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Editor
Santa Barbara News-Press
De La Guerra Plaza
P.O. Box 1359
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Editor,

News-Press should get facts before condemning UCSB

Your editorial published on Sunday, January 29, 1995 misleads your readers.

I am a member of both the Faculty Legislature of the Academic Senate, and the Senate Special Committee on Clearview.

Your editorial states that on January 26, 1995, the UCSB Faculty Legislature passed a resolution concluding that Clearview is not compatible with UCSB.

- **No such conclusion is in the resolution passed by the UCSB Faculty Legislature.**

A responsible newspaper might have printed the findings and recommendations in the resolution that did pass; those statements were constructive and precise. Among them is a finding that the economic impact of Clearview on UCSB may be negative.

The News-Press failed to report the committee's finding on economic impact, although UCSB is the largest employer in Santa Barbara County, and it helps many businesses to prosper.

Your editorial implies that UCSB 'rushed to judgment' on Clearview. UCSB has not yet judged Clearview, and the facts show that there has been no rush.

Two UCSB committees have studied the Clearview Project. The 'UCSB Clearview Oil and Gas Task Force,' commissioned by former Chancellor Uehling, met thirteen times between October, 1993 and May, 1994; two meetings were with Mobil. This committee produced a 251-page report dated June 13, 1994.

The Academic Senate Special Committee, which represents the UCSB Faculty, was headed by Gene Lucas, a Professor of Chemical and Nuclear Engineering, and included as adviser Theo Theofanous, a world renowned expert on industrial safety from the same department. Mobil provided the facts to this committee; we had the technical expertise to evaluate them; when an evaluation was possible, we made it fairly.

We met seven times between September, 1994 and January 1995. Once, the 7 faculty and 2 students on the committee met with Mobil experts at their downtown Santa Barbara offices for 3 hours. The committee strongly desired to visit a Mobil site similar to Clearview, but ***Mobil canceled their plans for such a visit.***

A public Town Forum was organized by our committee on November 14, 1994. To my knowledge, this has been the only balanced public meeting on the project, with presentations by Mobil, and by opponents of Clearview. A videotape of the forum is available for public viewing.

The 32-page report of the Special Committee was presented on January 26; the Legislature's resolution simply ratified an excerpt from the Executive Summary of that report verbatim.

I don't think 20 meetings in 16 months, including 4 with Mobil, 283 pages of reports, and the only balanced public forum on the project constitute a 'rush'.

The fact is that Mobil has delayed the Clearview application for well over one year, and during that delay the hard work of UCSB committees has produced well-reasoned and solid conclusions.

Facts provided by Mobil sufficient to support our conclusions are present in our documents; the News-Press has not referred to them. UCSB has been diligent and objective: I urge News-Press readers to read our reports, and view the videotape of the town forum.

The News-Press should get facts, and get them straight, before condemning UCSB.

News-Press readers can get some of the undistorted facts, if they have a modem and use an Internet service such as RAIN, or the Internet Café. Documents about the Clearview Project on the World Wide Web (WWW) are at the Uniform Resource Locator (URL):

`http://charm.physics.ucsb.edu/people/hnn/clearview.html`

UCSB contributes enormously to the intellectual vitality, cultural life, and economic health of this area. UCSB is on a long upswing, with many of its departments recently ranked in the Top 10 of the nation by Science Watch. We will continue our rise, and we look forward to News-Press coverage of the 'Goleta Point Miracle'.

We take our responsibility concerning the Clearview Project extremely seriously.

The News-Press has not taken seriously its responsibility to report on this extremely important issue.

Harry N. Nelson
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Member of Faculty Legislature
UCSB