

Jaded

PROGRESSIVE CULTURE FOR ALL

ISSUE 7

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WELCOME

Americans are afraid of the wrong things.

Our administration employs the politics of fear to take advantage of the legitimate concerns of citizens. We are told to be afraid for our security when the Technicolor alert is elevated from tangerine orange to salmon pink. However, our real security problem lies in the inability of our national emergency response system to help Americans in catastrophic events. The fear of terrorism is reframed to target illegal immigrants from Latin America, while the government sends more secret agents to track Fidel Castro than Osama Bin Ladin. Our fears are exploited to justify unchecked powers and invasion of nations. Issue seven of Jaded discusses the scary tactics of military recruitment in our schools, the profit motives of petition collectors, the antagonism of civilian border patrollers, the fear of the “other” in suburbia, the lack of accountability in police brutality cases, and our future with the oil dilemma. Now, that’s some real scary shit.

-Diana Jou

MISSION STATEMENT

Jaded is an alternative media magazine meant to encourage political, cultural, and social discourse among UCI students. We celebrate and support the Asian Pacific Islander community by retelling the past, engaging the present, and creating a vision for the future. We hope to build connections and bridge gaps between different people on and off campus. The goal of the publication is not only to provide a space where 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 culture misunderstood we are not jaded in spirit. This is what we are doing about it.

COVERS

Front and back covers by Albert Ok
Inside cover by Jamora Crawford



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

8 **DISASTER PREPAREDNESS PENDING**
By Eva Meszaros
The money and politics behind our inadequate first responders.

10 **BEHIND THE OIL DILEMMA**
By Jee Soo Kim
Figuring out the future of our oil problem.

12 **THE HONG TAN BUI CASE**
By Trinh Luu
What are they not telling us?

14 **THE MILITARIZATION OF AMERICAN SCHOOLS**
By Kevin Li and Trinh Luu
Military recruiters use popular culture to target vulnerable teens for the war in Iraq.

16 **WHERE ARE THE STUDENTS?**
By Jared Hall
Why are there less students protesting the war in Iraq than in Vietnam?

18 **PROPOSITIONS GALORE**
By Diana Jou
This election is very important, but before you head to the voting booth, check out Jaded's endorsements.

22 **DISAPPEARED IN AMERICA, DISCOVERED AT UCI**
By Grace Hsiang
Art exhibit at UCI explores what it means to be silenced after 9/11.

4 HODGE PODGE

5 FEAR OF THE OTHER

6 XENOPHOBIA

7 IRAQ FACT SHEET

20 TEACH FOR AMERICA

21 NOT THE TYPICAL ASIAN AMERICAN OBITUARY

24 REVIEWS

26 SO HOT RIGHT NOW PLAYLIST

27 A MOSTLY STEREOTYPICAL PLACE THAT I'LL NEVER VISIT AGAIN

31 CALENDAR

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WORKER BEES

Editor in Chief
Diana Jou

Creative Director
Chris Dea

Executive Editor
Julianne Ong Hing

Entertainment Editor
Kayleigh Shaw

External Affairs
Annie Ly
Rosanna Huang

Staff
Davis Fetter
Grace Hsiang
Jee Soo Kim
Jessica C. Lee
Kevin Li
Trinh Luu
Eva Meszaros
Eileen Rosete

Graphics
Jamora Crawford
Albert Ok
Jeff Tang

frankandfrank
by Chris Applehans

TEXT BY JULIANNE ONG HING

New Chancellor

Ralph Cicerone stepped down as UCI's chancellor following his induction into the National Academy of Sciences in May of 2005. The vacancy was filled by Dr. Michael Drake, a physician, scholar, and longtime member of the University of California community. UCI students got a chance to meet Dr. Drake on October 1, 2005 when he addressed the 200 participants of the All-University Leadership Conference in Palm Springs. In his speech he expressed his personal commitment to ensuring diversity in both our student body and faculty. Chancellor Drake quickly earned the approval of students with his perceptive, sincere and enthusiastic demeanor.

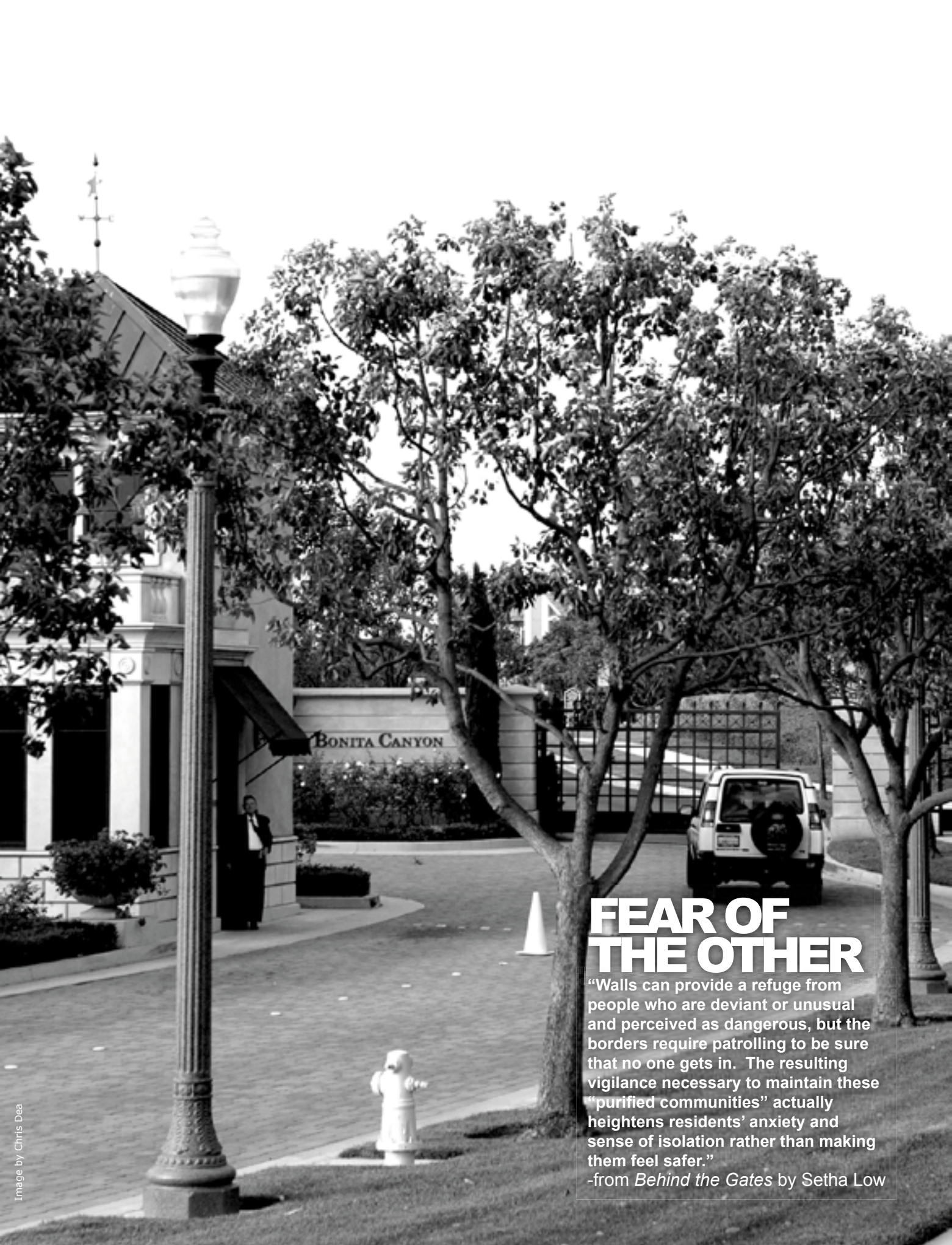
Aramark

Aramark recently signed a contract with UCI which goes into effect this year and gives the national food service company a complete monopoly over all food outlets on campus, from Cornerstone Café and the Phoenix Grille to all on-campus housing dining halls and the Student Center. Aramark has a reputation for unfair labor practices; the fiercely anti-union company pays food service workers inadequate wages with no medical benefits. At the October 1-2, 2005 All-University Leadership Conference, the administration defended the University's decision to allow Aramark to come to UCI by underscoring the \$2 million Aramark offered to pay upfront for the kitchen facilities in the new Student Center. Vice Chancellor Gomez also said that other independent companies lacked Aramark's financial stability, thus making it the most convenient and reliable option. Gomez did not address Aramark's treatment of its workers in his explanation.

New Rules Regarding Free Speech Area

Club officers were informed of new rules governing the use of outdoor space and campus grounds at orientations presented by the Dean of Students on October 12 and 14, 2005. According to Director of Campus Organizations and Community Service Marti Barmore, amplified sound for outdoor events will be limited to one hour per day from noon to 1pm. While Barmore suggested that minor exceptions could be made, the new rule forbidding the use of bullhorns at all times was non-negotiable. The new rules were supposedly instituted to appease professors who complained that their classes were being disrupted by on-campus protests and rallies in recent years. □





FEAR OF THE OTHER

“Walls can provide a refuge from people who are deviant or unusual and perceived as dangerous, but the borders require patrolling to be sure that no one gets in. The resulting vigilance necessary to maintain these “purified communities” actually heightens residents’ anxiety and sense of isolation rather than making them feel safer.”

-from *Behind the Gates* by Setha Low

"[IMMIGRATION] IS AN INVASION OF THE UNITED STATES IN A VERY CLASSIC WAY WITH ALL OF THE CLASSIC OBJECTIVES OF AN INVASION WITHOUT USING BULLETS. EVEN THOUGH I'M SAYING THIS PART SERIOUS AND PART JOKING, I BELIEVE WE ARE PRACTICING 'LA RECONQUISTA' IN CALIFORNIA."
- GLENN SPENCER,
FOUNDER OF THE
AMERICAN BORDER PATROL



Anti-immigration protesters fly Nazi and Confederate flags across the street from a day labor center in Laguna Beach last August.

Image by Chris Dea

THE IRAQ FACT SHEET

from the Institute for Policy Studies

U.S. soldiers in Iraq: 138,000

U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq: 1,996

U.S. soldiers wounded in combat since the war began: 14,120

Number of "Coalition of the Willing" soldiers in Iraq: 23,000

Number of Private Military Contractors in Iraq: 20,000-25,000

Percentage of reserve troops who earn lower salaries while on deployment: 30-40%

The bill so far: \$204.4 billion

Estimated cost of war to date to every U.S. citizen: \$727

Average monthly cost of the Vietnam War, adjusted for inflation: \$5.1 billion

Average monthly cost of the Iraq War: \$5.6 billion

Amount that military contractor Halliburton has been awarded in contracts: \$10 billion

More online at www.ips-dc.org



P **DISASTER**

PENDING

THE MONEY AND POLITICS BEHIND THE NATIONAL FIRST RESPONDERS

TEXT BY EVA MESZAROS

Sunny California—music, film, and travel brochures alike pay homage to its beauty. It's depicted as an escape from the rest of America's troubles, and you can check out anytime you like, but you can never leave.

It's the state of endless sandy beaches and frequent earthquakes. Rows of towering palm trees sway a stone's throw from unpredictable floods and fires. With a heightened risk of terrorism and outrageous natural fires and floods, California treads on unstable ground as the American government falters on disaster preparedness.

In a post-9/11, post-Katrina juncture, the federal government's performance amidst national disasters hardly reinforces trust in America's security. Where does California fit into this picture? As part of a nation struggling to prove its preparedness for innumerable threats, Californians are forced to consider an extensive list of possible (un)natural disasters and the subsequent, equally unpredictable response the state would receive from the federal government.

The National Question

With fears concentrated more toward the government's effectiveness in responding to disasters than the disasters themselves Americans are compelled to ask: What is happening to our nation and what is the government doing about it?

The passing of the Homeland Security Act in November of 2002 planned to address concerns and dangers related to terrorism and possible terrorist attacks in the US. Within its first year the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) implemented policies to beef up security domestically and internationally to detain drug smugglers, illegal immigrants, and terrorist suspects.

The Department intended to focus on reducing the nation's vulnerability to natural disasters and other emergencies through emergency responders and resource funding. Emergency responders, who include police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical teams, prepare for large-scale attacks and disasters. Their very lives frequently depend on adequate resources and preparedness for such events.

The Challenge

In June of 2003 the Council on Foreign Relations released a



Photo by Chris Dea

report on the progress of the First Response System and emergency responders since the implementation of post-9/11 efforts. The Independent Task Force, a team of Nobel laureates, public officials, and experts researched and prepared the comprehensive report. It wastes no time in its critique, opening with the point-blank title: "Drastically Underfunded, Dangerously Unprepared."

While the report responded primarily to terrorism, funding and procedures related to natural disasters and other emergencies were also discussed. The Task Force declared that emergency responders were not sufficiently prepared for basic emergencies, let alone catastrophic disasters. They determined that the level of standards, appropriation of funds, and communication efforts were of foremost concern. The report declared that the emergency response budget fell \$98.4 billion short of adequate funding for disaster preparedness. Funding failed to provide even enough radios and protective gear for an entire shift of firefighters or police officers in any given station—a disturbing fact, disasters aside.

"Establishing national standards that define levels of preparedness is a critical first step toward determining the nature and extent of additional requirements and the human and financial resources needed to fulfill them," the report states.

Southern California's "Fire Siege of 2003" put things into perspective. Deemed the most devastating fire disaster in California state history, it drastically illustrated the need for on-hand emergency responders and resources. The lack of sufficient resources, emergency responders, and unreliability of communication transpired as the biggest setbacks for the disaster's relief. Earlier that year, budget cuts of \$52.5 million in funding toward California's Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) brought forth a resident fee to offset the losses. Victims of the siege that destroyed thousands of homes and took hundreds of lives paid additional taxes for protection against fires in 2003.

The so-recent-we-can-almost-smell-the-smoke Burbank and Topanga fires around LA County remind us of the reality of such incidents. Resources often wane in the struggle to contain the fires, with outcomes depending on fluctuating climates like the infamous Santa Ana winds. Costs of the recent fires rose to approximately \$14.4

million only days after the fire's outbreak. Most costs are covered by federal and state grants. Needless to say, preparedness is weakened by budget cuts like those that the CDF experienced before the 2003 fires.

The National Response

Since the analysis on emergency responders, the DHS released The National Response Plan (NRP) in December of 2004. The document sorts and reviews a collection of four years of facts, statistics, and proposals. The hodgepodge of documents introduces a detailed plan of action to handle any threat or incident. In the preface Secretary of DHS Tom Ridge deems the approach of the NRP "unique and far-reaching." He adds that it will result in "vastly improved coordination ... to help save lives and protect America's communities by increasing the speed, effectiveness, and efficiency of incident management."

The devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina derisively writes off the assertions made by the DHS in the report. Americans are finding it an increasing challenge to put their faith in the government's efforts, even when changes appear to be implemented. The 100-plus-page document lists tactics, facilities, organizations, and reorganizations that confidently address past mistakes and future plans. Unfortunately, in retrospect, the credibility of DHS falls short from page one.

On September 30, 2005 DHS announced the allocation of \$30 million toward Competitive Training Grants, striving toward a new level of national preparedness. Little surprise should stir when skepticism runs high this time around.

What can Californians anticipate in the event of a disaster? It all comes down to the dangerously unpredictable conditions the state faces and the resources and support with which we are defended. The Task Force said it best: "The building blocks of increased capabilities can only be laid upon a solid foundation." Plans and proposals for the emergency response system continue to circulate among government officials, reinforcing false hopes and security. But until the next disaster strikes, results are pending. □

BEHIND THE OIL DILEMMA

*FIGURING OUT THE FUTURE OF
OUR ENERGY PROBLEM*

TEXT BY JEE SOO KIM



It is a common sight at gas stations: people drive up in their cars, push the necessary buttons, then sit back in quiet horror as they watch the price ticker climb ever higher. You can almost see the images of clothes, shoes, and concert tickets dancing before their eyes before floating off into the “fuel payment” abyss. There’s no denying it—we have an oil problem.

Trouble in Paradise

Proponents of the Peak Oil Theory maintain that the western world only has so many years before our oil resources are completely depleted. According to the IEA (the International Energy Agency, of which the United States is a member), oil production will peak in the years 2008-2009. Gerard Ungernant and Audrey Brohy, directors of the documentary *The Oil Factor: Behind the War on Terror*, predict that oil reserves will be completely drained by 2010. If all the different estimates of Peak Oil theorists are taken together, oil resources in the West could be depleted within the next 10 to 30 years. Although the consequences of an oil shortage would be felt more severely by the countries in the West, they are by no means limited to oil-dependent countries. Economically, environmentally, and most importantly, politically, the impact of depleting one of the world’s most valuable resources would be felt worldwide.

The high dependency of the United States on Middle Eastern oil is undeniable. Ungernant and Brohy state that while the United States supposedly has only 3% of the world’s proven oil reserves, we consume about 25% of the world’s daily production. America imports approximately three-quarters of the oil it needs.

This can prove an ominous prediction given the love-hate relationship between the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and oil-importing countries. According to Slate.com, an online newsmagazine, OPEC members want to “keep prices high enough to ensure profits but low enough to deter the development of new fields.” Oil-producing companies stand to gain more profit if they pump less oil in order to make a profit. It is usually the oil-importing countries that inevitably get jerked around by this tenuous economic balancing act.

Big Oil’s tactics in the United States, however, are not any less heinous than those of oil exporters. Oil refineries, the middlemen between oil exporters and oil consumers, have been known to engage in price gouging and other tactics to gain profits from a market dependent on their products.

Beyond the economic perspective, there have been strong research results indicating the detrimental effects of oil dependency on the environment. Among the major effects are the intensities and duration of natural disasters, air pollution, unpredictable climate change, and global warming. In France and many other European countries, historical monuments are blackened by diesel smoke. Natives of Los Angeles have grown accustomed to that endearing brownish film that

envelops our entire city. The development of recent natural disasters such as hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Stan can be traced back to global warming and the consequent temperature imbalance worldwide. These environmental effects will only worsen if no greater measures are undertaken to promote fuel efficiency and alternative energy resources.

For those of you poooh-pooing the “green” perspective, these environmental effects can translate into expensive economic costs such as healthcare expenses, rebuilding costs from climate damage such as acid rain, and expenditures for pollution control.

The oil problem is not limited to the exorbitant prices we see at gas stations. It infects our environment, our economy, and our very way of life. Problems in the oil industry translate into disruptions of people’s lives worldwide. At the current state of our dependency on the industry, oil depletion could mean a breakdown of the societal infrastructure.

Efforts Toward Sustainable Development

Economists and environmentalists alike have taken turns tackling the oil issue. The IEA recognizes the interdependence between the economic, environmental, and social spheres. In its book, *Toward a Sustainable Energy Future*, the international agency argues for “sustainable development”—development that lasts not just for us but also for future generations—that would “improve the world’s energy supply and demand structure by increasing efficient fuel usage and developing alternative energy sources.”

Economic policies in the past have not been of much use because of their shortsighted take on the environment situation. These short-term “solutions” smack of Americans’ capitalistic greed and the need for immediate gratification. In the end, after wading through temporary solutions, we are right back where we started.

Among their numerous solutions for energy efficiency, the IEA suggests “direct funding for research and development, subsidies or taxes, labeling programs and the branding of efficiently produced energy services in order to allow informed consumer choice.” Other researchers largely concur on the important role of the government in encouraging the efficient use of fuel.

Voluntary agreements between oil industry corporations and economic incentives such as rebates for green policies would encourage many companies to adopt more environmentally and economically sound practices.

Shifting the economy towards more fuel-efficient cars is another option. Internationally, many governments have been phasing in policies that would increase passenger vehicle fuel economy standards. In the United States, the Corporate Average Fuel Economy aims to raise new car model standards to 40 miles a gallon.

An increase in the federal gas tax is also a viable option, although because of opposition from both Democrats and Republicans, it is doubtful that any such measure will exist in the near future. If we could just ignore our knee-jerk response to the dreaded “t”-word, we would see that the extra revenues from taxes could be used to pay for things like better public transit and research into alternative energy. In Europe, taxes make up as much as 60% of gas prices. This has encouraged many people to turn to alternatives, choose and develop more efficient cars, and has funded a public transportation system that Americans can only dream about.

(continued on page 30)



THE HOANG TAN BUI CASE: *WHAT ARE THEY NOT TELLING US?*

TEXT BY TRINH LUU

April 29, 1997, Rohnert Park Officer Jack Shields shot and killed Kuanchung Kao-Kao's karate pose was an "imminent threat" to Shields and his colleague. May 21, 1999: LAPD Officer Edward Larrigan shot and killed Margaret Mitchell, a homeless African American woman suspected of stealing a shopping cart. February 15, 2002: Gonzalo Martinez's weapon-a cigarette-justified 34 shots from Downey Police's automatic machine gun. July 13, 2003: San Jose Officer Chad Marshall shot and killed Cau Bich Tran-the danger: Tran's vegetable peeler. February 9, 2005: a minor car accident justified Westminster Officer Charles Shinn III's shooting, running over, and killing of Hoang Tan Bui.

News of police brutality has become nothing more than trite blips presented in isolated fragments without a critical examination of the commonalities among them. Elements of racial profiling; a wanton use of their weapons; the blithe indifference of the officers involved; and the continuous cooperation between city and county institutions knit a pattern of systematic police brutality that characterizes each of the cases mentioned. Certainly, the Bui case is a precise match. In examining closely the politicians' and institutions' callous attempts at rationalizing the unwarranted killing, we unravel their clear intent in demonizing the victim while vindicating the perpetrator.

The tragedy resulted from nothing more than a miniscule traffic accident at the intersection of Bolsa Ave. and Magnolia St. in Westminster. While driving, Bui inadvertently grazed the front right side of another man's vehicle. Coming from Newland (a street perpendicular to that which Bui was traveling on) Westminster Police Officer Charles Shinn III approached Bui's car to inquire about the reported scratch; Bui attempted to flee the scene. Shinn immediately drew his gun and fired two shots from behind Bui's car-one severing Bui's seatbelt, another puncturing the back of his left shoulder. Bui was unarmed.

An ensuing chase by multiple law enforcement agencies and their helicopters led Bui to enter Madison, a side street off of Newland. According to eyewitness Tuan Nguyen, Bui stumbled out of his car and limped near the sidewalk. Shinn's patrol car, traveling at an approximate speed of 35-45 mph on Monroe St (as estimated by the eyewitness) struck Bui, forced his body under the patrol car, and dragged him for an estimated five feet, along the street and up a curve. A palm tree prevented the car from advancing but Bui's body was entirely wedged under Shinn's car. Bui died at the scene. According to several individuals who observed the aftermath, Bui's body was left pinned under the car from 10:30 p.m. till 5 a.m. the next morning; medical attention never came until hours after his death.

As news of Shinn's aggression spread within the local community, city and county representatives rushed to assure the enraged public that professional, independent, and objective investigations would supposedly take place. Chief of Police Andrew E. Hall, Captain Mitch Waller, Councilmember Andy Quach, and Mayor Margie Rice all maintained that the investigations, conducted by the Orange County Sheriff Department, the California Highway Patrol, and the Westminster PD (all of which were present at the scene) and reviewed by the Orange County District Attorney, would "uncover every fact and piece of evidence," and would ensure that "officers are held accountable for their conduct."

Unfortunately, such public statements were empty promises meant to placate angry citizens and extenuate the crime. The reports, which were supposed to settle any doubts of misconduct, still left many questioning their impartiality and credibility. From the onset, it appeared that the intent of the investigations were concentrated in providing justifications for, first, Shinn's shooting of an unarmed suspect, and second, Shinn's control of his vehicle. This objective became evident when Mayor Rice, less than a month after the incident,



maintained that Shinn “would never deliberately run over someone.” Rice has since insisted on remaining neutral until all investigations are complete.

Governed by the two objectives outlined above, the investigations’ findings, disclosed by Capt. Mitch Waller in late July, claim that “the shooting was justified because Bui was trying to veer his car into Shinn.” (OC register, Aug. 9th) Waller elaborated: “Officer Shinn stated that he saw Bui turned on his car and hurled forward as if intending to run into him. Shinn said that he recalls grabbing his gun and firing, but he cannot recall clearly if it was him who stepped aside (avoiding being hit by Bui’s car) or if it was Bui who intentionally avoided Shinn.”* Officer Shinn’s recollections, permeated with uncertainty and ambiguity, are at best confusing and convoluted. From his testimony, one would expect that professionals like District Attorney Tony Rackauckas would not jump immediately to the conclusion that Bui attempted veering his vehicle at Shinn, therefore justifying the shooting. However, in an interview on Vietnamese radio station VNCR 106.3 FM, Rackauckas not only maintained that Shinn’s gunshots were justified, but also stridently denigrated the victim’s character by calling him a “capital criminal.” Rackauckas stated: “When Bui turned the steering wheel, started his car and spurted in the direction of the officer—that was an assault on the officer. At that moment, according to law, Bui is a capital criminal and is dangerous and the officer’s shooting does not violate the laws and he cannot be prosecuted.” Critics believe that this is a blatant manipulation of Shinn’s words that places the blame on Bui in order to exonerate Shinn. In addition to this posthumous character assassination was Rackauckas’s implicit charge of Bui’s involvement in gang activity—a problem associated with Little Saigon, he maintained.

Similarly, the justification for Shinn using his patrol car as a weapon was heavily based on tenuous, implausible, and unsubstantiated conclusions. In his disclosure of the CHP’s findings, Capt. Waller

stated: “Officer Shinn reported that when he made a turn (from Monroe St. onto Madison St.), he did apply the brake. According to CHP’s investigation, when Shinn made the turn, he was traveling at a speed of 23-24 mph, when he hit Bui, the speed was 12 mph.” Finding this more than sufficient evidence, Waller continued: “I have investigated many car collisions; a car that hit a person always has remnants of damages. I was present that night at the scene of the killing, Shinn’s car had very little damages thus leading me to believe the CPH’s estimation of 12 mph.” Susan Kang Schoroeder, spokesperson for District Attorney Tony Rackauckas, too stated: “He (Shinn) wouldn’t have applied the brakes if he wanted to intentionally kill someone.”

While that conclusion alone raises many questions, the disregard of the evidence gathered from Bui’s autopsy is more puzzling. As stated in an independent autopsy report, Bui suffered from an innumerable list of bodily damages, ranging from a fractured skull to a fractured sternum to numerous broken ribs, to internal bleeding and the laceration of internal organs that led to his immediate death. Whether or not a 12 mph collision could possibly have caused such severe injuries, the investigators’ and politicians’ neglect of these factors is troubling. Interestingly, Waller based his understanding of the collision solely on the amount of damages visible on Shinn’s patrol car.

While investigative reports continue to be withheld from the public, the city has taken efforts to settle the matter with monetary compensation—an amount recently raised from \$300,000 to \$1 million. Seeking a more equitable settlement that acknowledges police wrongdoing, the Bui family has refused this offer. As this case drags on, blips of police brutality continue to surface: August 11, 2005: Dublin police shot and killed Kwang Tae Lee, a visitor from Korea, when responding to a report of domestic violence . . . Today, Police Officer . . . □

THE MILITARIZATION OF AMERICAN SCHOOLS

TEXT BY KEVIN LI & TRINH LUU



Photo by Chris Dea

The quagmire of this so-called “War on Terror,” which extends from the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan to other Homeland Security projects, has cost this nation nearly \$200 billion and close to 2,000 American lives. In light of these facts and mounting public disillusionment, military recruitment has been dealt with a harsh blow, falling behind annual quotas by over 7,000 recruits. The shortfall in recruitment has prompted the military to adopt a more aggressive strategy in public schools focusing on gathering student data, exploiting the vulnerabilities of impressionable and underprivileged youth, and sugarcoating the benefits of a military career.

Although military recruiters’ access to college student data has been guaranteed by law since 1996, it was not until the enforcement of an obscure section of the No Child Left Behind Act that the disclosure of secondary school students’ private information became mandatory. Under the clause of NCLB Act Section 9528, all elementary and secondary schools receiving federal funds must provide the name, phone number, and address of students to recruiters. Although parents have the right to “opt-out” of this data collection, many are not informed by school administrators before private information is handed over. Military recruiters must also be given equal access to the student body and equal visibility on the campus as recruiters from other agencies. This has various implications, one of which is the inequity of exposure to recruitment between schools located in different socio-economic regions. This inequity has tangible consequences in what Arlene Inouye, a founder of the Coalition Against Military in our Schools (CAMS), revealed in *Dynamic Magazine*: LA schools with a large population of students of color, military recruiters outnumber college counselors 5 to 1. This is by no means an accident—it is a conscious decision by the military to target the poor and desperate.

Lt. Col. Hilferty to the Associated Press, attributed shortcomings in military recruitment to a “strong national economy” which gives young people “other choices.” What the

“Money is not the only form of enticement for students in high schools. The military, as a sophisticated and well-funded marketing machine, has hijacked popular culture to draw in potential recruits. This incorporation of American popular culture lies in the military’s portrayal of combat and warfare as masculine, athletic, adventurous, and cutting edge.”

spokesman for the Army essentially implies is that success of recruitment is based on a lack of other opportunities—the military has the most success with those who have nowhere else to go. However, the benefits and “choices” of a strong economy do not extend to everyone, which is precisely why recruiters are so drawn to low-income areas where students have few or no opportunities to attend college. According to *The Nation*, only about 8% of new recruits have one or more parents in professional careers. Capitalizing on the economic struggle faced by students, recruiters like Lt. Col. Hilferty oftentimes promise large bonuses or subsidized tuition. Unfortunately, only an approximated 35% of enlistees receive aid for college, compared to 70% of civilians, as many do not qualify for the GI Bill because they do not possess a “critical skill.” If the military will not pay for college, then the experience should be beneficial for civilian occupations, right? Wrong. Stephen Barley, a labor policy expert, noted that the average veterans would earn 11%-19% less than their civilian counterparts. We, then, can see the enormous discrepancy between what is touted by military recruiters as the benefits of a military career and the grim reality of rarely having those promises materialize.

Money is not the only form of enticement for students in high schools. The military, as a sophisticated and well-funded marketing machine, has hijacked popular culture to draw in potential recruits. This incorporation of American popular culture lies in the military’s portrayal of combat and warfare as masculine, athletic, adventurous, and cutting edge. To accomplish this, the Army, Navy, and Air Force all have exhibition vans that travel across the country to various schools and public places. The diminutive label of “vans” should not mislead us because these are gargantuan moving recruitment bases, featuring advanced video equipment, exciting rock walls, realistic weapon, tank, and helicopter simulations along with attention grabbing F-16 jet replicas, according to www.objector.org. By attracting young people, the recruiters, then, get to “sell” the military and the purported benefits of being part of it, often

lies as we have seen earlier. This strategy not only has the immediate effect of helping the military reach their recruitment quotas, but is also a highly motivated move to militarize the next generation. Television ads, interactive games, and glossy leaflets all glorify and obscure the military’s role as a killing machine. Some schools, parents, or even students may have succeeded in warding off opportunistic recruiters, but we must also note the long-term ramifications of the military’s media campaigns.

Functioning in a more subtle and invasive manner, the country’s 1500 plus Junior ROTC programs have firmly set root. The instructors quietly project themselves as educators while functioning fully as recruiters. The dual-role of the JROTC instructors, most of whom are retired servicemen, gives them as much as, if not more, access to students than regular Science or English teachers. According to *The Nation*, JROTC instructors are directed to get involved with school extracurricular activities and to get to know student leaders—to weave themselves fully into the school. Infiltration in junior high and high schools has been so effective that about 45% of those recruited have signed up for service after attending JROTC programs. Some may contend that these students are fully capable of making decisions about their career and they do have the option to choose not to participate in these programs, but the reality is that many students often don’t have any say. Especially for schools in poverty-stricken neighborhoods where schools have fewer course options, a higher ratio of nonwhite students to white students, and fewer qualified teachers, the JROTC programs fill the void. In addition, since the district and the military share the salary of the JROTC instructor, disadvantaged schools get the perceived benefit of having an instructor for half the cost. Many students have involuntarily been placed in JROTC classes instead of P.E. because the school lacked P.E. teachers. Occurrences like these reveal that students are blatantly deprived of their right to choose.

But with the help of anti-school-militarization groups such as Coalition Against

Military in our Schools (CAMS) and Committee Opposed to Militarism and the Draft (COMD), some students and parents are fighting against the military’s invasive recruitment tactics. In Seattle, the PTSA of Garfield High School has carried on a persistent fight against military intrusion on campus and into the lives of students. Santa Monica High School, for example, kicked off their military recruiters by citing that the military practiced discrimination based on sexual orientation—the “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy. At Roosevelt High School, students organized protests against the military and passed out information on alternate career or educational paths for students who have either been approached or may be approached by military recruiters. These mostly grassroots efforts stemming from the community and parents have been successful in countering the military’s efforts. As mentioned in the beginning, military recruitment has fallen below the quota, something that has not happened for decades. Your younger siblings or other family members are perhaps being exposed to the same tactic as described above. It is our responsibility to inform those that may be vulnerable to recruiters. □

If you want to get involved, please visit the following websites: www.comdsd.org, www.militaryfreeschools.org, and www.objector.org.

WHERE ARE ALL THE STUDENTS?

TEXT BY **JARED HALL**



Photo by Chris Dea

“While soccer moms and other Boomer generation activists lend legitimacy to the movement, they also highlight the degree to which students are so much less central in opposing the war in Iraq than they were opposing the one in Vietnam.”

“Don’t trust anybody over 30!” Mario Savio pronounced at Berkeley in 1964. His words evoked the passionate, youthful nature of protest movements of the period. The motto would soon grow into a popular reminder that the burden of dissent against racial injustice at home and the Vietnam War abroad was taken up most vigorously by the country’s young people.

Though Savio passed away in 1996, thousands of protestors who had saluted his motto in the ‘60s took to the streets once again on September 24th, 2005 to demand an end to the war in Iraq. The event was a joint march between United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ) and the ANSWER Coalition, the peace movement’s two largest umbrella organizations. By differing accounts, the march drew between 100,000 and 300,000 people, with thousands more attending solidarity marches in cities from Los Angeles to Mentone, Alabama.

In Washington, D.C., many smaller but significant events occurred in the days before and after September 24th. UFPJ led over 700 activists into the halls of Congress to lobby Senators and Congressmen for an end to the war. Forty-one members of the War Resisters League shut down an entrance to the Pentagon on Monday. And nearly 370 people, including Cindy Sheehan and Princeton professor Cornell West, were arrested at the White House on the same day.

This time around, however, the movement was marked not by youthful enthusiasm, but by middle-aged nostalgia. The sea of gray hair at the March suggests not just the dedication of the Boomer generation to peace and social justice, but also the failure of students today to carry on that tradition.

About 40 years ago students like Savio emerged as the most outspoken critics of the war in Vietnam. From the 1962 Port Huron statement to the massive antiwar convergences on the National Mall and the Pentagon, student groups powered the New Left into a full-blown movement. Students for

a Democratic Society (SDS) and countless other groups demanded social change while remaining both independent of Soviet interference and critical of trigger-happy Cold War Democrats. By the time the antiwar movement reached its zenith in 1968-72, young people dominated mass rallies and assumed leading roles in the movement’s coordinating committees. Young people including Abbie Hoffman, Jerry Rubin, Tom Hayden – even John Kerry – were all leading anti-war voices.

Today, while soccer moms and other Boomer generation activists lend legitimacy to the movement, they also highlight the degree to which students are so much less central in opposing the war in Iraq than they were opposing the one in Vietnam. There are some easy clues as to why this might be. The lack of a draft has made the war less urgent and threatening. The body count, while fast approaching 2,000 U.S. deaths, is thankfully not on course to exceed the staggering Vietnam total of over 58,000. Consumer culture has become even more pervasive. And political culture ever more conservative.

Yet, among these factors, only the draft is truly particular to young people. The coincidental dual absence of military conscription and a grassroots youth movement lends weight to the critical words of black radical activist Bayard Rustin, who predicted during the late ‘60s, that “as soon as the Vietnam War is over, and with it the threat of conscription, the students will go quietly back to their studies and from there to their comfortable middle class lives.”

So then, is that it? Are students incapable today of mobilizing against an unjust and immoral war because of their economic position? It’s a tough charge to confront, but consumer culture undoubtedly plays a role in warping young people’s perspectives. Today, individual identity and self-worth are gauged by a culture of commodification and materialism that differs drastically from the culture of the ‘60s. Where our parents might have expressed dissent in by rejecting consumer culture altogether, many young people now

frame their objections within it. Politically, the limits of debate have shrunk to conform to this Urban Outfitters-ization of American culture.

“Revolution” is more a marketing phrase than a realistic goal, and now even George W. Bush can claim to be a “peace president.”

Even if the war in Iraq has a human cost that is lower than that of Vietnam, the social protest movements of that era set the precedent for empowering individual citizens to directly and aggressively challenge their government when it acts unjustly. We saw that precedent in action this weekend through the March and all the other direct actions that took place. But that just brings us back to the original question: where are all the students? Are they really so tuned out from all things political that even the antiwar movement is just not sexy enough to join?

Times may be different, but one thing is surely constant. If you want something to happen, you have to organize it. There is simply no equivalent mobilizing force today to the SDS. The Campus Antiwar Network (CAN) claims to have had at least modest successes in kicking military recruiters out of universities. But that’s hardly a widespread movement. The National Youth and Student Peace Coalition (NYSPC) may be even more obscure than CAN, but its recent adoption by UFPJ may be a promising step toward attaining the resources necessary to organize student initiatives around the country.

Ending the war is going to require tapping the same kind of energy that provoked students like Mario Savio 40 years ago. But it won’t come out of nowhere. The huge organizing vacuum needs to be filled by young people with the passion and dedication necessary to push an uphill fight. Rather than wait for the draft to come around, students need to reclaim our role as unified, passionate voices of dissent in the struggle against war and injustice. □

Visit Jared’s weblog at jaredhall.blogspot.com

PROPOSITIONS GALORE

TEXT BY DIANA JOU

Six of the eight propositions are frighteningly harmful policies that can drastically change our schools, skew the checks and balances system, silence public worker unions, and hurt consumers. What is just as frightening is the manner in which these propositions are brought to the ballot. In order for propositions to be on the ballot, policymakers must provide thousands of signatures of registered voters as proof of public support. Sponsors use private companies that hire workers to collect signatures by any means necessary. These "political consultants" will sit in public spaces like Ring Road on campus and entice/cajole/pressure people to sign petitions. The setup is so convenient you can sign four vaguely described propositions and even open a credit card. Depending on the issue and who is sponsoring it, each signature garnered can be worth anywhere from \$0.75 to \$3.25. The November 8th election will cost the state government \$40-80 million that is largely in the interests of corporations and Republicans. Being aware of the profit motives behind some propositions is essential to fight the manipulation of the electorate. Here are Jaded's endorsements on the propositions.

NO on Proposition 73

"Waiting period and parental notification before termination of minor's pregnancy"

This proposition will require physicians to notify parents at least 48 hours before abortion. It actually puts vulnerable and scared teens in more danger. Not only does it violate the confidentiality agreement between doctor and patient, it tries to mandate family communica-

tion. There is already a counseling protocol of encouraging teens to talk to their parents or trusted adults. Scared teens from abusive or troubled households who can't tell their parents about their situation will end up resorting to illegal, unsafe, and uncertified physicians.

NO on Proposition 74

"Increasing probation period for teachers from two to five years"

Unnecessarily increases probationary period for public school teachers from two to five years and also blames teachers for the problems in our public school system. Bad teachers can and are fired. It punishes new teachers for speaking out against the governor's poor record on education and does nothing to improve student learning or attract and retain quality teachers.

NO on Proposition 75

"Public Employee Union Dues. Restrictions on political contributions."

Prop 75 prohibits union dues for political contributions without each individual consent. This is sponsored by corporate special interest to silence the voice of teachers, nurses, firefighters, and policemen. It unfairly targets public employees. It is about politics, not fairness. It will not require corporations to get each and every stockholder to approve the company's political spending. This will weaken unions' political power to protect their pensions, wages, and health benefits from being taken away by the governor.

NO on Proposition 76

"State spending and school funding

limits"

This initiative breaks the promise to schools and colleges by eliminating the minimum education funding guaranteed in voter-approved Proposition 98. The governor will have unchecked power to reduce appropriations of his choosing, including general school funds, employee compensation and state contracts. This proposition is dangerous because it will cut school funding by over \$4 billion every year.

NO on Proposition 77

"Redistricting"

Prop 77 will amend the process for redistricting California's Senate, Assembly, Congressional and Board of Equalization districts. A panel of three retired judges will decide how where to draw the lines. This initiative is specifically written to prevent judges from any consideration of 'communities of interest' while redistricting. This essentially eliminates the power of community and minority groups seeking to retain voting power for their communities. Redistricting California, a diverse state of 37 million people, is too big and too important a job for just three unaccountable retired judges.

NO on Proposition 78

"Drug companies' voluntary discount program"

Establishes a voluntary drug discount program and allows the program to be terminated at any time. The discounts offered are based on a "lowest commercial price" set by the drug companies, which are subject to change at any time. This initiative is spon-



A black and white photograph showing a close-up of a hand holding a large, dark, stylized letter 'C'. The hand is positioned at the top left, with fingers gripping the letter. The letter 'C' is thick and has a slightly irregular, hand-drawn appearance. The background is plain white, creating a high-contrast image.

“Prescription drug discounts through state negotiated rebates”

YES on Prop 80

Prop 80 restricts electricity customer's ability to switch from private utilities to other providers and requires all retail electric sellers to increase renewable and affordable energy resources by 2010. It will prevent energy blackouts and massive fraud by private energy producers like Enron. ☐

[illegible]

JADED MAGAZINE IS LOOKING FOR WRITERS WITH AN UNDERSTANDING OF SOCIAL JUSTICE, RACE & ETHNICITY, GENDER, AND CLASS ISSUES. WE'RE ALSO SEEKING PEOPLE TO JOIN OUR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE. PLEASE DOWNLOAD AN APPLICATION FROM WWW.JADEMAG.ORG.

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Photo by Chris Dea

TEACH FOR AMERICA

BUILDING THE MOVEMENT TO ELIMINATE EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITY

TEXT BY ANNIE LY

In the minds of many, *Brown v. Board of Education* ended segregation in public schools in the United States. But the reality is that plenty of schools in our country still face segregation; educational opportunities for children are still determined by racial and socioeconomic factors.

We live in a country where the reading abilities of nine year olds in low-income areas are on average three grade levels below nine year olds in high-income areas. Where fourth graders in low-income areas are on average three grade levels behind their higher income peers in math. Where children growing up in these poverty-stricken areas are seven times less likely to graduate from college than children from wealthier areas. Educational disparities are greater in our country than in any other industrialized nation, which is a shameful but a very real fact that American children are confronted with on a daily basis. Since such an immense achievement gap between the rich and the poor still exists, there is a group of individuals who are working hard to tackle this issue in hopes of reducing educational inequality in our country. This powerful group is Teach For America.

Teach For America is a national corps that selectively recruits recent college graduates of all academic backgrounds to commit two years of teaching in the nation's toughest and most underprivileged public schools. Children in these schools are not only faced with disadvantages in the classroom, but also with inadequate housing, limited access to healthcare, and unique forces that can take time and focus away from school. These are the challenges that corps member have to face in order to help their students. In June of 2004, Mathematica Policy Research published a study that found that "Teach For America corps members make 10% more progress in a year in math than is typically expected, while slightly exceeding the normal expectation for progress in reading." In the short run, Teach For America corps members work tirelessly in classrooms all across our nation to ensure that their students gain the academic skills necessary to succeed in life. In the long run, Teach For America continues to build a force of alumni leaders from education, public policy, and several other sectors to ensure that all children have an equal chance in the classroom.

Teach For America began its grassroots effort to eliminate educational inequality in 1990 with 500 corps members in six different sites. The founder, Wendy Kopp, was angered by the educational inequalities facing children in low-income areas, so she developed her idea of a national teaching corps in her senior thesis at Princeton University. Now Teach For America has 3,500 corps members teaching in over 1,000 schools in 22 states across the country. They have directly impacted the lives of two million students and are committed to improving the lives of many more to ensure that our country lives up to its principle of equal opportunity for all. □

For more information about Teach For America visit www.teachforamerica.org



NOT THE TYPICAL ASIAN AMERICAN OBITUARY

TEXT BY EILEEN ROSETE

Sunday August 14, 2005 marked the passing of a very influential figure in the world of punk. At the age of 88, Esther Wong fell victim to cancer and emphysema after spending over a decade promoting numerous bands in the Los Angeles area.

Born and raised in Shanghai, Wong came to the United States in 1949 to escape the newly erected communist government and worked for a shipping company for two decades. She then proceeded to open her own restaurant in 1970, Madame Wong's, in Los Angeles' Chinatown where she originally hired Polynesian bands to help bring in customers, which they did not. So in a smart business move, Wong began booking various up-and-coming new wave and punk bands in 1978. The shows proved so successful that Wong opened her club Madame Wong's West in Santa Monica within the same year.

While she has been dubbed the "godmother of punk" for helping jumpstart the careers of such acclaimed bands as the Go-Gos, X, Oingo

Boingo, the Textones, the Plimsouls, Plane English, Police and the Motels, in her career she has simultaneously garnered the affectionate nickname "the dragon lady" for her strict proprietress ways. She was popularly cited for having stopped a Ramones performance so that they could clean the graffiti they had left on the bathroom wall, limited viewing to the 21 and over and even went as far as to refuse to book any female bands because they were supposedly always trouble. Wong was also said to have cruised the audiences during shows in pursuit of weed-smoking guests, in addition to banning any bands that had played for her rival, the Hong Kong Café. On the other side, her supporters cite not only her providing of a venue but also her payment plan which allowed groups to simply split the admission fee. Gary Valentine of the Know told the LA Times in 1979 that Wong's was where they made the most money since they were paid by their popularity.

Despite the controversy of her "titles," Wong's contributions to the promotion of music in Los Angeles are undeniable and invaluable in the history of the genre.

Madame Wong's closed in 1985 and Madame Wong's West in 1991.

In her passing, Wong is survived by second husband Harry, son Frank, daughter Braun, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. □

DISAPPEARED IN AMERICA: *DISCOVERED AT UCI*

TEXT BY GRACE HSIANG



Photo by Chris Dea

September 11th, 2001 was a day that nobody would ever forget. Four years later and millions of American flag pins later most of the U.S. is back to dealing with diversifying stock portfolios and getting Billy to soccer practice. And although the momentum of the war machine is steadily fading as each improvised explosive device is detonated in Iraq and the potency of the image of the World Trade Center towers falling has diminished from excessive viewing, the consequences of being a Muslim in the U.S. have not.

VISIBLE, an arts collective composed of artists, activists, and lawyers, questions and challenges how America has changed since 9/11. It strives for objectives similar to as prominent civil rights activists groups such as the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the Center for Constitutional Rights. Their latest project is an international installation tour entitled *Disappeared In America* that reminds their audience of issues that surfaced after 9/11 and which continue on to this day.

Disappeared in America's primary intent is to inspire and provoke discussion on what national identity means today in an "Islamophobic" society. It brings attention to what they call "ghost prisoners", a group of mostly working class Middle Eastern detainees who were taken from society without notice or lawful prosecution. The exhibit speaks for victims that are unable to speak for themselves because they are not U.S. citizens and lack the proper resources to fight unlawful arrests.

Held at the UCI University Art Gallery, the exhibit addresses issues of identity, citizenship, and constitutional rights through five pieces, each in different mediums.

“Art is often regarded as only aesthetic, something too abstract and too pretty to be politically empowering. That’s just not realistic. Perhaps the government didn’t consider art a threat, but now the lens has shifted and art is under attack.”

Jeeyun Ha’s paper tree sheds real rose petals whose thin branches are actually excerpts from books such as Tram Nguyen’s *We Are All Suspects Now*. A video trilogy simultaneously showing all three short films is projected onto the walls, telling of a Pakistani scientist who was falsely arrested, an examination of disappeared (a term used to refer to the many arrests that go unnoticed) New York city residents, and an Indian man’s tribulations with airport security. However, the boldest display is a floating line composed of six giant scrolls featuring the photographs of ghost prisoners, each with a unique story. Among these faces includes Chaplain James Yee, whose story was notorious in the public media when he was accused of spying at Guantanamo Bay. Consequently, Yee faced 76 days of solitary confinement in a maximum security prison only to be released when the government dropped all charges due to a lack of evidence. There is also American-born Tariq Abdel-Muhti, whose activist father was denied medicine throughout the duration of his detainment and later died after his release from complications which developed while in custody.

A superficial glance may bore the viewer into thinking that this sort of subversive subject matter was exhausted by the massive media attention surrounding 9/11. One questions whether or not these sort of projects can even make a difference. After all, it’s just art, right? In a lecture accompanying the

exhibit, VISIBLE director Naeem Mohaiamen explained that, “Art is often regarded as only aesthetic, something too abstract and too pretty to be politically empowering. That’s just not realistic. Perhaps the government didn’t consider art a threat, but now the lens has shifted and art is under attack.” He continued on to an incident in which VISIBLE participated at a collaboration show, where a non-VISIBLE member presented a fake suitcase bomb as an exhibit piece. This led the FBI to investigate the gallery and take down names of participants, which Mohaiamen believes was merely a scare tactic used to enforce art censorship.

VISIBLE is effective primarily because of its members, who do not come from the same backgrounds as those featured in the exhibit. Because its members legally reside in America and often have critical resources, they are able to voice their concerns without fear of retribution. “The people most affected by all this are also the most afraid to speak up” Mohaiamen remarks. For example, the collective contacted 60 detainees and found that some had previously volunteered for projects and were investigated by the

government as a consequence. Feeling intimidated and suppressed, some refused to volunteer again for fear of repeated investigation. The struggle of this group is a difficult one, for they are already at the bottom of the social hierarchy, often do not have some form of citizenship, and are thus easily targeted due to their lack of political power.

Since 9/11 we are constantly told to be fearful the “other” in order to fight terrorism and protect our democracy. These fears materialize as discrimination and silence the voice of Muslim Americans. This art exhibit challenges that rhetoric of fear and offers a voice for the people that are marginalized in the name of “democracy.” □

www.disappearedinamerica.org

REVIEWS

[MUSICBOOKSMOVIES BUT IT'S USUALLY JUST MUSIC]

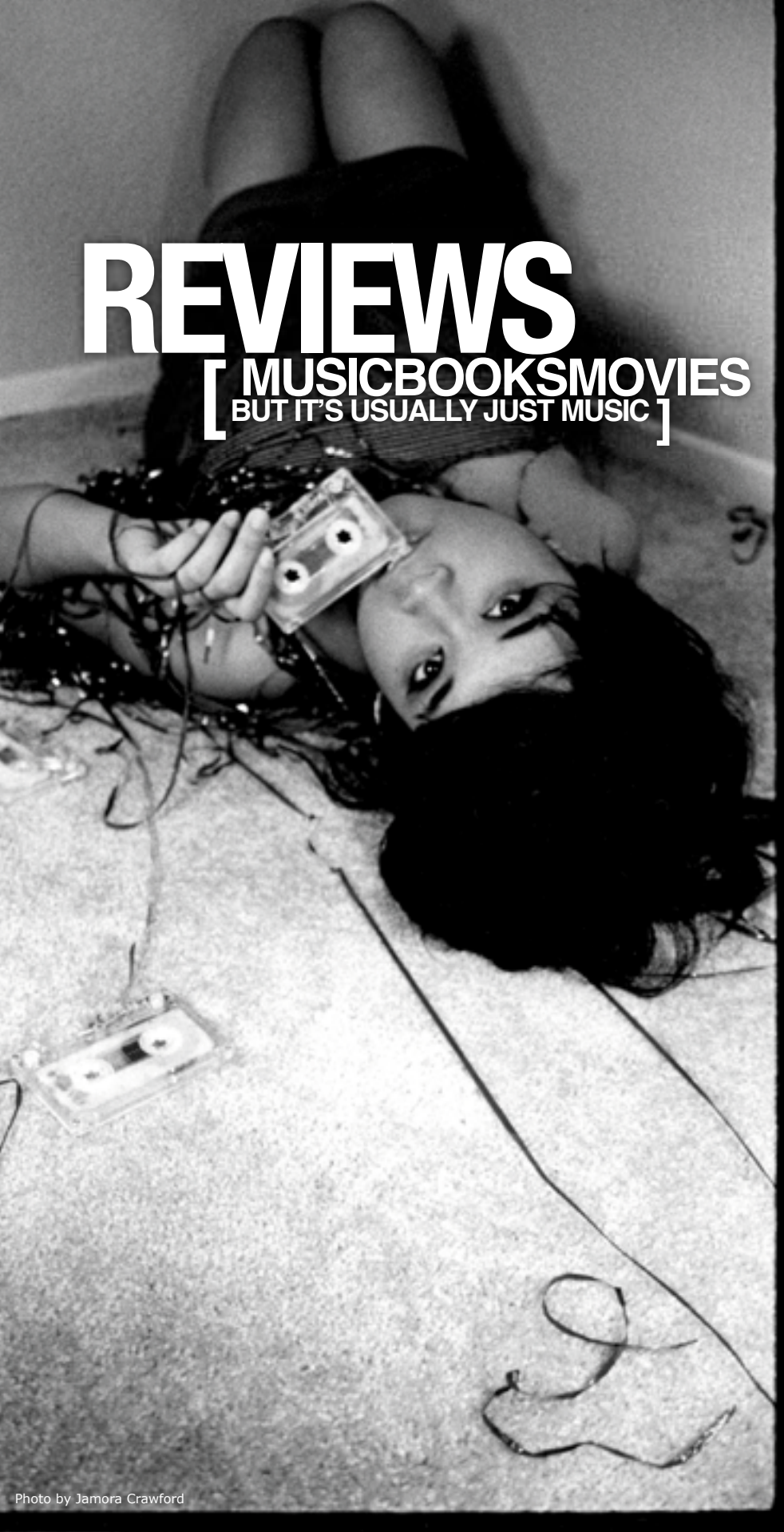


Photo by Jamora Crawford



Broken Social Scene

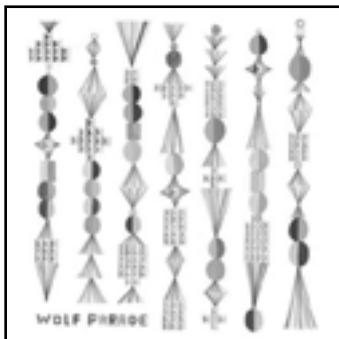
Self-Titled

Dear Canada:

Hello there, mysterious neighbors to the north. This is America. Remember us? We haven't hung out in ages! In your defense, you've been pretty busy lately, right? You guys have basically become the coolest place in North America at this point. Not that you don't deserve that title! You rightfully earned it, you multi-talented and prolific noisemakers. You had that whole Montreal "year of The Arcade Fire" deal going on, the release of Vancouver's The New Pornographers' *Twin Cinema* (which everyone is completely ga-ga over), and let's not forget the new Metric release. Speaking of Emily Haines, didn't she contribute her suave vocal musings to something else recently? Wait, am I thinking of the new Broken Social Scene full length? Correct me if I'm wrong, oh humble nation, but isn't Broken Social Scene one of the greatest collectives to make anthemic, beautiful, ethereal music in recent world history? Come on, 2003's *You Forgot It In People* is probably one of the most memorable albums in the last decade of independent music. Heck, even the uppity hipsters at Pitchfork Media, the snarkiest of all the internet indie gods, dig them. A lot. But honestly, this new album is going to be really major, despite the fact that Broken Social Scene got lazy and named it after their band. Even Franz Ferdinand wised up and decided that the whole "we can make albums without real titles and refer to them by their cover art" concept died after Weezer's ruined it with their "green" one. But we'll let it slide, because, umm, Broken Social Scene is incredibly fantastic. Okay Canada, we're starting to get the feeling that you guys don't even want to be seen with us anymore. Is that it? Have we lost our edge? Montreal, Vancouver, Saskatoon: have they replaced New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco? This is worse than the Britpop invasion, if only because you guys just snuck in through the border, under our radar, and established yourselves as the most impressive geographic name in music right now. Broken Social Scene is heartbreakingly good. It just builds and builds, then descends subtly, leaving the rest of us in awe. "Windsurfing Nation" starts up where "Almost Crimes" left off two years ago, with its enigmatic lyrics and fast-paced melody. When Haines sings, "Give me more of that beat," we say, "Give us more of everything," and then we get depressed because Canadian citizenship is really hard to get. Oh

well, if it's any consolation to us, *Degrassi* has nothing on *The OC*. Please return our calls soon.

With Affection,
The United States of America
-Kayleigh Shaw



Wolf Parade **Apologies to the Queen Mary**

The sophomore release of this quirky Canadian quartet reminds us why we still buy full-length albums, demonstrating solid production from start to finish. There's no need for song skipping on this album, as each track flows smoothly into the next. The eccentric, distorted Isaac Brock-esque vocals of Dan Boeckner and Spencer Krug force more than an initial listen. But they complement and tackle the best of lyrical bitterness and disarray in tracks like "Dear Sons and Daughters of Hungry Ghosts," and the regret-driven ballad "Dinner Bells," which is fully worthy of seven minutes of your time. With lyrics that chew you up and spit you out ("Nobody knows you and nobody gives a damn"), Wolf Parade finds the formula to draw in the masses like a Hollywood romance that you secretly kind of hope has a happy ending. But this is definitely not a Hollywood production. It's just another fine, fine addition to the ever-growing list of Canadian musical accomplishments.

-Eva Meszaros

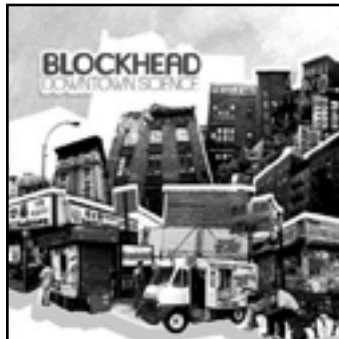


Criteria **When We Break**

Most people who give up their pursuit of a law degree don't go on to do wonderful things. Don't count Stephen Pedersen among that group of failures. In a not very anticipated (but should have been) follow-up to their debut album *En Garde*, Pedersen's band Criteria is back with even more masochistic yet original metaphors than the mind can imagine. The album is a product of former Cursive guitarist Pedersen and his mildew-infested basement, but don't let that dismay you. Between

Pedersen (vocals), AJ Mogis (bass), Mike Sweeney (drums), and Aaron Druery (guitar), Criteria is solid proof that Omaha is some kind of freakish breeding ground for new and important music. With unrelenting distortion and syncopated drum lines, *When We Break* gives you a new reason to dance around in your car. If you had Pedersen's talent, you'd probably drop out of law school and make music, too.

-Maritess Santiago



Blockhead **Downtown Science**

We all know Blockhead as the renowned NYC hip hop producer who has done impressive work for Aesop Rock and Cage. And for those of you who know the gut-busting, knee-slapping, Party Fun Action Committee, he is one of the two members. After *Music by Cavelight* dropped last March, everyone was itching to hear what Blockhead would put out next. *Downtown Science*, although on a whole other level, is comparable. The album is dedicated to his hometown Manhattan, where we are taken on a fifty-four minute journey through the atmospheric downtown streets getting a sample of everything from funk to downtempo to jazz and sweet melodic voices-12 tracks in 12 delicious flavors to satisfy all your needs. "The Art of Walking" stands out most with a funky disco flair that almost makes you want to scream "Get on the good foot!" Also on this tour is a nostalgic stroll with "Long Walk Home", a playful adventure in "Dough Nation" and the witty yet romantic "Serenade". Point is, if you haven't given it a listen yet, I suggest you do so.

-Sheena Chan



DJ Language **Real Music For Real People**

Hailing from NYC, DJ Language has gained international recognition as a selector of stellar club tunes, and is known as somewhat of a tastemaker. With his first official release on

the quality BBE imprint, this mixed compilation is an alluring excursion through a sweet blend of sultry soul, honest hip-hop, electro-influenced funk, and forward-thinking dance rhythms. The mix has a superb selection of lesser-known tracks from renowned artists such as Pete Rock, Nas, Roy Ayers, and Patrice Rushen, while luminaries of progressive crosscutting genres like the Platinum Pied Pipers, Bugz in the Attic, and DJ Spinn are also on here to open your ears and keep bodies movin' (no parking on the dance floor). An undeniably infectious guitar/synth groove on Beanfield's "Close To You (Remix)" segueing into the dubby broken-beat of LAL's freedom fighter anthem, "Brown Eyed Warrior Epilogue", is the highlight of his set, and a must-hear if you ask me. File this disc under: Future Classics.

-Dave Hu



Ladytron **Witching Hour**

Ladytron have been written off as just another product of that flash-in-the-pan, dreadful electroclash movement, which is completely unfair. They have snappy haircuts, they're Eastern European, and they wear all black, but there's much more depth to their music than most critics will admit. Their third full-length builds on the sound of their previous two albums and comes off feeling more like a record made by humans instead of machines. The album's two singles alone should be enough to demonstrate Ladytron's successful transformation into compelling dance music makers on *Witching Hour*. "Destroy Everything You Touch" showcases all their fancy bells and whistles. It's seamless and more polished than their previous cuts, which sometimes sounded choppy and disjointed. Later in the record, "Sugar" promises to be an underground dancefloor hit, not simply because it's a not-so-subtle nod to Mary-Kate's favorite meal. "If I get the sugar/will you get me/something elusive/temporary" could be Kate Moss' next campaign slogan. Plus it's a kicking good tune. Ladytron's lyrics add another layer to their rich electronic sound on *Witching Hour*. Whereas 604 seemed like randomly-drawn phrases from a telephone book being read aloud over a succession of beeps and boops, *Witching Hour* provides more of a narrative. But don't expect storytime with Ladytron. They've outgrown the tired electroclash label, but they're still too cool for school. And America.

-Kayleigh Shaw



SO HOT RIGHT NOW PLAYLIST

RECRUITMENT EDITION

TEXT BY DAVIS FETTER

When someone hands you a flyer on ring road, they're really saying "Here. You throw this away." For freshman looking to belong, there is a wealth of clubs to belong to: trash picking fraternities and hobby specific gangs. One thing is for sure, you have the whole rest of your life to ingest MTV culture. The first step towards exploring the progressive environment of higher education is to open yourself up to progressive music.

Autolux – Turnstile Blues

If you are a first year college student, READ CAREFULLY: Do not fall victim to the UCI hoodie/pajama pants combo that seems ever so comfy around campus. Please start a new trend this year: wear clothes you didn't sleep in! Unless of course you were parting so hard and you crashed at the pad of a bearded someone, which of course is totally acceptable.

Black Rebel Motorcycle Club – In Like The Rose

First off, this song is about how being cool in college requires a belly button ring and sorority MC Hammer pants... o yeah, your mom has an exotic collection of Magic The Gathering trading cards...

Sigur Rós – Hoppípolla

Ok so the internet in your dorm went down and you couldn't whine on your xanga about not being able to go home this weekend; so stay there and compare friends with your dorm buddies: do you know Jonny from Viento, or Sammy from Prado or perhaps

Benjamin Eisenstaedt from Warmwood?

Brian Jonestown Massacre – Satellite

Dear Ms. Dying On A Broken Dagger Of Death On a Somber Tuesday in September's Past, I'm sorry I didn't see that blog announcement about how you felt bad that I didn't respond to your post that one time about the new pictures you took of yourself holding a camera in the mirror to show off the new haircut you gave yourself at an awkward angle while wearing your new blazer hoodie in low lighting...

Q And Not U – Wet Work

This is what dance inspired music done tastefully sounds like. But anyway my friend met The Faint backstage and they were totally drunk and hitting on her and she said she wouldn't have sex with them; she knows all these best dance core bands like Head Automatica.

Mono – Halcyon (beautiful days)

RA's are pointless, pull pranks on them. If they have a power trip, seduce them. Then go listen to Test Icicles on myspace.

The Redwalls – Colorful Revolution

This song is about as sexually pointless as poking someone on Facebook. At least have the guts to hit on someone over aim. Don't let your conversation opener be about the Donald Duck blowjob clip circling an internet near you.

Stereophonics – Dakota

This song will remind you why metal in

any shape or form (hardcore, death, black, whatever the fuck else) is nothing more than soundtrack music to a renaissance fair.

My Bloody Valentine – Only Shallow

A girl once asked me if my engineering class was "for guys only"... O my goddddddd, my boyfriend he bought me boba (it was nasty though) but then I went with him to cyber café and he played counterstrike and ignoring me so then I called my homegirls Vivian and Tiffany to pick me up, I'm so mad at that foo. I will forgive him if he buy me necklace.

The Kinks – Sunny Afternoon

Why? It's the fucking Kinks that's why. Cunt!

Oasis – I Can See It Now

Wearing legwarmers and sandals is about as hot as a having a boyfriend back home. "Silly" is such a dainty-ass word don't you think?

The Stills – Yesterday Never Tomorrows

This exemplifies the Fall Out Boy syndrome: being straight edge yet acting like your on drugs. Real women do heroin.

Honorable Mention:

Rick Bain – I Want to Die

Ride – Cool Your Boots

Kasabian – Processed Waterfall

Having trouble finding these songs? Any suggestions for the next playlist?

Email JadedDavis@gmail.com



A MOSTLY STEREOTYPICAL PLACE THAT I'LL NEVER VISIT AGAIN

TEXT AND IMAGE BY KAYLEIGH SHAW

Don't let the phrase "Everything is bigger in Texas" fool you. Yes, everything is bigger, but what they don't tell you is that everything is also much slower and much hotter and much less attractive. And I was warned. Yes, I was warned by everyone before embarking on my weekend sojourn to the infamous Lone Star State for the fourth annual Austin City Limits music and arts festival. I was even warned by Mother Nature, who threatened to ruin my experience by projecting a category five hurricane onto the state. Fortunately for music lovers, the disaster that could have been did not materialize. Rita the Monster veered East, just flooding some streets and knocking over an Exxon sign in Texas. Unfortunately for Louisiana, the storm was still rather severe, with Kanye West probably thinking that Mother Nature REALLY doesn't care about black people. But this is about music, not hurricanes.

Austin City Limits (aclfestival.com) is a three-day event held in Austin's Zilker Park, a beautiful expanse of dirt, dust, and little things that prick your skin when you touch them. To its credit, Zilker Park is the only space where trees appear to grow naturally in Texas. They grow in a ring around a dirt field in which the festival was held. Shade was sparse, but heat and humidity were certainly abundant. There is really nothing comparable to standing shoulder to shoulder in a crowd of 60,000 people in the middle of the day with no breeze in a dirt field. I highly recommend it, if only to make people more appreciative of West Coast living.

Boasting an impressive lineup of 130 bands on 8 stages, ACL really did provide something for everyone. They had the Rolling Stone-reading baby boomer picks (Coldplay, Jet, Oasis and their egos), Seth Cohen's personal favorites (Death Cab For Cutie, Bloc Party, Rilo Kiley, et al), plenty of alt-country (Lyle Lovett and his monstrous chin), plus local acts, DJ sets, bluegrass, and reggae. There was also food of every type imaginable, and for cheaper prices than those found at any California festival. I was astounded at the cheapness of the local

eateries, as my party and I had an entire Chinese feast for a mere \$17. I thought, "If I lived here, I could live like a king!" But then I would have to live in Texas, (not the real) home of George W. Bush where minimum wage is \$5.15 an hour.

But at ACL, the anti-Bush sentiment was high. Up in the sky, an airplane banner urged "US OUT OF IRAQ NOW." It certainly wasn't Crawford. And the ACL planners certainly knew how to plan a successful festival. The amenities were plentiful, and there's nothing like a clean port-o-potty after consuming 18 gallons of water in a dustbowl. The only complaint from other ACL-goers (aside from the obvious OH MY GOD CAN IT GET ANY HOTTER? And yes, it could and did) was that this year the festival planners allowed bigger, national sponsors like Starbucks and SBC to plaster their name all over the event. It may have been bad for local businesses, but for fans, it meant lower ticket prices and the opportunity to update their blogs while drinking a Caramel Frappuccino and listening to Franz Ferdinand. How novel.

While inside the confines of the festival, it felt more like a dirtier version of Coachella rather than a true Texan experience. There was nothing distinctly Texan about ACL aside from the smell (or that could just be a red state phenomenon). The most Texan experience was elsewhere around Austin, where service was slow, driving was slower (55 mph in the fast lane! No kidding!), and "Howdy, where ya'll from?" was the most common phrase. The bands were mostly from elsewhere, most notably from the United Kingdom. During my weekend of sweat-stained music euphoria, the three bands that really delivered solid performances were Spoon, The Decemberists, and The Arcade Fire. Death Cab For Cutie disappointed, sounding languid and tired. Their new material didn't provide much excitement for the under-16 crowd who seems to love them so much. Oasis was also a crowd-pleaser, playing all their mid-90s hits while Liam sported Bono-esque shades and acted like God. Jet played their AC/DC song, then their Beatles song, and everyone in the crowd danced like they were starring in their own iPod ad. Those of us who were too tired and sunburnt to get off the dirt and stand by the end of the three-day event enjoyed the \$2 sodas and eagerly awaited getting back to civilization so that we could update our livejournals.

After spending four nights in a Days Inn which wouldn't meet the building standards of a housing project in downtown Oakland, I was eager to leave this enormous dirt field known as Texas. After a short layover in El Paso, probably the flattest and brownest expanse of land over which I have ever flown, the plane landed in Los Angeles under a blanket of light rain. Thank you, Texas, for reminding us why we are so fond of California. □

Teach For America corps members
John Carey and Crystal McQueen

Fourth graders in low-income communities are two to three grade levels behind their peers in high-income communities.

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GENERATION
MUST TAKE ON
THIS ISSUE.**

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(continued from page 11)

Policies towards fuel efficiency, however, are only primary steps in the fight against oil dependency. Eventually, policymakers should look towards alternative renewable energy sources that are both economically stable and environment-friendly. According to Environment California, "renewable energy is inexhaustible, and beyond construction and maintenance costs, free. It is less susceptible to market manipulation and supply shortages." Waterpower, wind power, solar power, and energy from hydrogen fuel cells are some of the better-known technologies out there. In his book *Energy Revolution*, Howard Gellar writes that wind power is growing in popularity, and many countries have taken advantage of the energy generated from turbines and rotor blades. Solar PV (photovoltaic) power is an alternative energy source that should ring a bell with many Californians. There must be better uses for the sun beyond achieving a cancer-inducing tan. Much effort has been devoted to research into hydrogen fuel cells. The chemical reaction between hydrogen and oxygen emits only water as its waste. In addition, hydrogen fuel cells could produce energy that would be used outside of the transportation sector.

Other, lesser-known alternative sources include geothermal energy, which uses heat from within the earth, and biomass energy. Biomass energy, according to Gellar, involves "wood, forestry, agricultural residues, and crops grown for energy use." "Energy crops" such as corn can be processed to produce ethanol. Unfortunately, the land-mass needed to grow such crops for energy use would not be enough to meet the energy demands of heavily-consuming nations such as the United States.

It is obvious that new technological advancements will require more financial investments—the IEA has named these financial contributions "learning investments": "expenditures that need to be made to bring a new technology to the point of commercial acceptance." But this is money that far too many Americans are reluctant to part with. What many people may not seem to realize is that over a period of time, this capital can be much more rewarding than what is right now being siphoned off by the oil industry. Issues concerning investments for the future seem to be recurring problems in the United States (Social Security, anyone?). Think of investing in alternative energy as diversifying your portfolio. No one should put all of his eggs in the oil industry basket.

Making the switch toward fuel efficiency and alternative energy requires gradual steps. But at the current sluggish rate at which things are advancing, the result of issues such as conflicting political interests, we'll be lucky if we manage to make a dent within our lifetimes.

Political Roadblocks

Despite the multiple solutions offered by environmentalists and economists alike, political barriers continue to obstruct the efforts to move beyond oil dependency. For example, a recent bill that proposed to build solar panels on one million roofs within ten years (SB 1, also known as the Million Solar Roofs Bill) failed in the Assembly Appropriations Committee despite broad bipartisan support because of the conflicting interests of electrical workers, carpenters, and other laborers in the industry.

The structure of the energy industry under the current system is, in itself, a formidable barrier to the adoption of efficient fuel standards and the development of alternative energy because of its close ties to politics. Presently, nuclear plants and oil companies still receive subsidies from the government. Businesses are allowed to deduct energy costs from their revenues before filing their income taxes. The energy infrastructure is organized in such a way that utility companies make a profit if people use more energy. Efforts to make sound policies continuously butt heads with the interests of oil tycoons who are reluctant to give up control of their profitable market.

The Bush administration's policies towards drilling more, digging more, and building more have not only doomed us to major setbacks in the alternative energy field but have also fueled not-so-subtle antagonism from countries around the world. It is understandably difficult to steer the United States away from Big Oil if the President himself has a stake in it. Bush's calls for conservation now are half-hearted attempts at any real solution.

The political problem surrounding oil-dependency is by no means restricted to domestic policies. Very few can deny that the need for oil has been the underlying factor guiding much of the foreign policy of the United States. *The Oil Factor* predicts that by 2010 all of the western world will depend solely on the Middle East for oil. Is it any coincidence that the United States seems to have such a strong presence in this very area? Researchers predict that Iraq is the home of the second largest oil reserve in the world. Bush's indefinite timeline of the war in Iraq seems more of a weak pretext for making further advancements in the oil industry rather than an estimate of the effort needed to establish democracy overseas.

As long as the United States makes it a priority to petulantly guard its position as the #1 World Power, the conflict in Iraq may conveniently be pushed back indefinitely and policies towards sustainable development will keep struggling through the political bog. Meanwhile, people worldwide will suffer the consequences—economic, political, environmental, and social—of such myopic policies. □

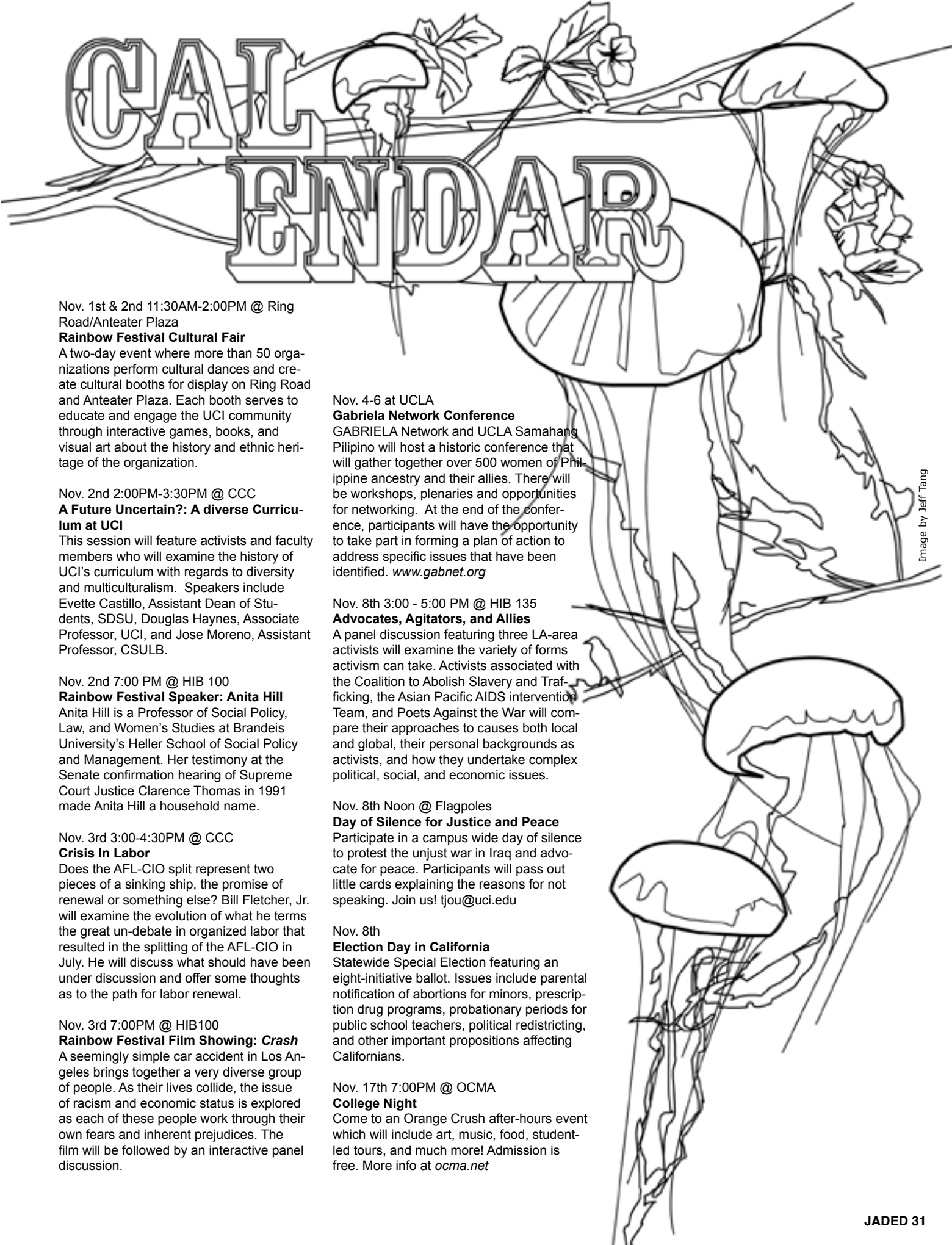


THE CAMBODIAN FAMILY Fundraising Dinner

Help sustain
The Cambodian Family's
commitment to community
services such as job
placement, english classes,
and childcare.

Friday, November 4, 2005
6 PM to 10 PM
University Club @ UC Irvine

CAL ENDAR



Nov. 1st & 2nd 11:30AM-2:00PM @ Ring Road/Anteater Plaza

Rainbow Festival Cultural Fair

A two-day event where more than 50 organizations perform cultural dances and create cultural booths for display on Ring Road and Anteater Plaza. Each booth serves to educate and engage the UCI community through interactive games, books, and visual art about the history and ethnic heritage of the organization.

Nov. 2nd 2:00PM-3:30PM @ CCC

A Future Uncertain?: A diverse Curriculum at UCI

This session will feature activists and faculty members who will examine the history of UCI's curriculum with regards to diversity and multiculturalism. Speakers include Evette Castillo, Assistant Dean of Students, SDSU, Douglas Haynes, Associate Professor, UCI, and Jose Moreno, Assistant Professor, CSULB.

Nov. 2nd 7:00 PM @ HIB 100

Rainbow Festival Speaker: Anita Hill

Anita Hill is a Professor of Social Policy, Law, and Women's Studies at Brandeis University's Heller School of Social Policy and Management. Her testimony at the Senate confirmation hearing of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas in 1991 made Anita Hill a household name.

Nov. 3rd 3:00-4:30PM @ CCC

Crisis In Labor

Does the AFL-CIO split represent two pieces of a sinking ship, the promise of renewal or something else? Bill Fletcher, Jr. will examine the evolution of what he terms the great un-debate in organized labor that resulted in the splitting of the AFL-CIO in July. He will discuss what should have been under discussion and offer some thoughts as to the path for labor renewal.

Nov. 3rd 7:00PM @ HIB100

Rainbow Festival Film Showing: Crash

A seemingly simple car accident in Los Angeles brings together a very diverse group of people. As their lives collide, the issue of racism and economic status is explored as each of these people work through their own fears and inherent prejudices. The film will be followed by an interactive panel discussion.

Nov. 4-6 at UCLA

Gabriela Network Conference

GABRIELA Network and UCLA Samahang Pilipino will host a historic conference that will gather together over 500 women of Philippine ancestry and their allies. There will be workshops, plenaries and opportunities for networking. At the end of the conference, participants will have the opportunity to take part in forming a plan of action to address specific issues that have been identified. www.gabnet.org

Nov. 8th 3:00 - 5:00 PM @ HIB 135

Advocates, Agitators, and Allies

A panel discussion featuring three LA-area activists will examine the variety of forms activism can take. Activists associated with the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking, the Asian Pacific AIDS intervention Team, and Poets Against the War will compare their approaches to causes both local and global, their personal backgrounds as activists, and how they undertake complex political, social, and economic issues.

Nov. 8th Noon @ Flagpoles

Day of Silence for Justice and Peace

Participate in a campus wide day of silence to protest the unjust war in Iraq and advocate for peace. Participants will pass out little cards explaining the reasons for not speaking. Join us! tjou@uci.edu

Nov. 8th

Election Day in California

Statewide Special Election featuring an eight-initiative ballot. Issues include parental notification of abortions for minors, prescription drug programs, probationary periods for public school teachers, political redistricting, and other important propositions affecting Californians.

Nov. 17th 7:00PM @ OCMA

College Night

Come to an Orange Crush after-hours event which will include art, music, food, student-led tours, and much more! Admission is free. More info at ocma.net

Image by Jeff Tang



