other criterion must be developed to aid in the selection of new students.

Aptitude tests equivalent to the MEDCAT or the GRE, which are used by other schools, might be selected.

The nursing school may also be considering the use of the facility-student interview team that the other schools have found to be effective.

The problem remains — to select applicants who would make good nurses in terms of the values of the community, the professions, faculty, students and the administration. It is not an easy task.

## Hearing

Continued from page 1

women with normal uteruses who were advised by physicians to have hysterectomies because their uterus "was no longer needed," or that "it would become diseased."

"These women are not told they are more likely to die from the hysterectomy than to contract cancer," said Ellen Schaefer of the San Francisco Health Policy Advisory Center.

Those who would like to submit statements to the hearing board on the state regulations for sterilization may send them to: Regulation Unit, Attention: Mr. Phillippe, Department of Health, 714 P Street, Sacramento 95814.

## Bioethics

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dramatically improve the patient's quality of life. This maintenance of rapport, along with the judicious use of painkilling drugs, can help keep a patient reasonably comfortable through his or her last days, he said.

Dunphy urged that doctors talk as openly as possible to the dying patient and his or her family about the quality of life and the quality of death, since it is natural for them to reflect on these things.

"After all, what is death that we should fear it?" he concluded. "I hope for a return to a belief in allowing patients to die with dignity."

## Law and Medicine

Eight specialists in the field of law and medicine will lead a two-day course on May 30 and 31, entitled "Law and Medicine: The Practical Aspects of Medical Negligence Litigation."

For enrollment information, write or telephone Extended Programs in Medical Education, Room 574-U, University of California, San Francisco 94143; (415) 666-2483.