

**UC Santa Cruz****Feminist Professor  
Fights for Tenure**

By Allyn Stone  
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**Santa Cruz**

Nancy Shaw, a feminist professor at the University of California, is the center of a tenure controversy that her supporters believe symbolizes the university's shift from its progressive beginnings.

Shaw, 39, faces denial of tenure after eight years as a professor of community studies because Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer has decided that her research involving jails and hospitals is not sufficiently "scholarly."

Her supporters, trying to persuade the chancellor to change his tentative decision, have barraged Sinsheimer with petitions, letters, phone calls and demonstrations on Shaw's behalf.

One local group that alters commercial billboards to carry their political messages joined the fray by changing a Pacific Avenue billboard that read, "Your teeth should last forever — Call your dentist today," to read "Nancy Shaw should last forever — Call Sinsheimer."

The show of support for Shaw began shortly after the chancellor disclosed in a January 25 letter that he had reached a tentative decision to deny her tenure. Last weekend, a new flurry of pro-Shaw demonstrations were staged during alumni visits to the campus.

Throughout the long controversy, the embattled chancellor pleaded unsuccessfully with Shaw's supporters to let him consider the personnel matter in peace.

The chancellor has refused to comment publicly on Shaw's case. But in his January letter, he first praised her teaching and public service, but said of her research: "It is very difficult to regard this work as scholarly... it can just as well be done by able journalists or persons

**NANCY SHAW****Teacher of community studies**

employed by public service agencies."

In the campus newspaper, he later wrote, "The award of tenure is not a political process. It is not determined by popular vote, by demonstrations or rallies, by banners or slogans."

Yet the chancellor's view of Shaw's work is itself "a political judgment," replied Michael Rotkin, the left-wing mayor of Santa Cruz and a faculty colleague of Shaw's. "He seems to be saying those issues are not worthy of research."

Shaw is identified with women's health concerns, which are explored in her 1974 book "Forced Labor," a study of maternity care in the United States. Shaw, who has a Ph.D. in Sociology from Brandeis University, has also directed a study of community health needs in West Santa Cruz, has done research on women prisoners and has served on a state advisory committee on inmates' health.

"Nancy's work looks at the

most distressed and dispossessed people in our society," said Wally Goldfrank, chairman of the Sociology Department at UCSC. "It's not nice. It's pretty sordid and grim — it doesn't make a good luncheon topic. It's not what you want with your quiche."

Another supporter, Ron Saufley, a campus administrator, said the controversy demonstrates "that at Santa Cruz there is a very strongly conservative faculty reaction to socially oriented research and teaching."

Shaw has already hired San Francisco attorney Doris Walker, former defender of Angela Davis and several Berkeley Free Speech Movement leaders. If Shaw is dismissed from her \$20,400-a-year job, said Walker, she will sue on the grounds that she is being discriminated against "because she is a woman and because of her politics."

The chancellor's final decision is expected soon, possibly today.