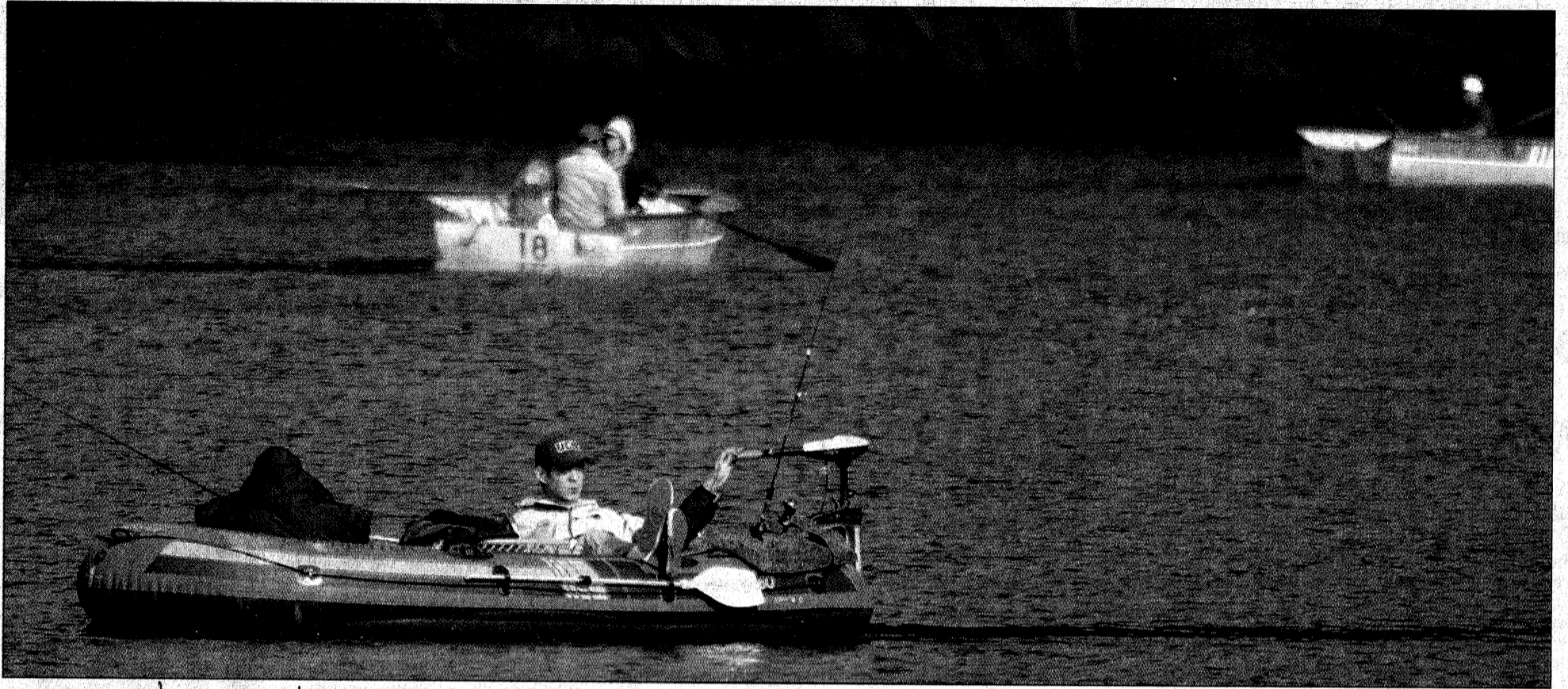


So far, SO GOOD



Loch Lomond

3-2-03

Loch Lomond season opens with high water

By JYLLIAN KEMSLEY
SENTINEL CORRESPONDENT

LOMPICO

The Loch Lomond recreation area opened Saturday, and so far the water level looks good. "We're full," said Ranger David Brooks. "There's a tenth, maybe two-tenths of a foot going over the spill way."

But plentiful supplies may not last, with weather being the variable.

The Santa Cruz Water Department draws 4 billion to 4.5 billion gallons of water annually, said director Bill Kocher. Half of that comes from the San Lorenzo River, 25 percent comes from North Coast streams and 25 percent comes from Loch Lomond and a few wells.

'The last climate outlook that came out, we were still looking at a fairly wet year. There's still more rain on the way.'

DIANA HENDERSON,
FORECASTER
IN MONTEREY

"We always measure the kind of year we're in by the amount of water that is passed by the gauges in the river," said Kocher. "The truth is this year is dry."

He said that if less water is available from the river or streams, more will be drawn from the reservoir. Because the lake is full, he doesn't expect problems this year.

"If we get another dry year next year, then we're in trouble," he said.

He noted that last year was dry through February as well, but March rains helped significantly.

The forecast from the National Weather Service is optimistic on that front.

"The last climate outlook that came out, we were still looking at a fairly wet year," said Diana Henderson, a forecaster in Monterey. "There's still more rain on the way."

Contact Jyllian Kemsley at jkemsley@santa-cruz.com.

Sentinel photos by
Bill Lovejoy



TOP: Boaters and anglers cruise around a brim-full Loch Lomond on Saturday morning as the annual recreation season opens at the lake.

ABOVE: Dan and Dylan Arndt of Ben Lomond share skipping chores at Loch Lomond on Saturday.

LEFT: Sergey and Kirill Zaitsev of Brookdale ready their paddleboat for a day of fishing on the lake.