

Negotiations continue for new contract for UC nurses

By THUY TRAN
Aggie Staff Writer

The University of California officials and the California Nurses Association (CNA) are meeting today to continue negotiations for a new labor contract for UC nurses.

The proposals for the new contract include market-based wage increases, continued affordable health benefits as provided for other UC employees, continued pension benefits and extended severance rights.

"They've been bargaining for the past six months," said Nicole Savickas, representative for the UC Office of the President.

"The bottom line is that we're offering competitive market rates at each location," she said.

Every collective bargaining agreement has an expiration date and those things are bargained into the contract, Savickas said.

The current contract between UC and CNA initially expired June 30 but was extended by mutual agreement until Sept. 30.

Before the completion of the bargaining process, UC stated that any strikes are presumptively illegal. However, it has been recently reported in the news that CNA has called several strikes at non-UC hospitals.

Since 2005, CNA has been barred from such a strike against UC hospitals during contract negotiations. Although UC was able to prevent a strike from happening in 2005, the strike threat cost UC medical centers approximately \$9 million in emergency arrangements such as temporary additional staffing.

At the bargaining session Sept. 27, CNA rejected a proposal by the UC to extend the contract through October.

"As far as reaching an agreement, we're interested in a timely agreement, but there's no cap as to how long the bargaining can go on for," Savickas said.

While there is a start and end date on the contract, there's no time limit on negotiations as long as they're progressing in good faith, she said.

UCD senior Viet Vu, who is pursuing a career in the nursing field, hopes negotiations will be completed so that nurses can get the benefits they deserve.

"Nurses are underappreciated but they're really necessary because it's predicted that in the next few years hospitals will be understaffed with nurses," Vu said. "So it's better to start treating nurses well now so they don't abandon their careers."

The CNA and UC negotiators were still in talks late Tuesday afternoon, said a CNA representative.

More news and information about UC nurses can be found at www.ucnurses.com.

THUY TRAN can be reached at campus@californiaaggie.com

Illegal immigration topic of choice for 2007 Campus Community Book Project

'The Devil's Highway' challenges readers to explore controversial issue

By PATRICK McCARTNEY
Aggie Staff Writer

As controversy surrounding illegal immigration continues to mount in the political arena, hundreds of UC Davis students, staff and faculty are exploring the issue in classrooms and coffee shops with *The Devil's Highway*, the selection for this year's Campus Community Book Project (CCBP).

The Devil's Highway, written by Luis Alberto Urrea, follows the story of 26 men who attempted to transverse miles of desert in order to cross the Mexican border. Urrea tells the story not only through the perspective of the men, but through the U.S. Border Patrol and human smugglers.

The book project aims "to promote dialogue and build community by encouraging diverse members of the campus community to read the same book and attend the same events," according to the Office of Campus Community Relations website. The OCCR organizes and makes the selection for the project.

The book project culminates in Urrea's presentation at the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts Nov. 28 at 8 p.m. In the interim, UC Davis immigration experts from all over

the campus are hosting a variety of lectures and discussions.

Book Project coordinator Gary Sue Goodman said that while immigration is a sensitive issue, she believes students can benefit from gaining more knowledge about the topic.

"I think students could benefit from reading the book because, as my students in a freshman seminar told me on the first day, they hear and maybe even voice strong opinions about immigration, but they don't feel that they know very much," Goodman said.

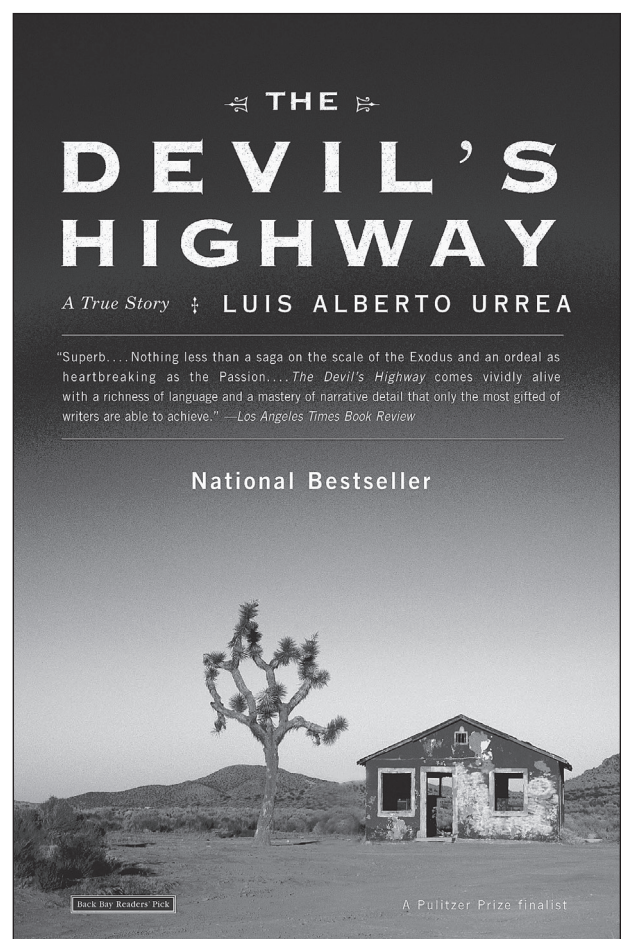
"There are strong emotions, but not much factual basis for these views. Through reading the book, attending related events and taking courses, students can examine this significant current problem for themselves, understand better the causes and perhaps contribute to developing better solutions," she said.

Rahim Reed, the associate executive vice chancellor of campus community relations, said a committee chose *The Devil's Highway* for the book project after an extensive selection process.

"Each year we have a selection committee that consists of faculty, staff and student members of our campus community that participate in the selection process. The entire campus community is invited to suggest books for the CCBP, and each year the committee reads



Luis Alberto Urrea
author, *The Devil's Highway*



See BOOK, page 3

Renowned journalist to speak tonight at Mondavi Center

Seymour Hersh will talk about his new bestseller

By RICHARD PROCTER
Aggie Campus Editor

Internationally acclaimed journalist Seymour Hersh will be speaking tonight at UC Davis at two separate venues. The first talk will be at 4 p.m. for students of the University Writing Program (UWP), and the second will be at the Mondavi Center at 8 p.m.

The first talk will be free to UWP students, but is not open to the public. The talk will be moderated by Sasha Abramsky, a professor in the UWP, and Thuy Tran, a senior and biological sciences major.

The 4 p.m. talk will cover a variety of different topics, Abramsky said.

"We're leaving it awfully open ended," he said, adding that both he and Tran would ask Hersh about a range

of subjects, including the Vietnam War and the post-9/11 world.

Hersh, a Chicago native, began working in journalism in 1959 at the age of 22 when he became a police reporter for the City News Bureau. Since that time, he has won the Pulitzer Prize and several George Polk Awards for Magazine Reporting.

Hersh was awarded the Pulitzer in 1970 for his work reporting on the My Lai Massacre. The massacre occurred in 1968 and involved the slaying of hundreds of unarmed Vietnamese civilians by U.S. soldiers.

The breaking of this story led to a change in public opinion of the war and had a great effect on U.S. foreign policy.

Since then, Hersh has reported on a multitude of major events, includ-

ing CIA operations in Chile and secret U.S. bombings of Cambodia.

Hersh has developed a reputation as a top-notch investigative journalist, earning the respect of his fellow reporters.

"Seymour Hersh is one of the greatest investigative reporters in American history," said Steve Magagnini, a reporter for the Sacramento Bee. Magagnini has covered ethnic affairs and race relations for the Bee since

1994 and has won several awards for his coverage of race and ethnicity. "No reporter has done more to hold the government and military accountable than Seymour Hersh," he said.

One of Hersh's strengths is his

See JOURNALIST, page 3

Seymour Hersh lecture

Today at 8 p.m.
Mondavi Center

Google offers summer jobs to students

Students can earn up to \$5,000 working with open source software

By ELIZABETH STITT
Aggie News Writer

Leslie Hawthorn did not always understand the obsession computer coders had with the free Google shirts she hands out.

"It's because geeks don't actually buy clothes for themselves," said one audience member. "They rely entirely on free shirts."

But Hawthorn was not only there to give away free shirts — she was there to find and inform students who might be interested in her company's summer open source software program.

Hawthorn, a program manager at Google, came to a meeting for the Linux Users' Group of Davis (LUGOD) Tuesday night to discuss Google's Summer of Code program.

"I herd nerds for a living," Hawthorn said.

Google's Summer of Code program was designed in 2005 as a way to give students paid experience working with open source programming instead of working mundane summer jobs.

Hawthorn said her boss, Chris Bower, originally felt it was a problem that smart college students were wasting their summer flipping burgers instead of pursuing computer experience.

Google created the Summer of Code program that chose students from over 90 countries and financed over 400 student projects the first year, according to Google's website. Interest surged — the second year alone saw a 200 student project increase.

During the summer of 2006, Google spent \$3 million financing projects all over the world, which rose to \$4.5 million in 2007.

This past summer, students

See GOOGLE, page 2



Activist author speaks on war, love

Cherríe Moraga presents readings and discussion of her work

By KATY BERREY
Campus News Writer

Activist Cherríe Moraga spoke on "Changing Consciousness" in a reading of her work and discussion Monday night in Freeborn Hall. A Chicana lesbian essayist, teacher, poet and playwright, Moraga has been influential in the women's liberation movement and has published numerous works on feminism, sexuality and ethnicity.

Moraga opened the talk by reflecting on the fundamental preoccupations she has had in her writings — war, love and *familia*. As she read through her pieces, she described not only what should be a changing consciousness for all people, but her own changing consciousness as she grew up.

She began with a piece about her mother; a poor Chicana farm worker who labored to keep her family going. Her mother worked hard and lived vibrantly at the center of their *familia*, through the struggles against racist and classist America which marginalized her.

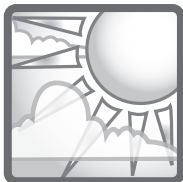
"This is the first poem I thought was any good," said Moraga.

The poem refrained, "I am a white

See ACTIVIST, page 3

Today's weather

Partly cloudy
High 67
Low 48



Forecast
Expect a nice break from the rain today, but it will pick up again tomorrow. The differences between the conventional, American muffin and the English muffin are startling — while one is sugary and has a tasty top, the other is drab, but consistent and buttery. Top of the muffin to you!
Jon Gold
Source: weather.com

Thursday
Afternoon showers
High 66
Low 56

Friday
Showers
High 66
Low 49

Inside

DAILY CALENDAR	2	SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY	4
POLICE BRIEFS	2	SCIENCE SCENE	4
LYNN LA	2	CLASSIFIEDS	6
TERESA PHAM	2	CROSSWORD	6