

# U LOSE

## The UCLA Blackout

It wasn't the first time sex was a hush-hush topic in school. But this time, a student newspaper made university administrators talk about sex. Sexual harassment, to be exact.

After an 18-month struggle, UCLA's *The Daily Bruin* obtained documents detailing four sexual harassment cases involving university employees that the administration settled for close to a total of \$1 million.

The battle began in November 1992 when *The Bruin* reporters requested the files from UCLA Campus Council — UC lawyers — and were denied access by UCLA administration. The material sought by the student publication described various forms of sexual misconduct, ranging from inappropriate language to rape.

UCLA administrators and regents decided to maintain the privacy of the people involved in the cases by black-lining all identifying information from the documents.

After several failed attempts to acquire the documents, *The Bruin* sued for the information under the California Public Records Act.

Under California law, public agencies like the UCLA administration are required to open all documents to the public. University administrators argued that the documents fell under one of several exemptions to the law. *The Bruin* disagreed, and the state court concurred after 20 minutes of debate.

"The university should not be able to decide when it will and will not comply with California law," says *The Bruin's* former editor in chief Josh Romonek.

University representatives say they don't agree with *The Bruin's* perseverance in seeking access to the documents.

"I would have preferred it if *The Bruin* [had not made] an issue out of this," says Joseph Mandel, UCLA vice chancellor of legal affairs.

Students, however, applauded their newspaper.

"I can't believe the university would keep so much secret," says UCLA senior Hans Ku. "It's reassuring to see *The Bruin* expose such a deeply hidden issue. I'm glad someone keeps an eye on the university."

Two days after *The Bruin* ran the first in a series of articles detailing each case, university officials implemented a policy on sexual harassment. The university maintains that the timing of the articles and the adoption of the sexual harassment policy was purely coincidental.

■ Julie Ann Silva, *The Daily Bruin*, U. of California, Los Angeles

# Be Aware

**T**he suit-and-tie, 9-to-5 lifestyle didn't last.

After two years as a CPA for Coopers & Lybrand in Boston, Gregg Latterman, now 26, traded in his wingtips and briefcase for a pair of blue jeans and two CDs. Ever since, his life has been anything but routine.

Latterman quit the number-crunching business in 1992 and motored to Vail, Colo., where he produced *Aware*, a CD featuring a compilation of regional college bands from around the nation. "All my favorite stuff that I was listening to was hard to find," Latterman says. "I decided I'd find the best regional bands, put them on one disc and market it nationally." Latterman takes orders for the discs on his 800-number (800-AWARE-65).

While in Vail, he worked as a ski coach for one of the best racing team programs in the world, Ski Club Vail. Off the slopes, Latterman began gathering music for a second disc, *Aware II*.

Latterman says there are advantages to being a music producer — many of his favorite college music bands have

ultimately become his friends. Last spring, he lived with JACKOPIERCE, a guitar duo from Dallas. "They were on my first disc. I've met most of the bands on my discs, and some are close friends and others are business relationships."

Other bands featured on the *Aware* discs: The Winebottles, from Boulder, Colo.; Jupiter Coyote, from Macon, Ga.; and Freddy Jones Band, from Chicago.

The CDs aren't all Latterman has in the works. A four-page newsletter telling about the latest happenings in music, an *Aware* concert tour with JACKOPIERCE and a syndicated radio show will soon earn the Latterman stamp. Even though he's heading many successful projects, Latterman began graduate school at Northwestern U. for a master's of management. He explains, "I'm not going to school to get a job, but for me."

Latterman's trademark business sense is coupled with persistence and the skills needed to meet and work with people all over the United States. "What makes this whole thing go is the networking. It's a network of friends talking — it's almost like a chain letter — and that's why it's worked."

■ Jenna Jackson, *The Houstonian*, Sam Houston State U.

15 MINUTES



Photograph by: Kandace Thomas, *The Florida Flambeau*, Florida State U.



Gregg Latterman builds a network of awareness.

# Freedom of Suppress?

**"H**eads up, it's the Nazis!" But before the Nazis could say "cheese," they were embroiled in a scuffle with the U. of Minnesota Progressive Student Organization. And the student newspaper, *The Minnesota Daily* (which had a photographer on the scene), was embroiled in a freedom of the press debate.

In October 1993, more than 120

people joined the Progressive Student Organization for an anti-racism rally to counter a Nazi rally scheduled for the same day on the Minneapolis campus.

Alleged neo-Nazi Daniel Simmer, a recent U. of Minnesota graduate, was injured in the fight and sent to the emergency room.

After anti-racist activist Kieran Frazier Knutson was charged with two felony counts

of allegedly striking Simmer with a Mag-Lite flashlight, newly appointed *Daily* editor in chief Pam Louwagie was subpoenaed to turn over the photos of the rally to the county attorney. Also subpoenaed as a witness was former *Daily* reporter Jesse Rosen.

The judge ruled in June in favor of the *Daily's* decision not to surrender

the photographs but said that Rosen must testify because he gave a police statement the night of the rally.

The judge cited the First Amendment and the Minnesota shield law in support of the *Daily's* move to quash the subpoena for the photo's release.

"The ruling is a great win, not only for the *Daily*, but for the rights of other news organizations," Louwagie says. "It's a matter of principle. News reporters and photographers must be able to gather information without worrying that the government might take it and use it to prosecute or defend a case later."

Not so fast — the freedom bell has become an alarm again. The prosecuting attorney asked the judge to reconsider, and in August the judge called for an in-camera review, which means he would get to see the photographs and decide if they would help the case.

The *Daily* appealed. Knutson's trial and the whole appeals mess have been postponed until November.

And if this keeps up, outgoing *Daily* editors will make a tradition of passing on the subpoena along with the torch.

■ Daune Stinson, *The Minnesota Daily*, U. of Minnesota



Illustration by: Marty Bach, *The Daily Northwestern*, Northwestern U.