

JADED

SPRING 2004

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

**MEDIA REPRESENTATION CAMPUS ELECTIONS NORTH KOREAN HOLOCAUST
DESIGNER BAGS PROP 420 TRAVEL MUSIC**



Table of Contents

a piece of mind		a peace of mind	
Welcome Note/Mission Statement	3	9	Opinionated- this is what we think
ASUCI Election:Candidates Profile	4	10	A poem and a short story
The Silent Holocaust	6	11	Travel
APSA Page	7	15	College Rant
Gay or Asian? Choose one.	12	16	Designer Bags
Prop 420	13	18	Entertainment
A Gilded Cage	14	20	Food for thought
Equality in the media: Better luck tomorrow	17	22	A day in the life of...
		23	Calender

The cover photo is an allegory for change and progression in the Asian American movement. In many respects, we as a group, have grown complacent in our role in american society. There is an absence of effort and passion (the two empty chairs) from within to rectify these problems. The woman in this photo is waiting. She's waiting for support, uproar, outrage, action, anything to keep her from becoming just another jaded victim of apathy.

Front and back cover designed and photographed by Chris Dea

mission statement

Jaded magazine is a form of alternative media to encourage political, cultural, and personal discourse among UCI students. We celebrate and support the Asian Pacific Islander community through the retelling of the past, engaging of the present, and sharing a vision for the future. We hope to build connections and bridge gaps between people of different ethnicities and ways of thinking. The goal of the publication is not only to provide a space where Asian Pacific Islander students can voice different opinions and artistic expressions, but also as a form of community activism through education and awareness. Despite the fact that we are misrepresented, our images misconstrued, and our cultures misunderstood, we are not JADED in spirit. This is what we are doing about it.

welcome

I still remember that one night when I was sitting in the car with APSA's external chair, Pearl, we were talking about re-starting a campus asian american publication. Here, three week later we have 3000 copies printed. I am uber excited to have the help and support of my staff. I would like to thank special individuals for their sleepless nights at my house trying to put this together as fast as possible. This project was not an easy one. Despite the many obstacles along the way, we are here today to welcome you to the fist issue of Jaded.

Thank you's: APSA, China Times Printing, Alternative media board and last my wonderful hardworking staff. This would not have been possible without any of these groups and people.

Diana Jou

Disclaimer:

The ideas and opinions
of the articles do not
necessary reflect the
thoughts of APSA or the
entire staff

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comments, complaints, submissions, questions, concerns, or you think we're kinda cool and want to work for us? please email jadedmagazine@hotmail.com
All submissions become the property of Jaded magazine.

Cross Cultural Center
University of California Irvine, Ca 92697-5075

We asked all of the candidates for President and Executive Vice President the following questions:

(1) What have you done personally in the past year about the budget cuts and the tuition hikes?

(2) What is your stance on proposition 420 and what would you do if it did not pass?

(3) What on campus organizations are you involved with?

(4) In about 10 words or less, what sets you apart from the other candidates?

Gabriel Ayass for President 3rd year Political Science major

(1) I distributed information about tuition increases; I was one of the three students who went to the first ASUCI lobby day in Sacramento. I also got postcards signed to send to then governor Gray Davis against fee hikes. I am also highly involved in voter registration because if you get people to register to vote, hopefully they will participate in the political process.

(2) I am in legislative council and voted to put it on the ballot. I would suggest going through the office of the Vice Chancellor of student's affairs, he has a lot of resources that can be used.

(3) **ASUCI** legislative council
Phi Kappa Psi
Pan American Latino Society
Society of Arabic Students

(4) "Possesses leadership qualities they don't have. Person of action not words."

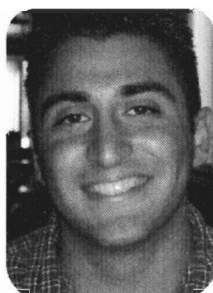
William King-Lewis for President 3rd year Philosophy major

(1) I have attended all the budget events and rallies that ASUCI has held. I also signed a petition against fee hikes. In addition to that, I wrote to my state representative about my concerns. I also voted for a state representative who I thought would do the best job in regards to caring for education. I also voted on all propositions relating to education funding.

(2) I think that SOAR is a good program and has good potential assuming good people are on the board. If prop 420 does not pass, the negative thing is that ASUCI cannot directly fund high school outreach. However, the administration does have the money, but the money is not being allocated and used by the student organizations. I would educate and promote to get the money that is already there to these clubs.

(3) **ASUCI** athletics commissioner
Phi Kappa Alpha executive board
Student Athletic Actions Committee
rep for men's track and field

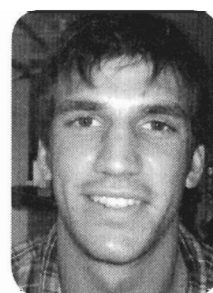
(4) "I give a new perspective and offer a change of leadership."



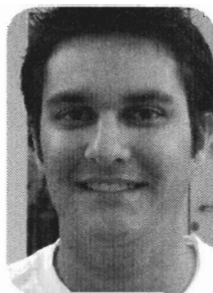
gabriel



william



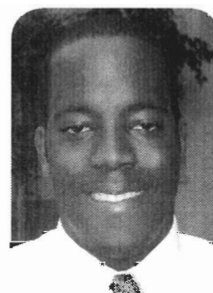
russ



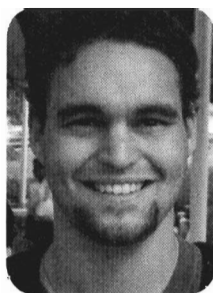
alex



tammy



ryan



adam



geoffrey



raymond

Russ Marchewka for President 4th year Economics major

(1) I have done research on the budget cuts and talked with the UC Regents Chancellor as well as UCI's chancellor. As far as I could see, right now the fee hikes are necessary. I understand that people are upset, and it's a natural reaction—I think everyone needs time to adjust to the fee hikes. My primary concern is the quality of the education we receive, and I hope that it will not deteriorate.

(2) I support the setting up of a self-governing council that represents all the clubs on campus. I support this idea because it gets more groups involved, the more people you have the better the ideas you are going to get. Plus the cost to an individual student is about \$9 per year—that's only \$1 per month.

(3) Involved in the **Greek community**
Volleyball team

(4) "100% dedication, and the leadership qualities to bring about change."

Alex Fuqua for Executive VP 4th year Philosophy major

(1) I have gone to the state capital to lobby on behalf of UC students. I also wrote a postcard legislature, which was sent to parents informing them of the fee hikes and the actions that they could take. I am also working with assembly member Manny Diaz to propose a bill that will make it harder for legislatures to increase tuition and cut funding.

(2) I definitely support prop 420—I actually supported the original proposal that was brought to the legislative council. In the event it does not pass, I would definitely bring it back on the ballot in fall, or I would set up another program, which would be the same in purpose as prop 420. I am also not sure that all resources were looked at properly; I

would definitely have a backup plan.

(3) **ASUCI** at large representative
Phi Kappa Psi
Humanities honor student

(4) "I would bring diversity into my work in order to be fair."

Tammy Nguyen for Executive VP
2nd year Political Science major

(1) I have been an activist against tuition increases for the past two years. Last year, under the office of the executive vice-president, we worked [on outreach] to reach out to the students on the issue. This year, I was a board member of the UC Student Association and I got to work on the state level. My concern now is to stop further cuts and fee hikes, while educating students to make sure that apathy is not acceptable.

(2) I am a big supporter of student initiated outreach. It is shocking to know that our state legislature is cutting funds to programs such as these, and is essentially not considering them important. High school outreach gives people encouragement and lets them know that higher education is possible no matter [how diverse] their background. I do have concerns that this issue has not been explained to UCI students in detail. ASUCI is so centralized—high school outreach an issue that affects everyone but no one knows about it, word needs to get out.

(3) **ASUCI** board member (2 years)
(quit due to dissatisfaction over how things worked within the organization)
Part of **multiple campus organizations**
Middle Earth Housing

(4) "I am aware of the weakness of ASUCI and have the drive to make changes."

Ryan Sanders for Executive VP
3rd year Political Science major

(1) I have worked in many areas including educating students with many of the Top Ramen awareness events, advocating student-focused budget priorities at this campus. I also helped in pushing for the UC Student Association to make budget cuts and fee increases a centerpiece of its Action Agenda and lobby in Sacramento.

(2) Maintaining a diverse population is a crucial investment that impacts all students long after we leave UCI. I am wholly committed to seeing prop 420's passage. As a member of the SOAR Coalition, I helped in writing and developing the prop 420 referendum. Unfortunately, according to a ruling issued by the ASUCI Judicial Board, ASUCI resources can't go to support outreach. Additionally I like the idea of outreach money being allocated by a diverse group of students.

(3) **ASUCI** legislative council (2 years)
African Student Union
SOAR member
Student Initiated Outreach advisory committee

(4) "Two years advocating for students in Legislative Council and External Affairs."

Adam Boothby for Student Services VP
3rd year Sociology and Political Science major

What do you plan on doing differently than has been done in the previous years?

I will put on events students actually want to see, such as concerts of well-known artists at the cheapest price possible.

How do you aim to reach out to the students to better campus life?

I plan to use more surveys to find out exactly what students want, whether it be more pub nights or better free movie previews. I plan to implement an electronic survey system, which all students can access at their own convenience. My motto: Get the job done—don't talk about getting it done.

organizations:

ASUCI Commissioner (3 years)
CIA leader
Pi Alpha Kappa
Vice President of the **Inter-Fraternity Council**

"I have the programming experience necessary to get the job done."

Geoffrey Enriquez for Academic VP

4th year Engineering major

I have worked in the academic office; I would concentrate on student retention—

keeping students on campus, having less people drop out. I would set up a campus-wide program that would give students free tutoring, mentoring and access to other resources in order to enhance their academic experience. Hopefully the administration will see the benefits of having such a program on campus.

organizations:

ASUCI academic office
FUSION
Founding member of **TAPS**
Student Recommended Faculty Program

Raymond Giang for Administration VP
2nd year Computer Engineering major

The new ASUCI constitutional amendment calls for a reformation within this office. How do you plan to prepare for this office if the duties were to change or not?

I've considered both of the duties and my possible roles. If the duties change, I plan to do great things such as increasing the voter turnout and encouraging more candidates in elections through extensive publicity, which I believe has been lacking in the past 2 years. If the office remains the same, I will try to keep up with Ashley in issues such as the Bren and parking, as well as better inform the students about the campus.

organizations:

ASUCI Engineering Representative
(since Spring 2003)
Swim Team
Passport to Leadership participant

"I'm ready to take on anything!"

note: the list of candidates may change due to disqualification or reinstatement of candidates.

reporting by
Amardeep Gill
Betty Chen

ASUCI Constitutional Revision: In order to qualify for the office of ASUCI President or Executive VP, candidates would be required to have attended a minimum of 6 Legislative Council meetings the year prior to office. For more information, visit www.asuci.uci.edu/elections/.

for:

Alexander Fuqua

"You need some kind of familiarity with the legislative council process—it takes up 4 hours per week, and the EVP has to chair it."

Gabriel Ayass

"I support it, especially for President, because if you want to be the head of the only organization that officially represents the undergraduates, and to be an executive officer, I think you should at least have some kind of an idea of how the legislative council works and of ASUCI's parliamentary procedures."

against:

Tammy Nguyen

"It excludes a lot of people who can't make it to the meetings due to time conflicts with classes. I understand that you need a good understanding of how things work, but if the California State Senate does not require a potential candidate to sit in to a specific number of meetings in order to run, then why should ASUCI? I think anyone who is not satisfied with the system should be able to run—if they have enough support, then there should not be any limits that stop them from running."

Ryan Sanders

"I do believe that experiencing Legislative Council can serve to strengthen any potential Executive Officer. However, the campaigns are designed to expose students to the candidates and allow them to decide for themselves. That is why I voted against adding this amendment to the Constitutional revisions."

Russ Marchewka
William King-Lewis



the Silent HOLOCAUST

by Jessica C. Lee

It was supposed to be a post Korean War utopia where millions of Korean citizens could live the idealized Marxist lifestyle of shared wealth and happiness. Yet today, North Korea is left in a state of irony with 23 million of its citizens starving while Kim IL Sung's son, Kim Jung IL, the new "Dear Leader", thrives on the most expensive bottles of Remy Martin.

Little is publicized about the human rights crisis in North Korea. It seems that since President Bush deemed North Korea as one-third of the "Axis of Evil" in his 2002 State of the Union Address, and the occurrence of this past February's Six-Party Talks, the public only associates North Korea with weapons of mass destruction and a bribing bite-sized leader who parades around Pyongyang capital with a bouffant hairstyle and platform shoes. Kim Jung IL is considered a "Demi-God" to North Korean citizens, yet is regarded as Satan himself to human rights activists.

This past February's Six-Party Talks had deepened the public's awareness of North Korea's nuclear threat to humanity. Simultaneously discussions regarding North Korea's threat to its own humanity took place in Warsaw, Poland at the 5th International Conference for North Korean Human Rights & Refugees. This conference gathered North Korean defectors along with NGOs and press from around the world to discuss the necessity of stopping one of the greatest tragedies of our time.

Famine is widespread throughout North Korea, killing several daily. In August of 1995 a disastrous flood exacerbated the existing systematic food shortage that resulted in North Korea requesting and receiving 500,000 and 1.5 million metric tons in grain aid from South Korea and Japan. Yet, hundreds of thousands of people are thought to have died of hunger over the last decade. How is this possible? Kim Jung IL's regime starves its citizens while it feeds off of the food aid from donating countries, that's how. An example of this is reflected in the North Korean orphanages where in one particular case on July 15, 1999, NGO Action Contre la Faim saw 20 severely malnourished children, 3 of which were about to die. These children were reported to be dirty and suffering from scabies. They were fed goat's milk mixed with water or water mixed with sugar instead of the two tons of the High Energy Milk that UNICEF had delivered to the nursery in May of that same year.

In addition to famine, North Korea's human rights crisis is centralized around its political prison and concentration camps.

According to Man Ho-Heo, author of *Systematic Violations of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in North Korea*, North Korean citizens are brain washed through censorship and are placed in political prison and concentration camps without trial. North Koreans are imprisoned if they are Christians, political enemies of Kim IL Sung or Kim Jung IL (those that speak out against the regime), or remaining family members of previously executed criminals or defectors.

Famine and the political prison camps' terrors have resulted in many North Koreans crossing the Tuman River into China for food, money, or temporary residence. Sadly, the trafficking of women and children has dominated the fate of most North Korean defectors. Many are taken in by locals and scammed into becoming objects of the Chinese, Russian and Southeast Asian Triad's sex ring. If North Korean defectors are caught in China, they are repatriated back to North Korea where they are severely tortured and then executed.

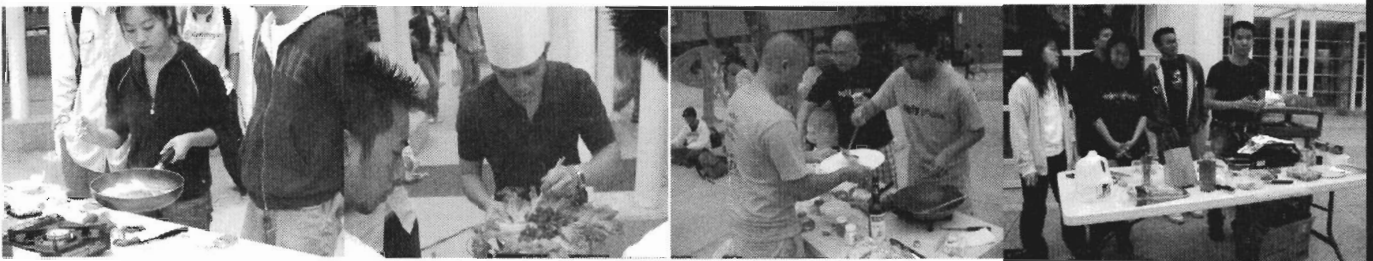
This information has been received from North Korean Human Rights U.S. Committee analyst David Hawk, whose report, *The Hidden Gulag: Exposing North Korea's Prison Camps, Prisoners' Testimonies and Satellite Photographs*, describes the multiple North Korean Gulags (kwan li-so). The prison camps are viewed as "slave labor camps...where 150,000 to 200,000 prisoners are worked to death in mining, logging, farming, and industrial enterprises". There are also systems of "smaller, shorter-term detention facilities along the North Korea-China border used to brutally punish North Koreans who flee to China [who are] usually in search of food." Semi-starvation is prevalent in these prison camps. Former "Yo-Dok" prison inmate and defector Young Kuk Lee describes inmates being reduced to eating "plants and living creatures such as snakes, mice, and frogs...alive [with] skin, intestines, hair and all."

Public executions and torture occur on an almost daily basis to install fear. Prisoners are sub-



"slave labor camps... where 150,000 to 200,000 prisoners are worked to death in mining, logging, farming, and industrial enterprises"

Asian Pacific Student Association



Contestants of Iron Chef

Presidential Welcome

When was the last time you were able to pick up a magazine and truly identify with its contents? It has been a few years since the Asian Pacific Islander (API) community has last come together to publish alternative media here on the UCI campus. It is with great excitement and anticipation that we share with you from the API community.

It is our hope that this magazine serves as a link between the API and the campus wide communities to establish understanding of outreach, advocacy and social awareness. APSA promotes diversity throughout the community at large. We trust that this magazine will continue to promote APSA's mission and further APSA as a strong influential body on campus.

We would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to contribute to this magazine. In particular a special thank you to the editor of this magazine, Diana Jou, for all the time and effort she has brought forth to bring this magazine to life. Her willingness to open herself up to new ideas and different forms of expression has driven her vision to make this magazine a success.

In solidarity,

Jay Alayon

Internal chair

Pearl Chen

External Chair

The Asian Pacific Student Association (APSA), with help of many organizations, hosts Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month (APIHM) at University of California Irvine annually during the month of April. At UCI, the Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month is a month long celebration with events and activities dealing with Asian and Pacific Islander culture, issues, history, and communities in the United States.

Much like other month long celebrations, APIHM originated as a Congressional bill. In June 1977, Representatives Frank Horton of New York and Norman Y. Mineta of California introduced a House resolution that called upon the president to proclaim the first ten days of May as Asian/Pacific Heritage Week. The following month, Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both were passed and on October 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a Joint Resolution designating the annual celebration. In May 1990, the holiday was expanded to a month when President George Bush designated May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. May was chosen to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States in 1843. Many schools chose to instead celebrate Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month during April instead because semester schools end in May. UCI APSA also decided to follow this trend.

Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Months are important to educate, advocate, and celebrate the heritage and many cultures of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. Come check out some of the events of APIHM 2004:

Can You Hear Me Now?

Brian Iwana

asian pacific student association presents...

apihm2004

asian pacific islander heritage month

april 2004

"Can You Hear Me Now?"

WEEK 1

- Tues 4/6:** **SHAPING THE DEBATE ON APAs AND AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**
Lee Ann Wang - Cross Cultural Center 7pm-8pm
- Thurs 4/8:** **IRON CHEF COMPETITION**
Ring Road 12pm-1pm

WEEK 2

- Tues 4/13:** **REAFFIRMING ETHNIC AWARENESS AND COMMUNITY HARMONY ACTIVITY**
Cross Cultural Center 7pm-8pm
- Weds 4/14:** **BRIDGING THE GAP: Cultural and Family Values in Career Decision Making**
Yas Djadali & Daphne Nadal - Cross Cultural Center 12pm-1pm
- Fri 4/16:** **ETHICS FOR A NEW MILLENNIUM: Tibetan Arts & Crafts Faire, Youth Dialogue, Public Talk**
Dalai Lama & ASUCI - Bren Events Center 8am-7pm
- Sat 4/17:** **CELEBRATE UCI OPEN HOUSE AND WAYZGOOSE FAIRE**
Support APSA and Visit Our Booth - Aldrich Park 10:00am-5:00pm

WEEK 3

- Tues 4/20:** **APSA GENERAL MEETING**
Cross Cultural Center 7pm-8pm
- Weds 4/21:** **ASIAN AMERICAN MAGAZINE PROMOTION**
Ring Road 12pm-1pm
- Weds 4/21:** **DEALING WITH RACISM FROM THE MAINSTREAM LGBT COMMUNITY**
Asian Pacific Islanders for Human Rights - Cross Cultural Center 1pm-3pm

WEEK 4

- Thurs 4/29:** **GLOBAL DIVAS: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora**
Keynote - Martin Manalansan - Cross Cultural Center 11:30am-1pm



remember to vote YES on PROP 420

Opinionated- this is what we think...

The Panel: Kimberly Yee, Carol Seto, Jalene Imaoka, Hannah Ngan

"I am completely torn. I met this guy last quarter in one of my classes and we became fast friends. He's perfect, and I'm falling for him. The problem is that he has a girlfriend. But they have been having some problems, and I think that he's starting to have feelings for me too. Should I pursue a relationship with an already attached guy?"

Kim- HELLO!! What are you thinking? You should not pursue this guy at all. He has a girlfriend, so he can't be that perfect! Think of the girlfriend, do you want to be the one to really ruin her relationship? Not only would you be known as "the other woman," but you would also be a home wrecker! If he were to cheat on her with you, what makes you think he won't do the same to you? Would you want to be in her shoes now? I don't think so. What goes around comes around! Forget about that guy, he's taken. I'm sure UCI has more men to offer you.

Carol - I am terribly sorry for the unpleasant circumstance you are in. I believe timing is everything for each individual and you met this guy at the wrong time in life. Although this may be heart-breaking, the proper way to correct this dilemma is for you to tell him directly how this can't be pursued any further. Tell him you would like to carry on as friends. It would not be right for you to ruin his present relationship with his girlfriend. They could really love each other and might just be traveling through a rough patch. Give them the chance they need to figure it out for themselves. His happiness should be with his girlfriend and your happiness is open to someone else who will accommodate your love life.

Hannah - Le sigh. This could be the beginning of a possible romance! I would encourage you to keep your friendship with this man and continue to be his confidant throughout his ordeal with the girlfriend. He could be the one! He will eventually see your loving patience and genuine kindness. Then OMG! One day...over two innocent, tall white chocolate mocha frappuccino's on a wonderful spring day, he'll look into your gorgeous eyes and see an overflowing river of love and admiration. Both of you will become transfixed in this paralyzing state of connection because he suddenly realizes a hidden abyss of love he's been feeling for you all along! He'll slowly lean across the table (and steady enough NOT to spill the delightful drinks) and grant you the softest kiss known to mankind, all the while running his fingers through your incredible locks of Pantene hair. Le sigh some more. I truly believe the possibility that you and he are destined for each other! Endure this minor obstacle, because he could very well be the man of your dreams!

Question of the moment:

Can a man and women be friends without it ever getting sexual? Can it just be platonic?

YES

B Friendship can have pure intentions. Sometimes, the bond that friends have can be stronger than the sexual attraction. - Carol
B It would be improper to assume that all men and women cannot sway from their carnal desires. - Jalene

B If you already found the man of your dreams, no one else will ever compare. - Hannah

NO

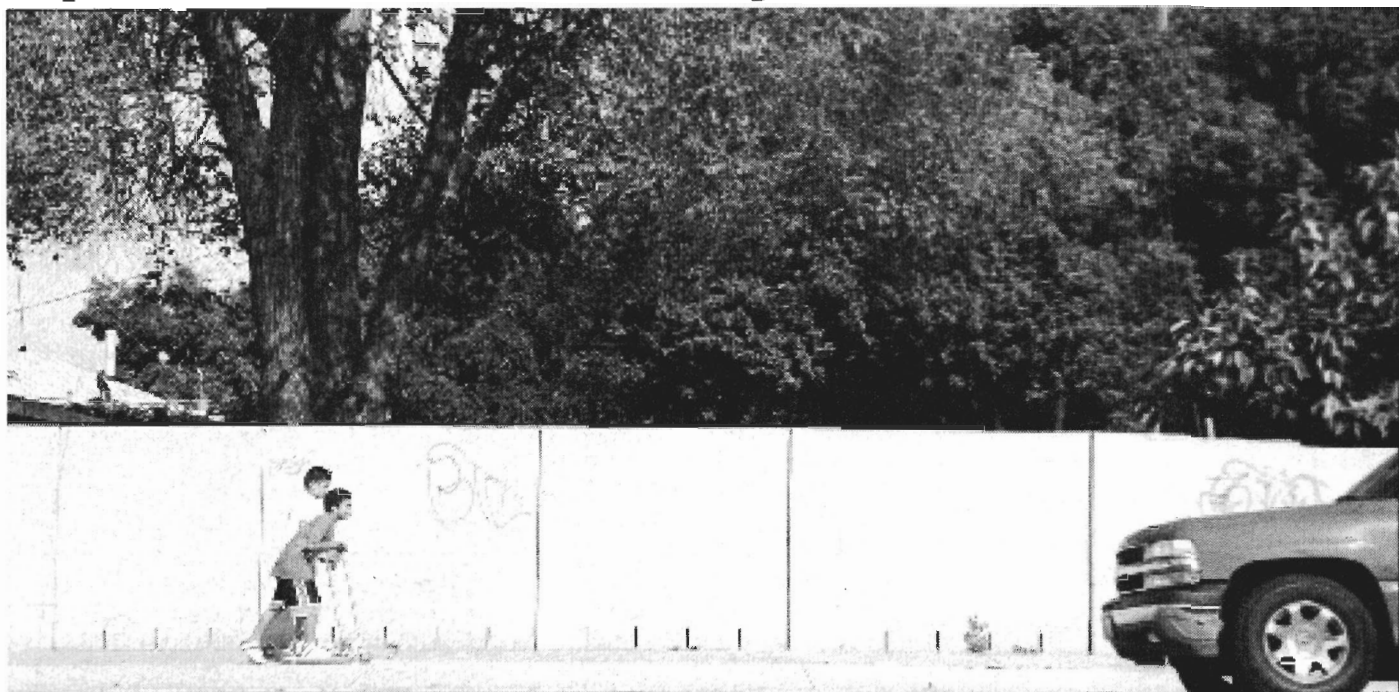
B Whether you are on the rebound, drunk, or lonely, it always crosses the mind at one point, or another, if not, you're lying to yourself. - Kim



take what's yours? ^{not}

Every issue we'll feature a panel of three students to answer a question. Want to appear here? email jadedmagazine@hotmail.com and tell us why we should pick you!

a poem and a short story



First Generation Anything
by Henry Kim "alwaysHappy"

I was brought, built and broken in the land of the free
I've come to realize that shame is something instilled by the
humble stance of my father and the loving stare of my mother
We've brought our beliefs into a system of denial and raised our
glasses to toast the deconstruction of religious respect
Come to taste the bubbles of "hey how about, lets forget?"
Carried on the backs of hopes and dreams somehow
entangled into the seams and strings of multicolored
sweatshops and fashion district seeds
Flown onto stork beaks of neglected youth which bare the signs
of "lets get enough money for that dream house" roots
Sailed on to the shores of polluted seaweeds and nip jokes that
ever so please
I came to be the first of the last dying breed
Hey, isn't it time for the puzzle piece?
Yes...we built our lives on two different tables
Slanted eyes looking at the white man's fables
We pushed the pyramids of technology and constructed the
world we can now barely see...
We held tight to the pulleys that raised the skyscrapers that
would write newspaper articles that condemned the disease
of (S)tupidity (A)mongst (R)evolving (S)tereotypes onto the rice
fields of America
I grip tight the last shred of ignorance that is left amongst the
dying kind and I make love to it in order for it to survive
I was burned at the stake for the test score with not one mistake
I was lynched on the yard when bowing to elders was ordained
"going to far"
I was drowned in self esteem as my hair was cut simply around
the edges of that divine bowl we eat out of...
I was broken on the backs of fear and I wait the day to be
reborn...
As a first generation anything, awaiting another country's scorn.

Month/Day/2003
by Andy Lin

I met my first true love today. The irony of it all was that it was
days before the first days of spring, a time and season where
true love blooms. I saw her standing outside smoking alone.
Months before, my last cigarette was lit and put out, but still I
had no excuse to talk to her. So I approached her and asked
her what cigarette she was smoking. She told me the name of
the cigarettes, but I didn't hear. Instead my focus was on her
pretty eyes, a pair that seem to stare right through my motives
and see the boy inside of me. I noticed the way her hair fell
against her body and wondered which way it would fly if a
wind would blow by. I scanned her other features and tried
to memorize the outlines, so maybe, when I got home I could
replay the moment over in my head. But once again, memory
has been unfaithful, so the only moments remembered are
these feelings.

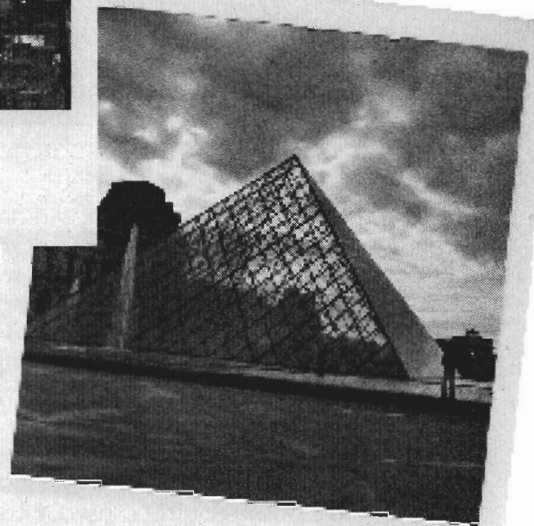
I asked her if she could spare a smoke, hoping that
she didn't, because I knew disappointment would kill this
feeling. Fear that she would break through my defenses, see the
vulnerability, and fall in love with this inner-being.

As she pulled out her pack, I saw a brick fall off of the
wall built around my being. She asked if I needed a light, and
I answered a gentleman always comes prepared, and pulled
out my BIC. She started laughing and I almost stared. She asked
me my name and I almost didn't care. I told her my name and
asked for her name out of politeness. But it all didn't matter,
because when you're in love, you never have to say each
others name. Instead you find yourself already waiting to listen
to what each other has to say.

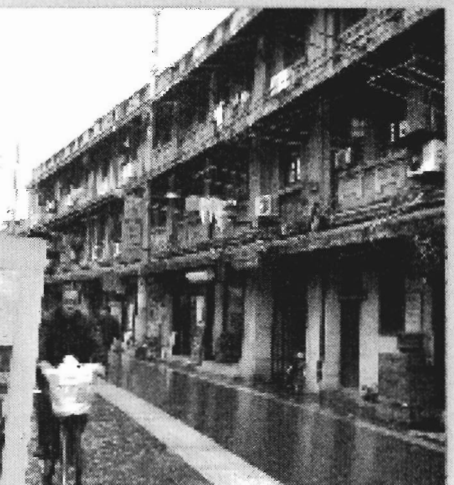
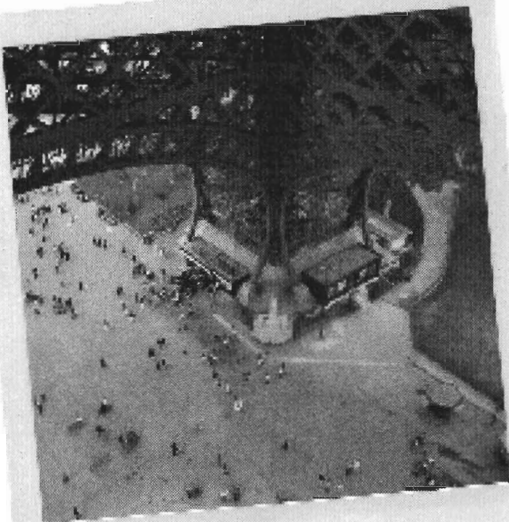
I tried to think of something witty to say, but all that
came out was questions. And we had polite conversation as
the cigarettes burned down like sand falling into a heap. And
I asked her where she hung around, hoping to see her again.
And she said in and around town, maybe we should see it
together sometime. And I answered, I definitely would like to
see her again sometime.

I thanked her for the cigarette and headed on my
way. Strolling away from my first true love, and hoping to see
her once again.

travel



Clockwise from top:
Shanghai, China
the Louvre in Paris, France
a street in Suzhou, China
the streets of Paris, France
the eiffel tower in Paris, France
a view overlooking Paris, France



submit your travel pictures to
Jadedmagazine@hotmail.com

Gay or Asian: Choose one (the two are mutually exclusive).

Whitney McNally's feature entitled "Gay or Asian?" in the April 2004 issue of Details magazine sparked a huge public outcry by ridiculing common stereotypes of Asians and gays. Using xenophobic words and images, this article details how to distinguish between the two groups based on physical appearance.

With a circulation of 400,000, Details magazine is printed nationally under Condé Nast Publications, who also publishes several nationally and internationally-distributed magazines such as GQ, Allure, Vanity Fair, Glamour and the New Yorker.

Though many identify it as a magazine whose readership is oriented towards gay men, Details responds in an official statement to the public that it has a "wide readership – male, female, straight, gay – from all cultures, and we value all of them."

In its diversity, past titles of the "Anthropology" series of Details have been "Gay or Jesus?," "Gay or British" and "Gay or Democratic Front-Runner." Some indicate that recent publication of "Gay or Asian" is a merely continuation of this series intended in good humor to mock stereotypes of particular social groups and the inability to categorize them based on these labels.

Details characterizes itself as "the men's magazine that introduces the styles, sets the trends and breaks the stories that keep you ahead of the crowd. Plus, you get the latest in fashion, music, movies, celebrities and sex." It is disenchanted, to say the least, to think that those who influence our society today are promoting a trend of ignorance and discrimination.

In all forms, the Asian-American community and the LGBT community, alongside many others have rallied against this defamatory article: Petitions, letters, phone calls, ranting online journals, protests, picket lines alongside the staff of Details during their celebration on the success of their April issue, forums, articles.

However, in conjunction with these protests are also forms of reactive ridicule: a website named after McNally for the purpose of making her name "synonymous with the continuation and proliferation of Asian stereotypes" and satirical cartoons including ones which stereotype white males (www.aarising.com/sam). Within Internet message boards are name-calling and spiraling racial hierarchies.

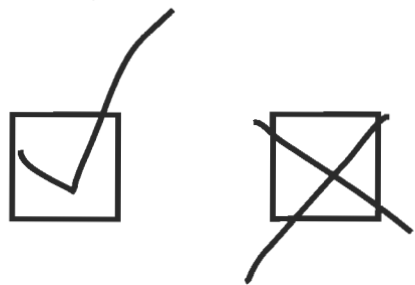
If the minority groups get what they want, McNally gets the boot. If the journalists can get away with it, they will. Controversy will ensue. Public perception will change accordingly. At the very least, we realize the importance of working towards achieving a level of common goodness as a civilization instead of further dividing ourselves.

by Esther Nguonly

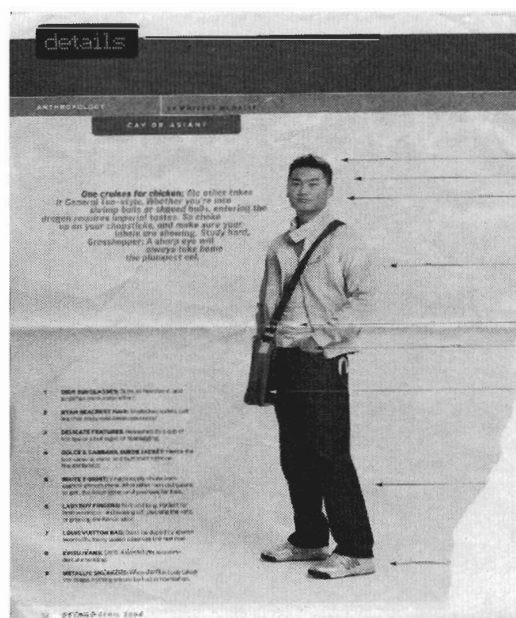
picture courtesy of Details magazine

Gay or Asian:

Choose one



(the two are mutually exclusive)



Proposition 420 is a UCI ballot initiative that is modeled after UC Santa Cruz's successful effort to create a program that provides funding for Student Initiated Outreach and retention programs. The new program will require assessing a fee of \$9 per year on each undergraduate student. This fee will generate approximately \$180,000 per year; this sum will be allocated to UCI clubs and organizations that facilitate Student Initiated Outreach Programs.

Student initiated outreach has been a part of all UC campuses for many years. Not until last year's severe budget cuts had UCI's right to have one been threatened. Many groups cried out for action as the UCI Student Initiated Outreach Committee was dissolved and funding for outreach programs was cut completely.

According to Angelica Oropeza, Mecha's fundraising chair, Proposition 420 is a beneficial way to react to these budget cuts. "Giving your \$9 is a small price to pay compared to opening up new opportunities to underprivileged kids." She further added that, "The future of these disadvantaged youths is in our hands."

Proposition 420 was brought onto the UCI elections ballot through the joint efforts of the Student Initiated Outreach and Retention Committee and the ASUCI Office of the Vice President.

According to Kristi Soliman, Cam-

pus Organizing Director for ASUCI/UCSA, ASUCI began with the idea of a referendum after the judicial board ruled in May of 2002 that ASUCI couldn't directly fund Outreach. However, the mobilization did not actually begin until the summer of 2003, when Outreach became an action agenda item for the University of California Student Association, a collective organization composed of all the UC's.

The funds taken from the \$9 annual fee will be given to the newly created Student Outreach Activities Committee. The SOA --C will be composed of five representatives from the Cross Cultural Center Student Umbrella Council, one representative from the Greek governing bodies, two ASUCI elected officers, one representative from the Cross Cultural Center staff (ex-officio), one representative from the Center for Educational Partner-

ships (ex-officio), the ASUCI President (ex-officio), and three At-Large Student representatives.

UCI students will get a chance to vote on Proposition 420 on April 19-23. In order to pass, the proposition needs the approval of 25% of the undergraduate students.

Currently, the Proposition is endorsed by all of the five umbrella groups from the Cross Cultural Center and ASUCI. These organizations are also lobbying for other clubs to join and support Proposition 420. "The purpose of this referendum is to open up outreach as an option for clubs that currently do not facilitate such programs," said Jason de Guzman, member of PUSO. He also suggested "outreach should not be defined by one group but should be open-ended."

Advocates of proposition 420 also stress that Student Initiated Outreach programs are extremely important because there are many high school students who do not have equal opportunities or resources to help them gain motivation to go to college. Student Initiated Outreach aids in giving not only these students an equal opportunity but also in building a more diverse student body on campus.

According to Gagnier, it is important for students to keep in mind that outreach is not just about race and ethnicity, but also about socioeconomic diversity. The main purpose is for students to let other students know that college is a possibility for everyone. The message is more likely to stick when it comes from an older student that young people may admire.

More information about proposition 420 and outreach is available at the ASUCI office and at many campus info booths.

proposition420

Jonathan Baucas, 3rd year Political Science, Psychology and Social Behavior major and Asian American Studies minor

I attended a high school outreach program at UCLA. There, I met a lot of people from other schools and got to know a little more about the college experience.

I was able to interact with college students in a comfortable setting because I knew they were there to help me. Also, it made me really think about wanting to go to college and showed me that there are people who are here to help me to continue in that endeavor.

I think people should vote for this because as students we are privileged to continue our educations, and if given the chance to provide those opportunities to other students we should take it. I think that students should vote for Proposition 420 even if it does take a little time out of their schedules.

Mars Loreto, 1st year Mechanical Engineering major

I attended a high school outreach program here at UCI. Of all of the other schools that I visited, I liked most the program here at UCI. In my opinion, it was one of the only programs whose sole goal was to get the message out to the visiting students to pursue higher education and that it was attainable.

Most importantly, the student facilitators really helped because I was able to relate to their

experiences. Also it helped to know that I was not alone and that these facilitators had once had the exact concerns as I had at that time.

To tell you the truth, if it was not for this program, I would have not come to UCI--most likely I would have gone to a community college. The high school outreach program really helped me get in touch with myself and with figuring out what I wanted to do.

Monica Der, 2nd year Asian American Studies major

During my freshman year at UC Santa Cruz, I got a chance to mentor for a day high school students from Oakland and South Central Los Angeles. It was a great experience for me as well as the students. The students got a chance to catch a glimpse of college life, and I got to introduce the possibilities of higher education to them.

One student shared with our discussion group that he is the first person in his family to be accepted to college and that he is so proud but scared. Another student said that he didn't think he would be going to college because his family didn't have the money.

As a facilitator, I helped them see that they belonged in college just as much as anyone else. At the end of the day most of the students couldn't stop thanking us for showing them such a good time and presenting them with new possibilities that they did not know existed.

the gilded CAGE

"You women
are just beautiful"

by Jessica Hong

He said, fiddling with the passenger door and looking into the side mirror. I glanced over, missing the stop sign ahead, and whizzing past. "Excuse me?" I asked as the car slowed. "You women?" "I didn't mean to offend, miss." He continued, "It's just something I've noticed. Oriental women are just different from normal women: the shiny hair, almond eyes, golden skin. It's mysterious... You're going to want to take that freeway north." He pointed left. This awkwardness took place about 7 months ago. Some well meaning friends decided to sign me up for driving lessons when I moved here from Florida: "Freeways here just aren't the same as the East Coast." Enter Bob, a 45 year-old, California driving instructor from Palm Springs. That afternoon we practiced three point turns, parallel parking, and driving in silence. Although disturbed by his candor, I still don't feel, to this day, that there was any malice in Bob's words. His statement, blurted out in a

white, four-door Saturn, was no different than statements that have been made about Asians, particularly Asian females, since the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Orientalism was introduced into Western culture during British colonization of the Eastern world. Academic Edward Said writes that Orientalism is "a way of coming to terms with the Orient that is based on [its] special place in the European Western experience...the construction of the [cultural] Other." In other words, when the Brits started exploring their neighbors to the east and saw Asian faces, customs, and dress, they came home with over-exoticized tales of a mystic land and its people. To understand the far-east, the people back home created a fairy-tale image of contrasts. While England was ordinary and modern

the "Orient" was mysteriously bound to archaic tradition and primitive custom. England had expended most of its resources, but the Orient was a bountiful stock: food, spices, silk, etc. that showed no end in export. And of course English women were chaste, white, and pure while Asian women were seductive with some secret sexual quality that did not exist in the Western world. To possess something "Oriental," anything from a rug to fine china to a couple of Asian mistresses showed that you were a man of the world, capable of dominating. Whether these ideas had merit or not, they were used to evaluate Eastern and Western relations throughout the period of British Imperialism. But that was only during Imperialism. We now live in a twenty-first century world where such thought is gone. Or is it? Orientalism in its diluted forms appears all over the media, in literature, fashion, and even body art. Urban Outfitters has a new shirt that you can buy for a modest sum which reads "I Love Asian Girls." And

spread the love for everyone, what lies beneath the sentiment of the exotic Asian female?

I know a handful of young, attractive, white males here at UC Irvine that insist that they only date Asian women. (To that I say they are very lucky to be attending this school!). When asked about their preference, answers ranged from the general, "They have beautiful hair/eyes/skin...such an exotic look," to the comedic "Most of them are small, and I'm a short guy." Or the flip, "Most of them are small, and I'm a big guy that likes that kind of thing." There was also the deeper, "Asian girls in America have a different way of thinking. There is Western thought, but they still hold on to a lot of Asian values, especially when it comes to work ethic and family." Perhaps the vilest response given was

from a third year student at UCI who said, "What I need is to get me a nice Asian girl that will stay at home and do my laundry and rub my feet." This guy may have watched the massage parlor scene of Rush Hour 2 one too many times. In response, many first generation Asian-American females are indignant. Jee Soo Kim, a third year criminology major says, "Guys that think they're going to get a little domestic are in for a surprise if they start dating an Asian girl today; especially an Asian-American girl. Most of us are just as loud-mouthed and opinionated as white girls if not more so because there's something to prove." The idea that Asian girls as a whole are meek and subservient to their men may have held

true in the past because of cultural differences, but the reality is that Asian-American girls today are working to break away from that mold. Kim points out, "Even those women that are emigrating from Asia have a different mentality. They are coming to America for the opportunity: they want to work, make money, and do something with their lives."

As for the image of the giggling Japanese school girl, the sultry massage parlor siren, and the well-trained geisha, there is still some work to be done. Before getting out of the car, I gently pointed out to Bob that it wasn't nice to call any Asians-American females Orientals. We're women, not lamps, vases, or side-dishes. He blinked a couple times, nodded enthusiastically and replied, "I see...Alright then, you Asian-American girls sure are pretty."

college rant



So you think you want to go to college, do you? You think it's the next logical step after high school, and after you graduate you'll get some high paying job or continue on with grad school or med school or business school and then get an even higher paying job, right? And somewhere along the way you'll also fall in love and get married and have kids and take vacations and play golf with the boys (while your soul slowly rots away inside), right? What do you even think you know you small minded fool! Oh wait, if you're reading this it probably means you have gone to college... Hey, there's nothing wrong with that, I mean, everybody goes to college.

I certainly did. In high school it's pretty much all you think about, all you plan for, aside from getting with this or that guy or girl or juggling your club activities with your sports schedule or fanatically playing the latest SNES RPG (ack). I admit, I didn't think about my choices very well. It's college, it's just what you do out of high school. It's what you're expected to do, there aren't any other options. And I always did what I was expected to do. Heh. Yeah right.

In many ways I was a "good Chinese-American girl". I played the piano, AND the violin. I was in orchestra, first stand 2nd violins (because I was such a good leader, uh huh). I took all the honors classes I could (didn't always get A's in them but that was ok 'cause a B was still worth 4.00!). I participated in CSF, MUN, AcaDeca, the Poly Spotlight (school newspaper) and some other things I can't even remember. It was a long time ago. Kinda.

Should most of my high school career be a blur at this point? Possibly, but I probably can't remember those things because they bored me out of my mind! My constant thought(s) in high school were of exasperation: This simply cannot be it! There just has to be more to life than this! And self doubt: Or is there? Then a moment of resignation: Life sucks. And then back to frustration: Fuck this mindless bullshit! Press rewind. Hit play.

Being as yet young and naïve, I thought I could work out the larger issues of life out in my choice of college and major. For the majority of sophomore year I was intent on studying the grand subject of Philosophy at the even snootier University of Chicago. Eventually, practicality won out and I signed up for the EECS (Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, biyotch!) program at UC Berkeley. Perhaps I was planning a lucrative career in "Computers". As it turned out, it was a completely random and poor choice on my part. My sole reason for choosing Cal rested on an MUN visit where I fell in love with the dirty grungy hippie town surrounding the straight-laced bureaucratic conservative university.

Not much substance in THAT decision, right? Like it makes so much more sense to go to a school based on diversity of students, or reputation in the "community", or the strength

of their "program", or even more basic things like cost, financial aid, proximity, convenience. The bottom line that many of us do not even consider is... Ack I can't even get to that yet! There's another question I have to ask first, an even bigger, grander query: What is your goal in life?

I don't mean goals, plural, I mean GOAL. What do you want to get out of life? I mean Total, Everything. What do you want to have accomplished when you die? Because you know, you are going to die someday, despite what you might believe. Everything hinges on this question. Everything. Am I being dramatic enough for you? Think about it, choosing your goal early on is good for you. If your goal is to never ever be strapped for cash, then you can go through all the necessary steps to get to that. You are clear on your goal. Of course you still have options along the way, you can achieve it legally or illegally, you can do it by going to school or by not. At least you know what your goal is.

I did not. I really had no idea, and because of this I had no real idea of how to attain what I wanted. So I went to Cal, and I suffered through the EECS program for one year. Frankly I'm surprised I lasted that long. That was obviously not working out, so I transferred into the College of Letters and Sciences and enrolled in the Art History major. Again, it wasn't happening. Eventually I transferred to UCLA so I could be closer to my family. At least that's what I told myself and others.

What was going on? Why all the transfers? Why all the stints in academic probation? Theoretically, I could do well in all my classes. What was the problem then? I didn't WANT to do well. That was the crux of the matter. You could call it stubbornness or laziness but I was sick of dealing with theory and working in the abstract. I was sick of dealing with bullshit papers that I personally cared nothing for. I was sick of people getting so obsessed with the right answers and top scores on tests that they didn't take the time to listen and learn. I was not happy. Bingo.

So after one more painful year at UCLA, I left. Took some time off, worked. I had the idea that I wanted to go to culinary school but that silly notion faced a lot of opposition. Why was I wasting my smarts and talent? I could be an engineer or a doctor or a lawyer! I could also be unhappy and stuck in a career that offered me no personal satisfaction. Was that ever a consideration? Finally, at the age of twenty four I signed up for the CSCA in Pasadena. It was an expensive and grueling 12 months but it was worth it.

Why culinary school? How did I stumble onto that option? How did I even discover that there were OPTIONS? Most of you have probably never even considered that there ever could be a place for you outside of college. I felt the same way, for 5 years, until I found out otherwise. Education is big business. Think of all the money that goes into teaching (not used for the teachers themselves unfortunately) public and private sector. It is natural that an industry would want to perpetuate itself. And our society seems to hold a four-year degree

in such high regard. So it's logical that bright young things with so much potential would be pushed towards earning that shiny new degree.

Yeah. Bright young things like me. Now I'm not downplaying the value of a B.A. or A.B. or B.S. etc. I eventually would like to earn one. Some say that in this day and age you have to have one. (Could these same people also be employed by the education industry, perhaps?) But a lot of kids aren't ready to go to college right out of high school, especially since our schools do such a poor job of advising them of their options.

Hey, that kid is smart and gets good grades, s/he should go to college. But college costs a lot of money. It should be something that you are sure of and committed to. Ironically, that is one reason that I stuck with it for so long. I wanted to make that money count; I didn't want to waste it. I will be forever grateful to my parents for sending me to school. They had no idea that it really wasn't the place for me, because I didn't either.

Culinary school was seriously expensive, as much as going to a four year would cost, only compacted into one year. I'll be paying off loans for the rest of my life, Sallie Mae OWNS me. So it's not really about the cost of education per se, money will be spent no matter what you choose to do. The point is being able to commit that money into something that allows you to attain your goal in life. And what would that be? Speak up, I can't hear you.

Now I'm working in a restaurant in Los Angeles and I can say that I really enjoy my job. Sure there are days that I wish wasn't working, but we all have those days. Overall, I am happier and more successful now than I ever was in an academic setting. I have achieved my goal, to do something real and concrete and learn something new every day. And when you know what your goal is and you set yourself up to achieve it, all you can be is happy. And that's the bottom line.

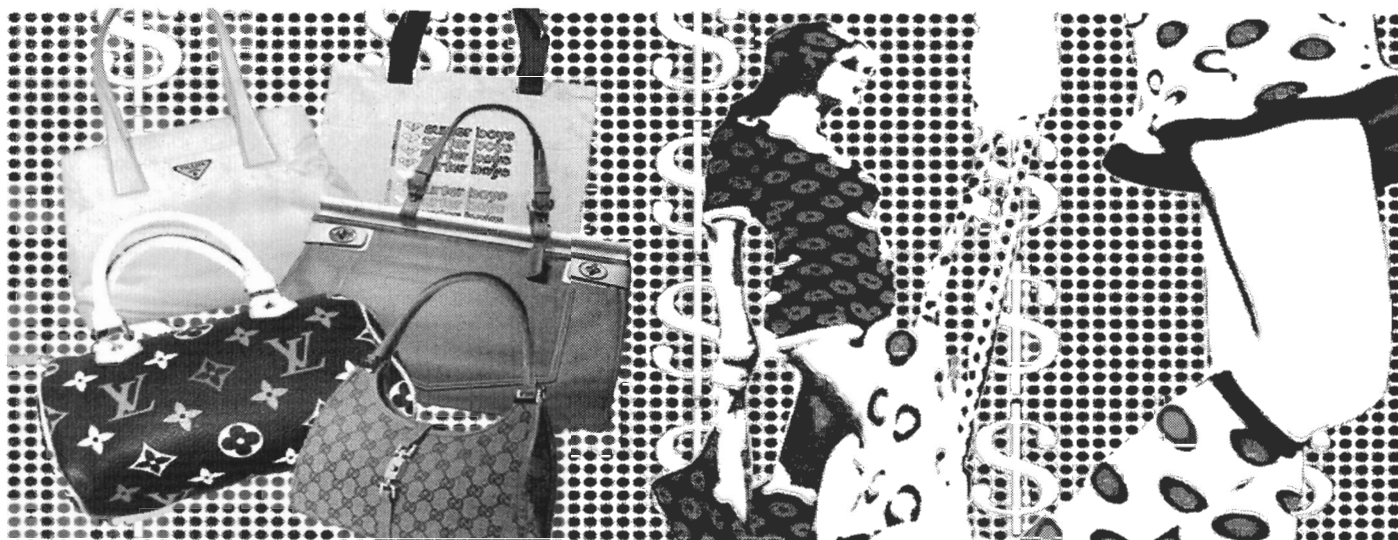
Selena Ma is 26 years old and she has a cool apartment above the Paul Frank store in Los Angeles. She can be reached at sirleena@yahoo.com

University of California Alternatives

California School of Culinary Arts
<http://www.houseofedu.com/cscs/index.jsp>

Fashion Institute of Design & Merchandising
www.fidm.com

Art Center College of Design
www.artcenter.edu



designer bags

I often sit outside Cornerstone or one of my classes while waiting for my next class to begin. I will either look through my notes of the previous class, talk on the phone, or just people-watch. Being foreign to the O.C. life, I notice how different people are down here compared to people from the San Francisco Bay Area. One of the things that I've noticed is that people in Southern California, particularly people from LA and Orange County, love their accessories. From Gucci sunglasses and Tiffany Tag necklaces to pintsize purse pooches. But the most obvious must-have accessory is a signature designer bag. Girls everywhere proudly display their Louis Vuitton Multicolor Murakami bags, the equally multicolor Dooney & Bourke Signature satchels, Coach's chic SoHo and double C signature looks, as well as the ever classic Gucci "GG" handbags and plain Prada purses.

There was a time when only women of status—meaning they were rich because they worked or married rich—had these über expensive totes. Now faux Fendi's are everywhere en masse. Girls hold Purse Parties at their homes, like the Tupperware and Pampered Chef parties our mothers and aunts hold. These girls sit around eating Doritos and drinking Cokes while one displays all sorts of fake goodies. Ranging in prices from \$20.00 for a "Coach Signature Demi" to \$50.00 for a "Louis Vuitton Little Papillon" look-a-like, girls are grabbing them from anywhere they can. To anyone on the street these purses look like the real thing, but taking a closer look at color, texture, stitching, and zippers, most would turn on their heel and walk to the nearest Bloomingdale's to purchase their authentic designer handbag.

Obviously, not all of the girls carrying these bags are toting the real thing on their arm; many of these designers charge \$500.00 and up for a purse only big enough for your checkbook and lipstick. Yet, these pricey accessories are on the arms of many happy girls at UCI. Under the watchful eyes of our peers, very few of us would willingly buy a bogus bag and try to pass it off as the real McCoy when so many others are nonchalantly toting around authentic bags like they were a pair of old jeans.

Has the designer handbags' status transcended from those who have worked hard and live the luxurious life to become a "must have" for us to fit in with our peers? Are girls and guys breaking their banks and blowing their weekend earnings so that we can go around campus looking the part of "cool" with teeny tiny bags on our arms and huge backpacks full of books and texts on our backs? This doesn't sound very cool or practical to me at all. I mean, how many of the students you encounter do you know? Of the ones you know, how many do you care about? Chances are there aren't very many. So why spend the money you need for food and gas on a purse you "need" so that other people will see you as "cool" or "in style?" I think "cool" is more a state of mind, a behavior, than a designer stamp on the inside of your purse.

Besides, has anyone really looked at some of these bags? The multicolored luggage and gold colored studs look doesn't really say "good taste" to me, nor does it say wise purchase. It screams "Look at me!! Look at me!!" Many look like children's bags, and even the real ones look like knock-offs. I think we should all seriously think about what we are buying and why, before making the purchases and becoming the owners of such gaudy accessories. But, then again, the rich are now returning to the "Look at me!! Look at me!!" fashion seen on the runways. By the time you get your purse out the door and on your arm, it's at least \$250.00, and your wallet is empty because you bought the purse! Today's handbag will be tomorrow's closet clutter. What a way to waste our (and our parents') hard-earned money, on an ever-changing trend.

commentary by Kimberly Yee
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major
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equality in the media: better luck tomorrow

While traveling through Europe this past summer, I was reminded that there is very little representation of Asian Americans in American film, television and music.

My Asian friends and I were repeatedly not believed when we told people that we were American; people would point to our physical features and argue that we were Indian, Korean or Chinese.

We were irritated: don't these people know that America is full of diversity and that in America there are various shades of color? We simply dismissed as ignorant the people who rejected our being American.

But, then, it occurred to me that there really is no such thing as a nontrivial Asian in the American media. I realized that these people perhaps had a reason to not understand how Asian-looking girls could call themselves American.

The American media is at fault. Of all the movies, music and television shows that are exported, in the great majority there is no substantive representation of Asian Americans. Yes, there is the occasional Chinese fast food take-out boy, Indian convenience store clerk or an appearance here and there of an Asian character with a heavy accent.

I bet you are now saying what about Lucy Liu, Jackie Chan and Jet Li?

What about them?

The latter two are martial arts experts. Liu, after *Ally McBeal*, has been limited to roles that require her to do karate kicks in either tight leather pants or a kimono.

For the most part, there is no denying that Asian Americans do not really exist as plausible human beings in American film, television and popular music. A whole productive segment of the population of the United States is being ignored.

For an example, take the original *Baywatch* and *Friends* series, two of the most popular shows in the United States and around the world.

Yes, Ross had a black and an Asian girlfriend—but both characters ended up being quite unsympathetic. Give me a break!

Why doesn't a show that is placed in New York, one of the most diverse and metropolitan cities in the United States, have a "friend" who is Asian, black or Latino? Not even one minority cast member to somewhat reflect the city's diverse nature?

I personally think that adding a minority character would not have hindered the success of the show. The racial homogeneity of the show also reiterates the idea that the perfect American society consists only of Whites.

Some argue that a show should not have minorities in the cast simply to fill a quota. But in today's society, people are significantly influenced by the media—from minor things such as our wardrobe, to our social behavior and our values. It is an unfortunate fact that people are manipulated by the images projected on the TV and film screens.

Since the media does shape American society, shouldn't it then be responsible for providing people with an accurate picture of the ethnic demographics within the United States?

Some also argue that you have to acknowledge that the

majority of America is white, with the exception of some West and East Coast states. Therefore, the media must concentrate on targeting the largest audience and its preferences.

This is a somewhat disturbing aspect of American society. If the ethnicity of an actor is a major factor that determines the success of a TV show or a film, then this suggests that racism is still a major problem in the United States—despite the prevailing perception in mainstream American society that racism has been eliminated.

Last year, I got a chance to interview the director and cast members of the movie *Better Luck Tomorrow* (BLT). According to the director, he was told repeatedly to change the ethnicities of the characters in the movie—the studios would sponsor the movie if the characters were Latino or white but not if they were Asian.

MTV eventually bought the movie and released it unchanged. Despite the success of the movie, one of the actors acknowledged the harsh reality that they will probably not receive many offers to do other movies—simply because movie-makers are not ready to take the risk of featuring Asian-Americans in their work.

Have you seen any of the actors in anything else?

Perhaps you have seen Parry Shen, who played Ben, the lead character in BLT, in a Dell commercial, playing a telemarketer.

It is troubling that Asian Americans have still not been accepted into mainstream America, despite their presence in this country for centuries. Even in today's society, Asian Americans continue to be regarded as mysterious people from the

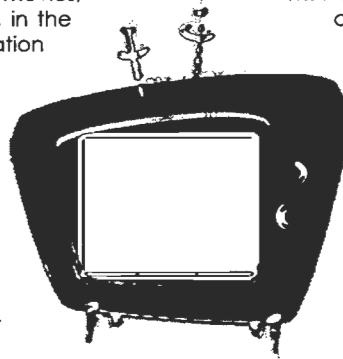
far East.

In my rural predominantly white high school we were required to watch a daily newscast. On one occasion, the reporter was interviewing people in Hong Kong on their views of becoming a part of China. My classmates were astonished: "These Asian people don't have accents—they sound just like British people. How come those Asian people can speak English clearly?" I, in turn, was surprised that the majority of the people in my class assumed that all Asian people spoke broken English.

The media is doing an injustice not only to Asian Americans but also to the American public by hiding behind a veil of hypocrisy. The media promotes integration and diversity through public service announcements while simultaneously continuing to present programming that is, at best, separate but equal.

On prime time TV there are a few, though rare, exclusively Black and Latino shows. Asian Americans have not received even this meager concession yet.

Some argue that the media stereotypes whites also—true, but the media still presents many positive images of whites, and



commentary by Amardeep Gill
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entertainment



disorient.

by Nicole Cruz

"I'm not Asian, I'm White!" jokes Mike Pham, guitarist of local band "Almost Home." One glance at Mike's thrashed converses, nautical star tattoos, and lip piercing and you know this boy could serve as a stand-in for any of the bands riding the wave of the neo-bubble-gum-punk movement. He has masterly crafted his look down to a T, dripping with pop-punk appeal. Despite the image, Mike and the rest of his band members yet remain to be comforted in the warm embrace of acceptance from their non-Asian counterparts who don the same garb and download the same songs. "We've found that most [venues] don't really take us seriously since we're Asian, so most of our gigs have been sponsored and thrown by Asian productions."

Yes, one could find comfort in the fact that the band garners support from the Asian community and that the number of gigs the band has played requires TWO hands to count. But why the - - dare I say it - - discrimination? At the risk of over-generalizing, Asians don't have a musical genre where they are completely accepted. I was racking my brain trying to think of an Asian group that has come close to dipping a toe in the Billboard pool. Pfft. Nothing. Most mainstream alt/rock bands are composed of Caucasian members and the "rap game" is dominated by African-American players - no pun intended. Because of this perpetual pattern, people associate listeners of rock music as being white and those of rap and hip hop as being black.

So where do Asians fit in? I've noticed a trend amongst my Asian peers...and myself...to identify closer with the culture that "typically" corresponds with the type of music we listen to. My friends, on numerous occasions, have referred to my indie-rock-loving self as "the whitest Filipino girl they know." My 50 Cent-Talib Kweli-Ludacris-listening Asian pals label themselves as being "ghetto." It seems that the lack of welcome reception from a particular genre encourages a certain loss of Asian identity. But would a mainstream Asian musician really change the established stereotypes of the musical culture? I mean, there are a select few Asian-Americans who have broken the lock off the vault of musical success. Take Chad Hugo from N.E.R.D., for example, and hey, Karen O of the Yeah Yeah Yeahs is half Korean. But the boundaries still remain. One thing that these artists do accomplish is to serve as a role model for their respective Asian cultures, even if they don't mean to. Hugo comments, "I think it's cool and I'll definitely rep for the people but ultimately when I got into music, I just wanted to be the dopest producer that I could be. I don't really want to try to wave our flag. Hopefully I'm repping the people no matter where they're from" (Courtesy of GenerationRice). Who knows? Maybe more Asian faces on the cover of Rolling Stone would promote a sense of identity that Asians could describe as their own.

No music, no life... CONCERT CALENDAR

My Morning Jacket

Feel good 70s rock. These guys love their reverb!

Greyboy Allstars

Jazz fusion at it's best.

Prince

If you like ass-less leotards...

Cardigans

Forget "Lovefool", this Swedish band is totally weirder than that.

Acoustic Alchemy

Another awesome jazz band.

The Shins

You'll like these crazy looks.

Led Zepagain

Zeppelin cover band. Bring your mom but restrain her from

throwing underwear.

Tokyo Ska Paradise Orchestra

This brand of ska and big band will keep you dancin' all night!

Sat, 05/08/04

Avalon Hollywood
Hollywood, CA

Sat, 05/15/04

House of Blues Sunset Strip
Hollywood, CA

Mon, 05/24/04

Arrowhead Pond of
Anaheim
Anaheim, CA

Tue, 05/25/04

Troubadour
West Hollywood, CA

Thu, 05/27/04

Coach House - Capistrano
San Juan Capistrano, CA

Fri, 06/04/04

The Wiltern LG
Los Angeles, CA

Sat, 06/12/04

Galaxy Theatre
Santa Ana, CA

Wed, 06/23/04

House of Blues Sunset Strip
Hollywood, CA

We like music way too much...

Jansen Cudal: Studio Arts

Nicole Cruz: International Studies

lend me your ears

music
reviews

Here in the U.S. you have Jet, the Hiss, Kings of Leon, the Darkness, and countless other bands making their way into the mainstream with a sound that one could call a 70's rock revival. But of course, like many trends that make their way into the U.S., you can bet it started in Japan (I'm kidding), and that's where Love Psychedelico comes in. Rockin' the Japanese music scene since July of 2000, their soulful blend of psychedelica, Beatles-esque melodies, and straight guitar-driven compositions create their distinguished "low-fi pop" sound.

Love Psychedelico, made up of Kumi (vocals/guitar) and Naoki Sato (guitar/keyboards/bass), was formed in 1997 in Japan's Aoyama Gakuin University. Only months after Love Psychedelico's signing, they released their first song, "Lady Madonna (The Gloomy Spider)" as a limited press cassette single which sold for no more than a dollar.

Since then, Love Psychedelico has been topping Japanese charts and gaining international acclaim because of their very distinguished style. Although Sato's compositions are nothing short of awesome, it's Kumi's distinct voice that gives the band a sound all their own. Like most Japanese artists, Kumi fuses English lyrics along with Japanese ones. But don't mistake her English for the simple token expressions most "j-pop" artists use in their songs—Kumi's complex ideas can be communicated in both languages. Her proficiency in English is probably due to the fact that she spent a good part of her life in San Francisco and the U.K. There she honed her English and developed an accent that's a smooth and creamy blend of British and Japanese. Kumi's accent also compliments her understated delivery. It never seems cheesy or over the top whether she sings slow ballads or adrenaline-pumping fast-tempo rock action.

Although their latest release, "Love Psychedelico III," is a little less rock compared to their previous efforts—"The Greatest Hits" and "Love Psychedelic Orchestra"—it's definitely not any less of an album. It opens with "Everybody Needs Somebody," an up-tempo track in classic Love Psychedelico style—complete with flanged vocals, a groovin' track, and even a slide-guitar solo! The entire album is awesome, but if you're not too into pop aesthetics, you probably won't be amazed by "I Am Waiting for You," one of their singles off the album. I do find it beautiful and driven by Beatles nostalgia in some way, but I can see how it can be a slow stop in an overall groovy, rockin' album. The same goes for "Hadaka no Ousama," another single off the album. It's just too slow and there's too much grandeur. Maybe she's saying something beautiful and significant, but since it's mainly in Japanese, I am totally lost. As for the rest of the album, all the songs kick ass in their own way. It would take way more than my allotted 800 words to comment on the rockingness of every song. But to give you some kind of guide when you eventually purchase the CD, check out "All Over Love"—Kumi's British/Japanese accent at its sexiest, "Happiness"—you'll find some in this song's frantic vocals and good ol' acoustic guitar fun, "Hello"—complete with hand claps, a mandolin, and those crazy backwards guitar solos that'll freak the squares out, and "Grapefruits"—the rockin' end to the album (and also complete with hand claps).

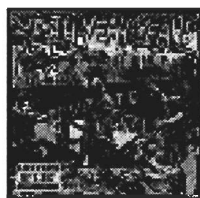
So there are two things you should've learned about Love Psychedelico. They're groovy, and they're rockin'. So sell your Hillary Duff album and buy "Love Psychedelico III."

Psst...

Love Psychedelico's albums are available on www.yesasia.com.

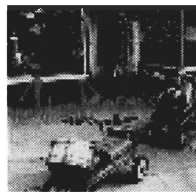
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rockin'

by Jansen Cudal



I never quite understood the desire to be sweat on by a musician, but "Fever to Tell" enlightened me. The pounding guitar riffs of "Date with the Night" made me want to shake it among other sweaty bodies taking delight in the projectile alcohol spray from Karen O's mouth like no one's business. O has the cajones that would make any male cup himself to ensure that his manhood was still intact. She recently won Spin magazine's award for Coolest Rock injury for taking a monitor to the head and staying onstage (and conscious) long enough to deliver a heart-stabbing performance of "Maps". O oozes "badass" from her stage-stomping feet to her beer-spitting mouth. Found accompanying O's daring vocals throughout the album are the appropriately unpredictable rhythms of Brian Chase that make playing air drums painfully inaccurate. Nicolas Zinner makes his guitar sing, scream, screech, and moan from the outer-space beginnings of "Rich" to the quiet simplicity of "Modern Romance". Though the album is a quick listen, you can't deny the chilly sensation in your curling toes as the Yeah Yeah Yeahs rock your socks off.

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If Jason Stollsteimer's voice was a person, I'd do him on the first date—partly due to its tone but more so because he's not suspect to belt out such powerful stuff. Stollsteimer looks more prone to be part of a parochial school boy choir—one of those good ones that win awards and get beat up. Complimenting his vocals are those of bassist Carrie Smith, whose talents on "Not That Social" play on the uber-cool co-ed element of the band. She and rhythm guitarist Marcie Bolen provide the simple catchy hook to "C'mon, C'mon". This is the standout song of this album, forcing you to throw shame into the wind and rock out whole-heartedly in your car. Coming from the city that seemingly spawns indie-rock groups every other week, The Von Bondies have managed to find a unique sound basing their songs on instrumental musicianship with the vocal stylings to back it up.

by Nicole Cruz

food for thought

If you are ever stranded in the middle of the desert, you should hope to stumble upon some Cactus Candy! It may sound bizarre, but I can assure you that Cactus Candy will not leave you with needles between your teeth. In fact, Cactus Candy is made from the natural pulp of Prickly Pear Cacti. This exotic candy has been a popular commodity in Arizona for quite awhile. The origins of Cactus Candy are not clear. However, the use of Prickly Pears began as far back to the Native Americans who boiled the flowers to eat as vegetables and used the needles for sewing needles and fish hooks.

Cactus Candy is a sugar coated candy with a gummy or gelatin-like texture. The taste is light and fruity rather than overpowering like many popular candies are today. Although the delightfully flavored gummy may get stuck to your teeth, you'll be glad to have the fruity flavor linger in your mouth. The taste of the Prickly Pear is quite indescribable; a rich, smack your lips flavor that is neither too tangy nor too sweet. The reason to try Cactus Candy is the fruity flavor of the Cactus Prickly Pear that is unlike any synthetic flavored gummy candied you've tried before. Do not be fooled by the size of these Cactus Candies. The packaged Cactus Candy is one inch in thick and one inch in width that is usually shaped in a long rectangle or in the shape of a cactus. It will leave you with a lot to savor!



There are many popular companies that produce Cactus Candy and are willing to ship it to your desired destination. These unique delicacies make unique gifts for a reasonable price. The most famous Candy Company known to produce Cactus Candy is the Cactus Candy Company in Arizona, which you can reach by phone at (888) 226 3901. If you prefer to order online, you can find Cactus Candy at various sites such as <http://www.newcenturymall.com/cactus.candy&jelly/> or <http://www.fifthsense.com>.

Tiffany Ran

from: P.C. Media Ignores Racist Murder

By Andrew Popper

FrontPageMagazine.com | March 1, 2004

Approximately 10 days ago, Charles Bryant and Nayquan Miller, both 16 and of Queens, placed an order for Chinese food from the Ming Garden restaurant on Guy Brewer Boulevard in South Jamaica. Eighteen year-old Huang Chen who was working in his parent's restaurant so that his sister could attend Stony Brook University, responded to the order but when he arrived at the apartment he was greeted by an act of vicious racist brutality reminiscent of the antigay bias crime, which victimized Matthew Shepherd in Wyoming. This time instead of a fence-post in a snow-covered field, the victim ended up in a frozen murky pond. After first beating the defenseless boy with baseball bats, the two sadistic thugs pulled out knives and stabbed him to death as he was pleading for his life. After placing a plastic bag over Huang Chen's head, they tossed him into a shopping cart and wheeled him into his own car for the short trip to Brookville Park where he was dumped in a pond like garbage. Hours later, when police finally arrived at the address left at the restaurant for the delivery of the food, they found Nayquan Miller wearing a bloody shirt trying to clean large amounts of blood splattered on the ceiling and walls, graphically demonstrating the horror of the last moments of Huang Chen's young life. The fact that a Chinese restaurant was targeted was no accident. A recent article in the New York Post described a new inner-city sport known as "Chink Bashing" which involves racist, premeditated assaults and worse on Chinese delivery boys. Of course, with the selective indignation of the politically correct media, it is very doubtful whether the appropriate government officials from the U.S. Justice Department will ever investigate this heinous murder and violation of civil rights. Unfortunately, if there are no public consequences for this senseless and racially motivated murder, there is no doubt that what was done to Huang Chen will happen again. As a Jew who lost at least 50 ancestors in the holocaust it saddens me that New York's Asian community has not acted more vigorously to this outrage. Acting like sheep in the face of such racist bloodletting can only result in more innocents entering the slaughterhouse.

**"Whatever you do will be insignificant,
But it is very important that you do it."**

SILENCE (continued from p.6)

jected to beatings with stones and rifles, resulting in deaths related to brain damage. Lee describes one particular incident of a public execution where prison guards suspected a man of plotting escape. The man was tied to a moving vehicle and "dragged 4 km at high speeds until the skin on his head and torso tore off." He died on display for all the prisoners to see. Afterwards, prisoners were "then forced to touch his deformed body, which was tied to a stake to display an example of the consequences of a failed escape."

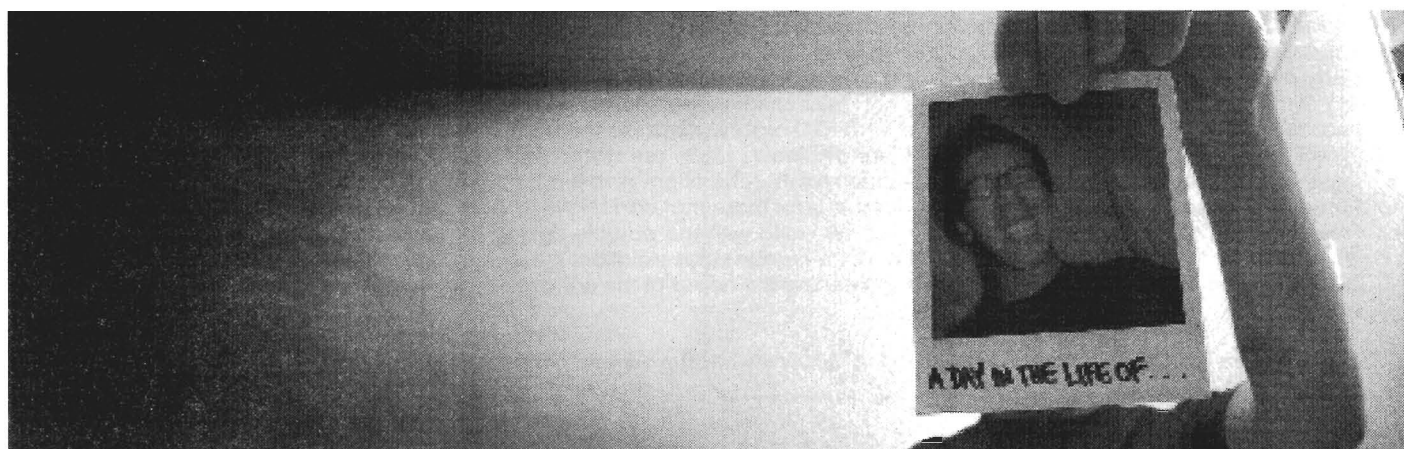
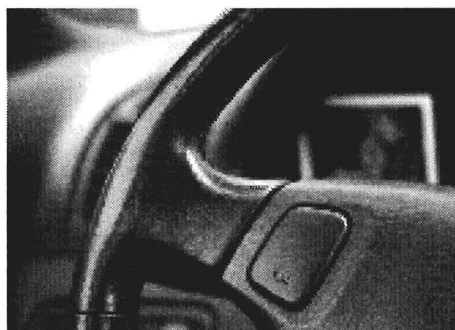
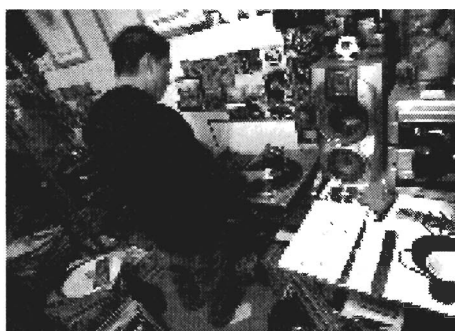
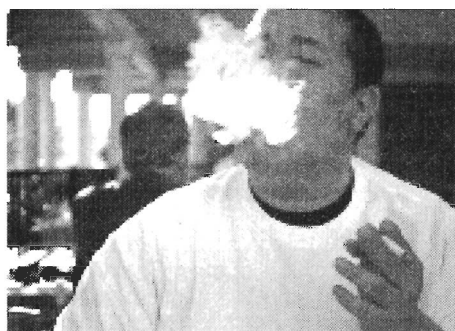
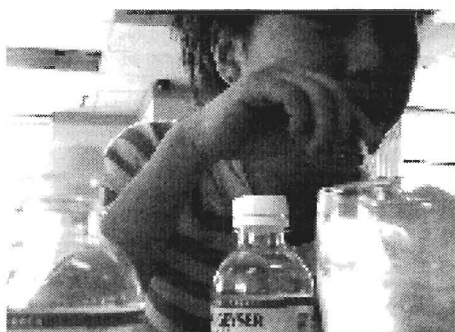
Forced abortions and infanticide (such as prison guards stepping on the necks of infants) take place in these prison camps as well. David Hawk's report, *The Hidden Gulag*, describes one event where Miss Choi, a political prisoner from Camp No.13, had gave birth to a baby that belonged to second platoon leader of the prison's guards, Kim Man-Sun. Inspectors from the 1st Department of State Safety and Protection Agency "threw her baby to a group of dogs" and then killed Miss Choi by "piercing sticks into her abdomen and sexual organs." Former prison guard An Myung Chul along with other witnesses report of other pregnant women being tied to trees and knifed in their stomachs by prison guards since sex is prohibited in these confinements.

Extermination is another aspect of the North Korean Gulag system. Reliable reports of North Korea's use of experimental biological and chemical research on prisoners, such as gas chambers has infiltrated out of its closed society with the aid of high-ranking officials who have defected and testified as seen in the BBC's documentary *Axis of Evil*.

Students who came together at the 18th Annual KASCON (Korean American Student Conference) held at Yale University on March 27th reflected on these horrors. A panel entitled "How Korean Americans Can Effect Change In North Korea" was held. The panel was intended to raise awareness of North Korea's violation of human rights and to incite activism from those who have the freedom to apply it. The speakers included Debbie Liang-Fenton; executive director of the U.S. Committee for Human Rights in North Korea, Linda Lee; research associate from the Chosun Journal, and Edward Logan; associate from the Jubilee Campaign. The panelists devised ideas as to how not only Korean American students, but also all students can promote change in North Korea.

The first is to become more knowledgeable about the human rights crisis, by reading from informative websites that deal with this issue. Another way to become informed is to watch documentaries like the soon to be released *Seoul Train* (Summer of '04), which documents internationally renowned German activist Dr. Norbert Vollersten's aiding in the escape of North Korean defectors through the underground rail road. The second is to begin letter-writing campaigns to state representatives and congress about your desire for the issue of human rights to be brought up when discussing North Korea in Washington D.C. The third is to contact professors on campus and ask if North Korean Human Rights can be integrated in course curriculums, for relatable classes. And lastly, volunteer time with NGO organizations like the U.S. Committee for North Korean Human Rights in Washington D.C., where summer internships are available. Linda Lee stated that North Korea's human rights crisis is "a Holocaust in real time...if [we] don't talk about human rights... the alternative is [to] turn a blind eye to 23 million suffering in North Korea", this remark signals to all of us to use our liberty for those that don't have it. April 28th will be celebrated as North Korean Freedom Day in Washington D.C. and all over the world with the possible signing of the North Korean Freedom Bill of 2003, which asks for the U.S. to address and act upon the human rights violations in North Korea. Although many of us may not be able to attend this event, let us celebrate it by keeping the hopes of the enslaved North Korean population alive in our hearts and minds.

To learn more about North Korean Human Rights visit: www.chosunjournal.com and www.hrnk.org



CALENDAR of EVENTS

april 23 Friday

UCL. *The War to End War*. 8pm, Claire Trevor Theatre. \$9-\$17. Performances continue through May 1. Info: 949.824.2787.

april 27 Tuesday

Cross-Cultural Center. *Shooting with the Third Eye: Theory and Practice in the Films and Videos of Fatima Tobing Rony*. With Fatima Tobing Rony. 11:45am-1pm, Cross Cultural Center Conference Room. Free. Info: 949.824.2001.

april 29 Thursday

Cross Cultural Center. *Global Divas: Filipino Gay Men in the Diaspora*. With Martin F. Manalansan IV, University of Illinois. 11:30am-1pm, Cross Cultural Center Conference Room. Free. Info: 949. 824.2001.

International Studies Forum. Will China Democratize? International and Domestic Perspectives. With Thomas P. Bernstein, professor of political science and member of the East Asian Institute, Columbia University. 3:30-5 p.m., Social Science Plaza A, Room 1100. Free. More: 949.824.8687.

may 1 saturday

All UC Dance competition, Chinese Association.

Kababayan – Pilipino Culture Night. 5:30pm, Bren Events Center. \$10 reserved, \$7 general, \$9 students. Info: 949.824.5000

may 3 monday

Center for Women and Men. Silhouette Project. A traveling, educational display. 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Ring Mall. Free. Info: 949.824.6000

may 5 Wednesday

international Center for Writing & Translation. *Cinema, Theatre and the Written Word: Translating Cultures Through Performance*. Lecture, reading, reception and film screening with Richard Schechner, Manthia Diawara, Fatimah Tobing Rony and Conakry Kas. 4 p.m., Humanities Instructional Building. Free. More: 949.824.1948.

may 8 saturday

Vietnamese Student Association Culture Night Bren Event center

may 12 Wednesday

Beall Center for Art & Technology. *Active Space: Interactive Videodance Opening Reception*. 8-9pm, Beall Center. Free. Info: 949.824.4339.

Center for Women and Men. The Clothesline Project. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., May 12-13 and 17-18, Langson Library. Free. More: 949.824.6000.

may 16 sunday

Cambodian Student Association Culture Night.

may 22 saturday

Chinese Association Culture Night. Barclay Theater.

Indian Sub-Continental Club Culture Show. Charles M. Schulz Theatre. Info: isc03-04@yahoo.com.

Vietnamese American Coalition. Vietnamese American Student Conference. *In our own words: A discussion of Vietnamese America*. Student Center 8-5pm. \$5 presale.

june 6 sunday

Korean American Student Association Culture Night. Crystal Cove.

JADED

