

Regents: An Elite Club That Runs a Vast University

BY WILLIAM THORBLEY
Times Education Writer

The regents of the University of California look out at the world from expensive homes and fancy offices in or near San Francisco and Los Angeles.

They are men and women of wealth and influence, and they live that way.

They drive fine cars and own boats and airplanes. They belong to the best clubs and play tennis on their own private courts.

When the Los Angeles regents travel north for a meeting they dine at Jack's or the Blue Fox and stay at quietly elegant hotels.

When they Bay Area regents must come south, a dreadful prospect to some, they seek solace at Perino's or the Bel-Air Hotel.

At least half a dozen of the 16 appointed board members are millionaires, perhaps more. Most regents consider it bad form to discuss their finances. Some think it unwise since the kidnapping of Patricia Hearst, one of five daughters of Regent Catherine Hearst.

Some regents inherited their wealth while others, like Los Angeles department store executive Edward W. Carter and San Diego attorney DeWitt A. Higgs, are self-made men.

The appointed regents range in age from 50 to 70, most are in their 60s. All are white. Only two are women — Mrs. Hearst and Elinor Heller.

(This article is mostly concerned with the appointed regents. There are also eight who serve on the board by virtue of the offices they hold.)

They are the governor, the lieutenant governor, the state superintendent of public instruction, the Speaker of the Assembly, the president of the university, the president of the UC Alumni Assn., the president of the state Board of Agriculture and the president of the Mechanics' Institute, one of the state's earliest educational institutions and now principally a library.)

Most governors have tried to balance Northern and Southern California appointments. Certain other constituencies are generally represented.

At least usually has been on the board, partly as thanks for the many buildings on the UC Berkeley campus made possible by gifts from Phoebe Hearst, an aristocrat around the turn of the century.

The powerful Jewish families of San Francisco have been represented consistently, until Gov. Reagan took office, was organized labor.

A regental appointment carries great prestige.

"It's like the college of cardinals," said William K. Coblentz, a San Francisco attorney who was appointed by former Gov. Edmund G. (Pat) Brown in 1964.

"For a guy like me it gives me more of an aura of respectability than I might have otherwise. When I go into court the judge will give me more respect. Mr. Coblentz, how is the university? I'm not just another lawyer, I'm a regent."

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Why do wealthy, powerful people want to be regents?

"Oh, I don't know. It was prestigious. The regents had been pillars of society long before I became governor," Brown said.

"The university is such a stimulating place. . . . When you're around these professors it just gives you a good feeling."

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STANFORD OFFICIAL—Regent Glen Campbell is the director of the Hoover Institution at Stanford University.

olds has found that the job requires much more time than he had expected. He spends a week to 10 days a month on regents' business.

A clublike atmosphere surrounds the Board of Regents, especially at their monthly meetings.

Once these meetings were held on the nine UC campuses.

In the early and middle years of the last decade, when new campuses were opening at Irvine, San Diego and Santa Cruz and existing facilities were being expanded rapidly, the board moved from campus to campus, rather like a board of directors viewing new corporate acquisitions.

Property of the Regents of the University of California" the signs said on buildings, locker rooms, parking lots, even empty fields, up and down the state, and for a time, in the booming '60s, it seemed these signs might proliferate endlessly.

But growth stopped and so did the campus meetings, after a student demonstration during a board meeting at UC Santa Cruz in October, 1968, and another at UCLA the next May.

Now the regents meet either at the UC Extension Center, just off Market St. in downtown San Francisco, or in the cavernous Los Angeles Convention Center, where the board must sometimes share conference facilities with morticians or truckers.

Even so, the camaraderie and gentility of a private club are maintained.

Secretary of the Regents Marjorie J. Woolman, a formidable woman who was once a Marine Corps officer, and her staff attend to the regents' needs—transportation, hotel accommodations, Xerox equipment.

"Do you need to know what size hat a regent wears and what degrees he has?" asked a report prepared by Miss Woolman's office. "We can even tell you whether an individual re-

gent precess a single or a double bed, and whether he requires a board under his mattress!"

The various regents' committees (educational policy and finance are two of the most important) meet on Thursday and much of the board's business is accomplished at these sessions because most committee actions are ratified by the full board when it meets next day.

During the hectic '60s, the meetings filled two days and sometimes spilled over into the evenings. Special meetings were common. But these days the committee sessions generally end in midafternoon and the full board has usually wrapped up its business by early afternoon Friday.

Regents come and go during the two-day sessions. Sometimes a regent will appear for a particular committee meeting and not be seen again. Others sit doggedly through the tedious deliberations of committees of which they are not even members.

The important lawyers and businessmen on the board—Coblentz, Carter, Los Angeles attorney William French Smith—are called to private rooms frequently to take telephone calls.

Part of each committee meeting and part of the full board meeting are open to press and public, but other parts are held in executive session. These sessions, according to their own by-laws, are supposed to confine themselves to such topics as personnel matters and the handling of the university's billion-dollar investment portfolio.

But almost any discussion can be labeled a "personnel matter" and many controversial decisions are reached behind closed doors.

The debates about firing Clark Kerr, the university's former president, and Angela Davis, the black Communist Party member who is a sought philosopher at UCLA, were conducted in private although the votes on both dismissals were announced later.

The tone of the public discussions is generally polite. People who have not agreed on a substantive policy question for years nevertheless treat each other with civility.

There have been some notable exceptions to this general practice,

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most of them involving the board's mavericks—Frederick G. Dutton and Norton Simon.

Dutton, a Washington lawyer and an active Democrat, once provoked an angry, red-faced Gov. Reagan into calling him a "lying son of a bitch" just after a meeting ended.

Simon, the multimillionaire industrialist and art collector, has aimed a flurry of charges at his fellow regents over the years.

In perhaps the most spectacular of these he claimed in 1970 that some regents "have been caught with their hands in the cookie jar" in dealings between the university and the Irvine Co.

Simon never proved the charges but defends them now on the grounds that "when people get that close to getting caught, . . . they do a little more cautious about the things they do to the university. . . . You've got to have somebody around to attack."

For the most part, however, discussions are marked by elaborate courtesy. Most regents seem genuinely fond of one another, even when their politics or temperaments differ sharply.

Smith, a target of Simon's "cookie jar" charges, said recently, "Despite all that talk, Norton and I are still pretty good friends."

Though much of the 1967 history of the Board of Regents has been marked by this spirit of good fellowship, there have been notable exceptions.

The board's close vote in 1950 to

It's like the Order of the Garter in England.

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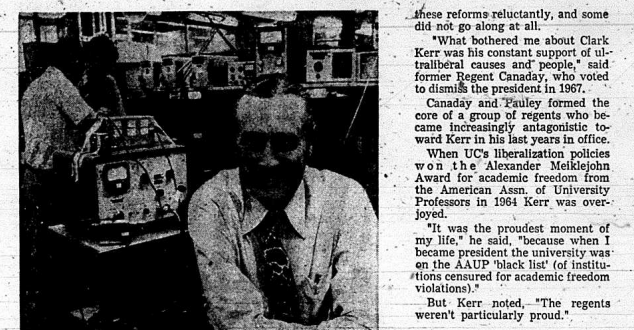
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WOMAN REGENT—Elinor Heller, shown at Atherton home, may become board's first woman chairman. Times photos by Bruce Cox



FORMER CHAIRMAN—Regent Dean A. Watkins, who served as board chairman for two years, is shown at plant in Palo Alto.

these reforms reluctantly, and some did not go along at all.

"What bothered me about Clark Kerr was his constant support of ultra-liberal causes and people," said former Regent Canaday, who voted to dismiss the president in 1967.

Canaday and Fauley formed the core of a group of regents who became increasingly antagonistic toward Kerr in his last years in office.

When UC's liberalization policies won the Alexander Melikiejohn Award for academic freedom from the American Assn. of University Professors in 1964 Kerr was overjoyed.

"It was the proudest moment of my life," he said, "because when I became president the university was on the AAUP 'black list' (of institutions censured for academic freedom violations)."

But Kerr noted, "The regents weren't particularly proud."

No regent accompanied him to St. Louis to accept the award and by 1972 UC was back on the "black list" for violating academic freedom and ignoring due process in the firing of Angela Davis.

At the same time another change was beginning to have an effect on the board.

Over the years most appointed regents had been businessmen and lawyers. Among 43 regents appointed between 1920 and 1949 there were 12 lawyers, nine business executives and seven bankers, according to an analysis by Prof. George R. Stewart of UC Berkeley.

Most were Republicans, ranging in political views from the center to the far right. There were few Democrats and fewer liberals.

But Gov. Brown changed that pattern by appointing several liberal Democrats—Coblentz, Dutton, William Matson Roth and Elinor Heller, whose husband Edward served on the board 18 years before his death in 1961.

(Mrs. Heller dislikes being called a liberal but she votes with Coblentz, Dutton and Roth more often than not.)

Brown also appointed Norton Simon, a friend since high school days in San Francisco, a major contributor to all of Brown's political campaigns. Simon frequently votes with the liberals.

For example, the resolution to permit Communists to speak on UC campuses was proposed by Catherine Hearst, one of the board's most conservative members, and was seconded by Carter, who was not the most outspoken liberal in the group. But some regents went along with

new campuses, expanded three others, added to the excellent reputations of Berkeley and UCLA and took its place in the California Master Plan for Higher Education as the institution that would do most of the state's research and produce most of its doctors, lawyers and Ph.D.s.

In these endeavors Kerr had solid support from the regents, but some conservative board members objected to other Kerr actions—opening UC campuses to political speakers, even Communist Party members; making ROTC voluntary; forcing fraternities and sororities to end racial and religious discrimination.

"It was unsuccessful," Kerr said. "People were very cool to each other. I remember there was a golden bear (the UC Berkeley symbol) made of ice and it was melting. I couldn't imagine why, considering the icy temperature in that room."

But after Kerr became president in 1958, replacing Robert Gordon Spruill, he said, "The regents really did get back together. I was a new president and we faced some tough problems and the Board of Regents pulled together."

During Kerr's eight-year presidency the university opened three

fire 31 faculty members who refused to sign California's loyalty oath created antagonisms that lasted for many years.

"The bitterness was something awful," said former Regent John E. Canaday, who voted to oust the non-signers at the first meeting he ever attended.

Clark Kerr recalled a party given at a San Francisco hotel in the mid '50s to try to mend the rift caused by the loyalty oath dispute.

The party was given by Edwin W. Pauley, the Los Angeles oil man and conservative Democrat who for years was one of the most powerful members of the Board of Regents.

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Softer Regent Amendment Seen Headed for Legislative Passage

The University of California apparently has managed to beat back the toughest of two proposed constitutional amendments that would shorten the terms of UC regents and change the way they are selected.

The survivor is SCA 45, introduced by Sen. Albert Rodda (D-Sacramento). It has passed the State Senate, cleared its first hurdle in the Assembly last week and now seems headed for final passage by the Legislature.

The loser is ACA 83, authored by Assemblyman John Vasconcellos (D-San Jose), which has yet to pass the Assembly and now seems to have no realistic chance of gaining legislative approval by the June 28 deadline to qualify for the November ballot.

Vasconcellos, significantly, is supporting the Rodda bill as it moves through the Assembly, and an aide last week said, "Right now, it looks like 45 is probably the best we can do in terms of getting something on the ballot in November."

Earlier, some observers had been predicting a standoff between the

two bills, with neither gaining final passage.

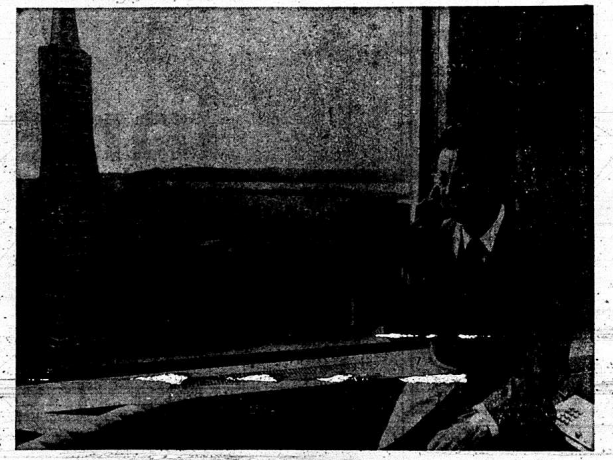
"I realize the possibilities for a standoff but I'm a little bit smarter than that," said Vasconcellos at the time. "The regents would like nothing better than to have no change."

Vasconcellos said that "as little as 45 does, at least it is a statement that things should be changed. I was pleased to hear Sen. Rodda say that the university should be governed by someone other than rich, white men. If we've made the point that a diverse board reflective of the people of the state is important for the university, maybe we've gotten what we needed."

Here are the most-argued differences between the two bills:

- Vasconcellos would reduce the terms of regents from 10 years and provide for a complete transition to a new board over a 10-year period; Rodda would trim them from 16 to 12 years and would permit current members to complete their terms.

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ENJOYS 'AN AURA'—Regent William K. Coblentz finds the post gives him an "aura of respectability."

Regents: Elite Club, Big Job

Continued from First Page
The Free Speech Movement's "fill the speech incident, intensification of protests against the Vietnam war—event followed quickly upon event, headlines upon headlines, and the regents, unaccustomed to such controversy and public notoriety, felt to dickerating a month themselves.



Moderate—Edward W. Carter, an influential moderate, is a member of the new power bloc on board.

very clearly in the case of Reynolds, also with (Dean A.) Watkins and Smith and even to some extent with (Glenn) Campbell. The official deliberately did not mention Dr. John H. Lawrence, a UC Berkeley medical physicist who was first named to the board by Reagan in 1970 and then in 1972, at the age of 68, was reappointed to a full 16-year term.

Lawrence and Mrs. Hearst are probably the governor's strongest supporters on the current board. On many if not most voting issues they would be joined by Campbell, Joseph A. Moore Jr., Smith, Watkins and Wilson and by ex-officio Regents Reagan, Rebecke and Allan Grant, president of the state Board of Agriculture.

Liberals Colobetz, Dutton and Roth often are joined by Mrs. Heller and Norton Simon and by UC President Warren H. Hirsch, Moretti and Riles from the ex-officio ranks. A third group, less predictable in its voting, includes Carter, Dr. Forbes, Higgs and Reynolds. Little is yet known about Dr. H. McDaniel, who became a regent when he was elected president of the Mechanics' Institute in 1972, or George H. Link, who will begin a one-year term as alumni representative July 1.

As the boards' outsiders are Dutton and Simon. Dutton, 50, concedes that he plays a gadfly role and agrees with the criticism that he frequently raises (important issues at meetings, only to drop them without developing all of their facets or mustering the votes to change board policy.

"For one thing I'm not wealthy enough to devote that kind of time to it and I'm not in the state enough," said Dutton, whose law practice is largely in Washington, D.C. "But more seriously, you mustn't bring some of these things to a vote until they're ready for a vote. My criticisms serve a purpose," he added, "just to get the issues discussed in the press and so forth."

But Pauley's influence declined in recent years, as his health failed, and he left the board in 1972, after serving 32 years. Carter, busy with his rapidly expanding business empire and with national assignments such as membership on the Cost of Living Council, devotes less time to regents' affairs than before.

Additional campuses and protection of the non-commercial buffer some around the UC Irvine campus as examples of his influence. Simon takes pride in the fact that students accepted him when they were not expected to do with other wealthy regents.

"During that ruckus at the UCLA meeting there were only three of us (Colobetz and Dutton were the others) who weren't afraid to go out and talk with the students," he said, "Pauley had to come out with six cops."

"I'd like to be accepted," Simon said, "but I don't want to be accepted on their terms," referring to the UC administration, fending off development of additional campuses and protection of the non-commercial buffer some around the UC Irvine campus as examples of his influence.

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Through the liberals and conservative quarreled over many different issues in these years, the focus of their differences was more concerned with maintaining order and punishing rule breakers.

For about two years Kerr retained the support of a majority of the handful of liberals, joined by such influential moderates as Carter and Mrs. Hearst. But the election of Ronald Reagan in 1966, after a campaign in which the promise to clean up the mess at Berkeley, signaled the end for Kerr.

Asked to describe that philosophy, Wilson replied, "I guess it's the attitude that we have a set of rules and if they don't like the rules they should go elsewhere. If we feel the rules should be changed we'll change them for the good of the university but not to solve a particular problem."

But Roth argues that if the board had assumed its independence during the takeover and the university would have made an enemy it could not afford in Carter's first term.

changing times, in part changes within the board. There seems no doubt that the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Vietnam, and the end of the draft, have greatly alarmed the student protest movement, in California as elsewhere.

Like the other Reagan appointees, Wilson insists there is no "Reagan bloc" on the board but a close friend, Los Angeles investor William A. Wilson, who pointed out in 1972.

Political realignments also have helped to create a more placid atmosphere at recent regents meetings. "The solid Reagan front has cracked," said a high-ranking university official, who asked not to be identified.

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UC REGENTS

Continued from 7th Page
off, few new programs are being started and budgets are increasing little if at all.

"We've really got to come to grips with where our campuses are going and specify certain roles for certain campuses," said Mrs. Hellen. "An important part of that is to realize that we are not going to develop our graduate schools on all campuses, the way we once thought we would."

The university's relations with the Legislature also present a serious problem.

A few years ago UC was pitted against Gov. Reagan and his Department of Finance but in recent years, while the governor has grown more generous with the university budget, new criticisms have been voiced by liberal Democrats in the Legislature.

They do not think UC has done enough for low-income students, especially those from minority races, and they are troubled by the university's elitism.

"From the state's point of view this should be maintained as the quality research entity. The state requires it," said Roth. "But there is a group in the Legislature which, in the name of greater democracy, wants to level everything out. The regents must oppose this strongly."

But the board is hesitant about battling too vigorously while the Legislature is considering measures that would shorten regents' terms and change the way they are selected.

UC's political clout has been weakened in the last decade by the rapid growth of the California State University and Colleges system, which has twice as many campuses and more than twice as many students as UC and can thus bring local political pressure to bear on more legislators.

"The University of California will play much less of a dominant role than it did," Campbell said. "The State University and Colleges have come of age and the community colleges are much more important than they were. This was inevitable in an age of mass higher education but

L.A. Doctor to Receive AMA Award

Dr. William F. House, director of research at the Ear Research Institute in Los Angeles, will receive the American Medical Assn.'s top award of the year in Chicago today.

He is being cited primarily for his surgical work with acoustic neuroma, a tumor of the hearing nerve. Surgical mortality for removal of the growths dropped from 40% to 2% as a result of procedures developed by Dr. House.

All Pilots Asked Not to Fly Over Bowl Concerts

Los Angeles county supervisors have asked pilots to avoid flights over Hollywood Bowl during the summer concerts from July 3 through Sept. 14.

Supervisor Ernest E. Debs said the annual appeal was directed to Federal Aviation Administration officials, airport managers and commercial and private pilots.

Searchlights again will be used to warn off low-flying planes, he said.

Argentina Starts Blast Furnace

BUENOS AIRES (UPI)—Latin America's largest blast furnace for steel production has begun operation in Argentina, according to a government announcement.

A government spokesman said the furnace at San Nicolas, 120 miles northwest of Buenos Aires, will produce 3,800 tons daily of cast iron to be used in making steel. He said this will permit a 15% increase in Argentina's steel production.

stions, should the board hire the best administrators possible, let them make the policy decisions and fire them if things go wrong?

"There are strong advocates of each position and in recent years the board has done a little of both. In all probability neither this nor any other vital question will be decided in the near future, however, for the regents are too pleased with the new serenity that has settled over the board and with the gradual return of their prestige and status to tackle any problems that might lead to acrimony.

Behind many of these issues lies a fundamental, unanswered question—should the regents decide important policy questions and order top administrators to implement their decisions?

AMENDMENT

Continued from First Page

—A blue-ribbon advisory committee would submit lists of regental candidates to the governor, who would be required to make his appointments from the lists under the Vasconcellos bill but would merely be required to consult with the committee under the Rodda bill.

Vasconcellos would require new regental seats for voting representatives of UC students and faculty members; Rodda would

permit the establishment of such seats but would not require them.

Both measures would make other changes in membership of the regents, though these are less controversial.

Vasconcellos would remove the president of the Mechanics-Institute of San Francisco and the president of the State Board of Agriculture and would replace the lieutenant governor with the Senate president pro tem. Rodda would drop the

Mechanics' Institute and State Board of Agriculture representatives and would increase the number of appointed regents from 16 to 18.

Both bills call for a board that is more representative of the state's population than the present group, which is largely composed of wealthy attorneys and business executives.

The regents, however, have supported SCA 45 as the lesser of two evils and worked closely with Rodda to develop the bills details.

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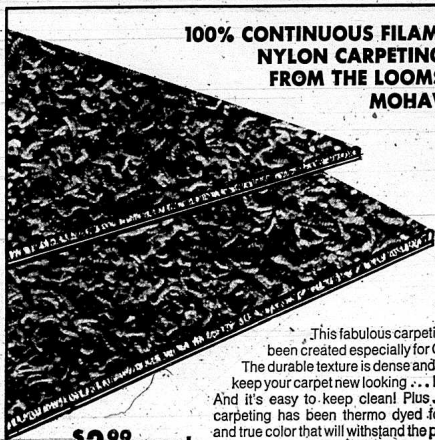
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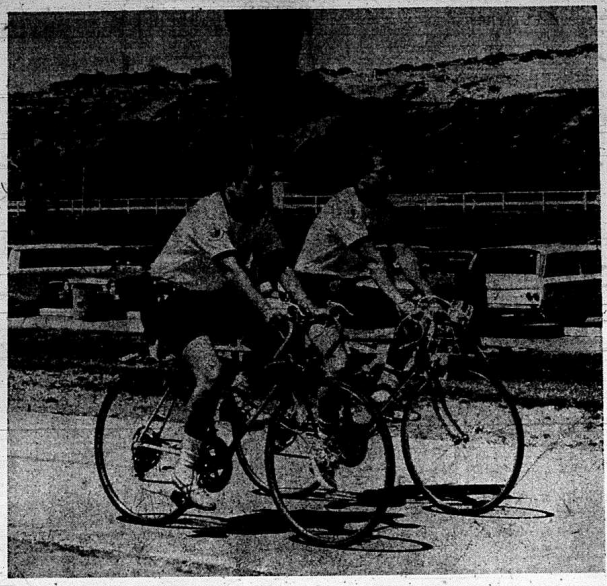


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REAL LETTERS Dear Juliet: Help Me With My Romeo...

BY WILLIAM TUOHY Times Staff Writer VERONA, Italy—'Dear Juliet,' begins a recent letter from Florida...



THE BEAT—Los Angeles policemen Joe Apodaca, left, and Jeff Pritchard patrol bikeway at Playa del Rey in new summer uniforms of beach detail—T-shirts, shorts, sneakers and sidecars.

GOES TO VOTERS IN NOVEMBER L.A. Rapid Transit Program at a Confused Crossroads

BY RAY HEBBERT Times Union Staff Writer A muddled picture has emerged from the Los Angeles area's renewed effort to build a rapid transit system...

'Neutral' Study of Tape Discrepancies Suggested by Ford

BY RICHARD BERGHOLZ Times Political Writer MONTEREY—Vice President Ford suggested Saturday that a 'neutral and independent' study be made to clear up discrepancies in transcripts of the White House tapes...

NIXON MIDEAST TRIP New Paths Bring Promise, Danger

WASHINGTON—Two banners in two cities told part of the story of President Nixon's extraordinary 'journey of peace' to the Middle East. In Cairo the slogan read: 'Don't Forget the Palestinians! In Jerusalem the words were: 'Don't Sell Us Out.'

U.S. Nurse, 6 Months Pregnant, Released by Ethiopian Guerrillas

ADDIS ABABA, Ethiopia (AP)—A 24-year-old pregnant American nursing nurse was freed by anti-government guerrillas Saturday and said she felt fine after her four-week ordeal.

WRESTLING PIPE ON OFFSHORE RIG Sweat, Muscle Still Needed to Produce Oil

BY NICHOLAS C. CHRISS Times Staff Writer ABOARD MARINER II—There may be worse jobs than wrestling with several tons of steel pipe in a lather of mud and grease at 3 a.m. on the bobbing deck of an offshore oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico...

THE WEATHER National Weather Service forecast: Late night and morning coastal low clouds and local fog...

FEATURE INDEX ART. Calendar. AUCTIONS, Part 2, Pages 4, 5 and 7. BRIDGE, Home Magazine. CHESS, Part 2, Page 3.

HARD AT WORK—Roughnecks aboard Mariner II, an offshore drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico, maneuver heavy equipment into place.