

Environmental Studies Department serves as model for universities across the nation

By MIKE CALLAHAN
DN Feature Editor

UCSB has embarked upon an academic endeavor that could be unparalleled across the country and may come to serve as a model for colleges and universities nationwide. This quarter marks the initiation of a new major in Environmental Studies which hopes to attack the complex problems caused by man's abuse and ignorance of the delicate systems of nature.

Much of the credit for making this program a reality is due to Associate Professor Roderick Nash, an acclaimed defender of our wilderness and American historian. Nash, author of the Santa Barbara Declaration of Rights, chaired the Chancellor's Committee on Environmental Studies which began the groundwork for the new major last spring.

In its report, the Committee states that "unthinking concentration on growth and technological development has set crucial balances askew. Either major reforms in environmental management will be affected in the next several decades or disastrous consequences will ensue for the living world."

The report goes on to stress the university's responsibility to "offer an unbiased arena in which to study environmental problems and formulate solutions." It is pointed out that UCSB especially has a unique opportunity to lead the way in this field with its faculty resources, geographical area, research facilities and national interest and support.

Nash points to three reasons why Environmental Studies at UCSB will be unique. The main feature of the program is that it is multi-disciplinary. He states that environmental problems are too

complex to follow traditional departmental lines. Nearly all disciplines can and must contribute to their solutions.

Problem oriented study rather than pure research is another reason this new major is unique. Students in ES courses will learn the factual knowledge only necessary to afford them the background needed to study and understand specific environmental problems. A final novel facet of the program is that the classes will be team taught by scholars who are specialists in the many fields involved in this type of study.

As an example, Environmental Studies I, being offered this quarter, will be taught by a chemist, a geologist, a geographer and a physicist. The course is entitled "Introductory Physical Environment" and will be coordinated by Chemistry Assistant Professor Richard Martin. It is a five unit course with four lectures and one discussion group per week.

Martin says that the staff members will probe the problems

most closely related to physical sources. Some of the areas to be examined will be air and water pollution, nuclear power and radioactivity, land use, resource limitations and transportation. He also says that staff conducted and self-conducted field trips are planned.

In Winter Quarter, ES II, "Introductory Biological Environment," will be offered in which healthy and diseased environments and basics of ecology will be studied, ES III, Introduction to Social Environment, will draw upon historical, sociological, psychological, political and cultural backgrounds of environmental problems during Spring Quarter.

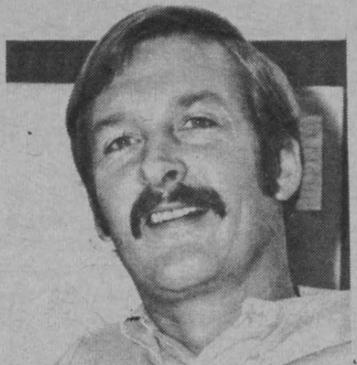
Students planning to major in Environmental Studies are required to take ES 1-6, the last three of which are intermediate examinations of the same three general areas of emphasis. ES 197 A-B is a two quarter seminar planned for extensive study of particular problems which will

begin in 1971-72. In the meantime, a full complement of upper division courses are being established in a variety of fields.

The Environmental Studies major is designed to prepare students for careers in government, law, business, journalism and teaching. Persons headed for graduate study are encouraged to minor in ES which requires 30 units, 15 of which are from ES 1-6. The minor is also recommended to continuing and transfer students.

Students who have already taken related classes may have them approved as substitutes by the Committee on Environmental Studies. It is anticipated that ES 1-6 will fulfill some of the General Education requirements.

Proponents of the Environmental Studies Program have received much support and are confident of a successful inaugural year. The response from all interested groups has been extremely encouraging. As many as 100+ majors and perhaps 250 enrollments in ES are hoped for. The only ingredient they need to begin is students.

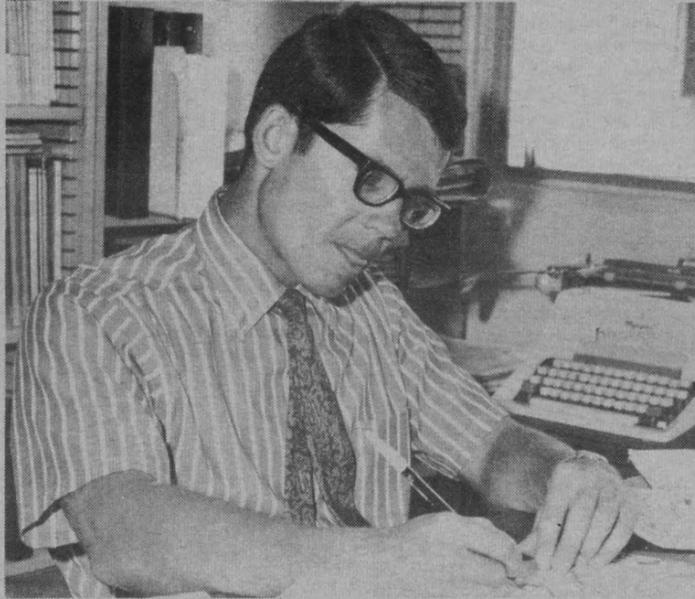


RICHARD MARTIN
Coordinator of Environmental Studies I

Free school

The Isla Vista Free School is planned as a non-coercive, self-directed, school belonging to everyone involved in it, where children four years and up, can thrive and learn with joy, wonder, curiosity and excitement.

We wish to keep the costs as low as possible, and accept volunteer help and donated resources. A meeting is planned Tuesday, Oct. 6, 7:30 p.m. for interested parents and helpers. For more information, call 968-6968 or 965-7159.



RODERICK NASH
Environmental Studies Chairman

New class fall quarter

Students interested in registering for Environmental Studies I: "Introduction to Physical Environment" are urged to do so at open registration Friday Oct. 2 in Robertson Gym. The class will be taught M-F, noon-12:50 in Ellison 1910.

Those wishing entrance to the class may also sign up at the first class meeting, space permitting. Additional information can be obtained at the Environmental Studies Office in the old Student Health Center.

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