

# Sinsheimer letter sparks Liddicoat retort

By BILL AKERS between Supervisor Marilyn people on the UCSC campus  
The simmering feud Liddicoat and most of the boiled anew last Thursday,

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heated by an "open letter" to her — released first to the newspapers — from UCSC Chancellor Robert Sinsheimer.

In his letter, Sinsheimer expressed his regrets about Mrs. Liddicoat withdrawing from a concert on the campus because of a threatened student protest. But also said he regretted her "gross and uninformed condemnation of this campus."

Mrs. Liddicoat said she thought it was a "shoddy way for the Chancellor to communicate with a public official" and renewed her attack on the institution. Mrs. Liddicoat learned of the letter when she was called to comment on it by a reporter from the Santa Cruz Sentinel, the first paper called by the UCSC community relations office.

"He blasted me for the unkind things I've said about the University," Mrs. Liddicoat said. "He criticized me for criticizing the University, but he doesn't realize my feelings are the feelings of the community."

A long-time critic of the campus, its students and administration, Mrs. Liddicoat was caught in the eye of another mini-storm earlier last week when students learned she was to sing in an operatic benefit program being sponsored by the Santa Cruz County Talent Bank, which gives scholarships to young local music students.

One of the participants in the concert, Sherwood Dudley, associate professor of music at College Five, informed Talent Bank officials that "two or three students" had told him they would stage a protest if Mrs. Liddicoat came on campus, because of her support of Jarvis II. The students believe that passage of Jarvis II may result in the closure of the campus, Dudley said.

When informed of this development by Talent Bank officials, Mrs. Liddicoat pulled out of the concert, which will go ahead without her on Feb. 1, saying "it was the most discreet thing I could do" to save concert sponsors embarrassment if a protest did occur.

In announcing her withdrawal, Mrs. Liddicoat said she had been told that University of California President David Saxon had told Dudley that UCSC would be closed if Jarvis II passed. In subsequent interviews, she said it would be a good idea to close UCSC and sell the campus to a private institution, such as Brigham Young University, the Mormon school in Provo Utah.

Dudley said that Saxon had not said that to him, only that passage of Jarvis II would result in a 25 percent cut in the overall total University budget. But, he said, "rumors were rampant" in Berkeley that closure was being considered, but it did not come from the administration. He also said he didn't believe the students would try to disrupt the concert.

In the letter Sinsheimer directed to Mrs. Liddicoat, he said that "Our students well understand the distinction between artistic performance and political persuasion, and I am sure your participation (in the Talent Bank concert) would not have been hindered or marred by other than a few placards to decry your support of Jarvis II."

Then Sinsheimer went on to decry Mrs. Liddicoat's recent statements, and others not so recent, about the campus.

"The imputation that UCSC is somehow responsible for the 'undesirable' conditions on the mall is unverified and simply untrue," Sinsheimer wrote. "UCSC is the leading institution of higher education in the Monterey Bay area. It has some 6,000 students who receive a first-rate educational opportunity. This campus deserves your support — as Supervisor of Santa Cruz County and therefore one interested in its welfare — not your antagonism."

Saying that Mrs. Liddicoat was entitled to her opinion about Jarvis II, he said its passage "will not result in the closure of this campus. Passage, however, will have a near-catastrophic effect not only upon the quality of higher education in this state, but on the entire public school system of the state and all local and community services."

Sinsheimer took a final shot

at Mrs. Liddicoat by saying, "It is true, of course, that most of the students at UCSC are of a different political persuasion than yours. It is, therefore, quite understandable that you might prefer that they are not here to participate in the electoral process. But, then, let us not becloud the issue."

Mrs. Liddicoat leaves no doubt that she would rather have the UCSC students elsewhere. "Can you picture the difference if there were Brigham Young students here? We wouldn't have the whole mall situation."

The flap over the threatened student protest over her concert appearance, she said, "is typical of their inability to control the students." She added: "They are like incompetent parents who can't control their spoiled brats."

Further indication there is "something wrong" at UCSC, Mrs. Liddicoat stated, is that the students there "vote 99.1 percent one way. They're not getting a rounded education. They're not being taught to have an open mind . . . open to all points of view. For that, I blame the administration."

As for her contention that problems on the Santa Cruz mall originate with the University, she said "I think the University attracts certain kinds of hangers-on."

Saying that she is a University of California graduate herself, and that she was "enthusiastic" when she learned there would be a campus coming here, she said she is now "disappointed" in it. "They don't turn out a product with a well-rounded education."

She concedes there are some "fine professors" there, citing the music and natural science departments as examples, "but then, you also have Art Pearl. He started the recall against me."

And, Mrs. Liddicoat believes "the community is being used as a classroom laboratory. They influence decisions, vote here, and then leave the community in a mess."

As far as her support of Jarvis II, Mrs. Liddicoat said: "There is incredible waste in education. Just because we spend more money doesn't mean we get better education. We spend more on administration than on classrooms."

In the wake of Proposition 13, and the passage of Jarvis II that she hopes for, Mrs. Liddicoat says, "What we have to do is re-direct our resources toward more solid education, police and fire protection, and not to (educational) administration and Mickey Mouse social services."

Reiterating her belief that Saxon told Dudley that the campus would be closed if Jarvis II passes, she said, "Now the official word is that it won't close. They're deathly afraid that rumors (of closure) will affect their enrollment."

"It wouldn't make me unhappy if this campus closed," she concluded. "I would like to see another type of university here."

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