

Jaded

PROGRESSIVE CULTURE FOR ALL

ISSUE 8

WINTER 2006

www.jadedmag.org





WELCOME

The complete disregard for the welfare of the service workers at UCI is truly a shame for the university and the students. Issue eight of Jaded focuses on issues of labor and the current labor campaign on our campus. Injustices in labor are entrenched in profits and perpetuated through structural policies. We extend the discussion topic of technological replacement of human services, the politics of a master planned city, the vigilante movement against immigrant labor and a photo essay of landscape workers at UCI. We also illuminate positive ideas such as a non-profit café/gallery/community space, a chain store dedicated to selling fairly traded handicrafts, and a website that maps public fruit trees.

Students of the university are privileged with visibility and the power to affect change. Please show your support to the workers with a simple greeting at the dining halls, signing a petition, expressing your concerns to the administration, or joining the student movement in getting the workers the benefits they deserve.

Diana Jou

MISSION STATEMENT

Jaded is an alternative media magazine aim to encourage political, cultural and social discourse among UCI students. This magazine was founded and supported by the Asian American community. Jaded remains respectful and committed to contemporary Asian American issues. We hope to build connections and bridge gaps between different people of color and background. The goal of this publication is not only to provide a space where students can voice different opinions and artistic expressions, but also serve as a form of community activism through education and awareness.

COVERS

Front and inside covers by Chris Dea
Back cover by Jeff Tang and Albert Ok



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

6 BOOP BEEP BLEEP BLOOP
By Patrick Appel
Explores how technology affects the role of service workers and society.

8 MINUTEMEN ON PARADE
By Crystal Hwang
A group of vigilantes attack immigrants through "grassroot" tactics.

10 ARAMARK: THE NEW BULLY ON CAMPUS
By Julianne Hing
A brief history of food service corporation, Aramark.

12 ORGANIZED - PHOTO ESSAY
By Chris Dea
Portraits of UCI landscaping workers.

20 SPEAKING OUT: INTERVIEW WITH EDUARDA
By Diana Jou
A small peek into the life of a woman that has worked for Aramark for 31 years.

22 SAFETY FIRST
By Patrick Appel
The politics of suburban living.

30 SOLART
By Kayleigh Shaw
One Santa Ana activist's vision becomes a non-profit hangout.

- 4 HODGE PODGE
- 5 DARFUR ACTION COMMITTEE AT UCI
- 11 FIGHTING LABOR ABUSE AT UCI
- 24 FALLEN FRUIT
- 25 TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES
- 26 CD REVIEWS
- 28 SO HOT RIGHT NOW PLAYLIST
- 31 CALENDAR

WORKER BEES

Editor in Chief
Diana Jou

Creative Director
Chris Dea

Executive Editor
Julianne Ong Hing

Entertainment Editor
Kayleigh Shaw

Assistant Editor
Eileen Rosete

Staff
Patrick Appel
Davis Fetter
Grace Hsiang
Crystal Hwang
Eva Meszaros
Nick Refuerzo

Visuals
Jamora Crawford
Albert Ok
Jeff Tang

Guest Contributors
Steven Ma
Azael Prendez
Alexandra Piotrowski

External Affairs Coordinators
Rosanna Huang
Annie Ly

External Affairs
Charla Batey
Stephanie Chen
Jane Choi
Ingrid Cruz
Chelsey Liwag-Estrada
Juwin Viray

Visit our website for exclusive materials and updates.

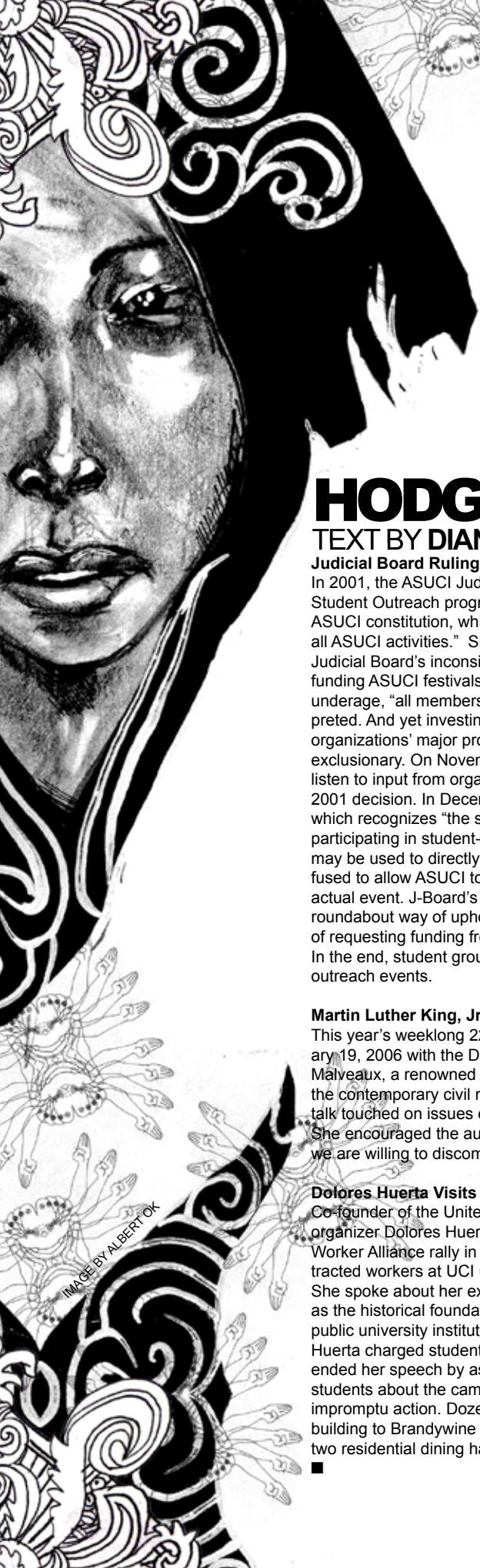
www.jadedmag.org

Questions? Comments? Criticisms?
Send them all to comments@jadedmag.org.
First twenty emails will get Jaded pins. Critical commentaries are welcomed.

Published with support from the Center for American Progress /
Campus Progress online at campusprogress.org.

DISCLAIMER

The ideas and opinions of the articles do not necessarily reflect those of the entire Jaded staff or UCI.



HODGE PODGE

TEXT BY DIANA AND JULIANNE

Judicial Board Ruling on Student Initiated Outreach

In 2001, the ASUCI Judicial Board decided that funding for High School Student Outreach programs was unconstitutional in its interpretation of the ASUCI constitution, which says "all members shall be able to participate in all ASUCI activities." Since then, student groups have spoken out against Judicial Board's inconsistent enforcement of its ruling. When it came to funding ASUCI festivals that gave away free beer with 60% of the campus underage, "all members...shall be able to participate" was liberally interpreted. And yet investing in our local communities and supporting student organizations' major programs was not financed because it was deemed exclusionary. On November 17, 2005 the Judicial Board had a hearing to listen to input from organization representatives before it reconsidered its 2001 decision. In December the Judicial Board released their decision, which recognizes "the skills and development that UCI students gain from participating in student-initiated outreach and deems that ASUCI funds may be used to directly fund that development." However, J-Board refused to allow ASUCI to fund transportation, food, or any supplies for the actual event. J-Board's seemingly conciliatory decision is actually just a roundabout way of upholding its previous ruling. There is currently no way of requesting funding from ASUCI for "leadership development" programs. In the end, student groups still won't get any funding for their high school outreach events.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium 2006

This year's weeklong 22nd annual MLK Symposium concluded on January 19, 2006 with the Dr. Joseph L White keynote speech by Dr. Julianne Malveaux, a renowned economist, writer, and editor. Malveaux reframed the contemporary civil rights struggle as a fight for economic justice. Her talk touched on issues of urban poverty, the war in Iraq, and voting rights. She encouraged the audience to reflect on whether and "to what extent we are willing to discomfort ourselves to put justice back in business."

Dolores Huerta Visits UCI in Support of Workers

Co-founder of the United Farm Workers (UFW) union and lifelong labor organizer Dolores Huerta took part in the January 17, 2006 Student-Worker Alliance rally in support of the current campaign to bring subcontracted workers at UCI under direct University of California employment. She spoke about her experience as an organizer and UC Regent, as well as the historical foundations of the University of California system as a public university institution that was intended to democratize education. Huerta charged students with "taking back your public university," and ended her speech by asking all the students present to educate ten other students about the campus movement. The successful rally ended with an impromptu action. Dozens of students marched from the Administration building to Brandywine and Pippin Dining Halls to demonstrate in front of two residential dining halls that are operated by subcontracted companies.

frankandfrank by CHRIS APPLEHANS

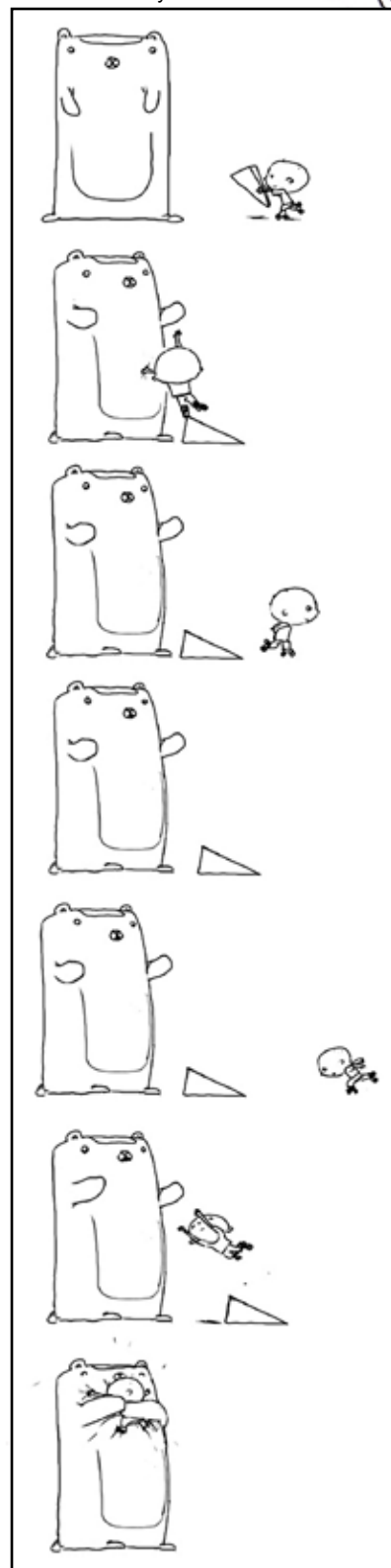


IMAGE BY ALBERT OK



DARFUR ACTION COMMITTEE AT UCI

TEXT BY YVETTE SHIRINIAN AND SEVANA SAMMIS

IMAGE BY ALBERT OK

As of today, over 400,000 civilians in Sudan have been murdered and 2.5 million more have been displaced from their homes as a result of an ongoing genocide in the country's northwestern region of Darfur. After the Holocaust international leaders promised that "never again" would the global community stand idly by as repressive regimes killed citizens of the world. We have heard the words "never again" echo through each decade, each continent, and successive genocides in Cambodia, Indonesia, and Rwanda. The world is now face to face with the genocide in Darfur. Although both the United States and the United Nations have formally recognized the crisis as a genocide, the US has done little to end the mass murders, and the genocide remains very distant in the world.

As far as Darfur is from Orange County, UC Irvine students have a very intimate connection with the genocide taking place right now. The University of California is the largest public university in the world with a \$64 billion endowment and over \$4 billion in foreign investments. Some of these foreign investments are in Sudanese companies that have funded the genocide. Thus, there is a very intimate connection between UC students who pay both state taxes and tuition to the UC Regents every quarter and the lives of millions of Sudanese. The UC Regents have taken student tuition and state monies and invested them in the name of the University of California in a country that is embroiled in a campaign of state-sanctioned mass murder. However far removed we would like to believe we are from events taking place on the other side of the world, students are inextricably tied to global issues.

The current genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan has roots in the civil war that devastated Sudan for twenty years. Although a peace agreement was signed to officially end this North and South conflict in January of 2005, the crisis is far from over. During the civil war many rebel groups were formed against the government. As a result, since 2003, the government has sponsored the Janjaweed militia to "clear out" members of defiant rebel forces and any persons that appear disloyal to the government. Most of the 400,000 civilians who have been murdered have no affiliation with the rebel groups, and the 2.5 million Sudanese who have been displaced from their homes are now refugees in their own country. These internally displaced people now face the threat of rapidly spreading diseases and famine. Although both the United Nations and the United States government have declared the situation in Darfur a humanitarian crisis, international efforts have done little to end the genocide. According to U.N reports, "the situation seems to have deteriorated substantially and become even more complex." Many attribute this to "the almost inevitable consequence of the

world's meager response to date," according to McGeorge University Professor Gerald Caplan.

Darfur Action Committee (DAC) at UCI is a newly formed chapter of DAC's at other UC campuses that is dedicated to raising awareness about the current humanitarian crisis in Darfur. This quarter our primary campaign is to educate the campus about the current situation in Sudan. Some may question why we should care or get involved in the situation in Darfur, which has no obvious impact on our personal lives. However, with the UC investments in Sudan, the genocide concerns all UC students.

Last year students from different UC campuses formed the UC Divestment Taskforce. This group is working with the University of California to develop a Sudan Divestment Strategy that would require the UC to divest funds from companies that support Sudan's actions. The goal of this divestment plan is to condemn the Sudanese government and pressure them to stop the ethnic cleansing through economic pressure. On Thursday, January 19, 2005 the UC Regents voted on the Sudan Divestment Strategy at their meeting at UCSD. Darfur Action Committee at UCI traveled to UCSD to show their support for this proposal, and we were accompanied by hundreds of fellow DAC members from other UC schools. We attended the UC Regents meeting where we were able to show the UC Regents personally that we will not let our dollars contribute to the genocide in Darfur. When it came time for the UC Regents to vote on the Divestment proposal, all UC students in the meeting stood up and linked arms together. We rejoiced when all but one UC Regent voted to support the UC Divestment Strategy and promised to revisit this issue in March at the next UC Regent meeting. Students outside the meeting rallied, carrying photos of victims of the violence in Sudan chanting, "No more dollars, no more dying." The UC Regents voted to form a committee that will include Regents, faculty members and students. This committee will deliver a detailed plan for divestment at the next UC Regents meeting at UCLA.

Darfur Action Committee at UCI consists of a group of committed students who will not remain silent and tolerate the genocide in Darfur. DAC is open to all students who are dedicated to the honest fulfillment of the promise of "Never Again." If you are willing to take a stand against the genocide in Darfur, we invite to join us in our collective fight. ■

For information visit: www.ucdivestsudan.com or email dac_uci@yahoo.com. Sign the online petition in support of divestment at: <http://www.sudanactivism.com/campaigns/uc>

BOOP BEEP BLEEP BLOOP

TEXT BY PATRICK APPEL



Machines are often represented by the entertainment industry as objects to fear. Metallic armies and blood-thirsty robots are commonplace. Little attention is paid to the less glamorous, but far more threatening, influence of machines on social interaction. The real problem with a machine driven society isn't the machines themselves; it is the relationships they create, or rather, the relationships they replace.

The wave of self-service technology has bludgeoned an already disintegrating social environment. The machines sit in self-checkout lines and airport kiosks; they make up automated gas-pumps and ATMs. This mass of touch sensitive screens and brightly colored displays has created a new, more complex era of biological and technological interaction. Not only are these machines replacing the labor of an individual, they are also replacing that individual's role in society, thereby serving as a surrogate social being.

Social interaction with those in the service industry has long been controlled through lists of approved phrases and standardized verbal responses. Everything from "Did you find what you were looking for?" to "Have a nice day" is corporately mandated. Now, by filtering that interaction through machine substitutes, service workers aren't even allowed this level of social engagement. Corporations' prioritization of profits over quality service, apparent in their use of cost-effective self-checkout machines, increasingly prevents an acknowledgement of those who provide basic services.

Consumer support allows service workers a chance to keep employers accountable. If consumers and workers are able to forge a symbiotic relationship, then workers' rights are somewhat protected through proximity to the economic base. The reduced human contact produced by self-service machines has the adverse side effect of reducing the power of personal networks. Employers aren't necessarily looking to fix this social divide. As explained

"Self-service machines, because they are cost-effective, are expected to continue to replace service workers over the next few years. Since 1996 ATM's have more than doubled, with over 200,000 new machines added nationwide. Self checkout technology, which has been used for an estimated 161 billion dollars in purchases this last year, is expected to nearly triple to 450 billion dollars by 2008."

by Judith Stepan-Norris, a UCI Professor of Sociology, "It is against the interest of employers to allow [too strong of] a connection between their workforce and the customer base" because workers gain control. Self-checkout machines therefore maximize profits not only in their inherent cost effectiveness, but also by reducing human workers' bargaining power.

Jill Cashen, a representative for the United Food & Commercial Workers International Union, provided a union stance on the matter, mostly regarding the effects of self-checkouts in grocery stores. Cashen explained, "Focus groups [and] our polling have shown that customers identify with cashiers more than any other employee in the grocery store. They feel personally connected with the cashier." Again, this is why machine substitution is so threatening; it destroys the power that workers gain through social interaction. The personal connection to the cashier is severed by the machine. The 2004 Albertson's and Ralphs strike depended on customer support. The strike's failure was ultimately also a social failure; these machines only encouraged social isolation.

Ironically, this type of technological integration isn't just an unhealthy social practice, it isn't significantly beneficial to the customer either. IHL Consulting Group, a company which supplies informational reports on self-service machines to corporations, has reported that there are two psychological reasons people think self-checkouts are faster: "There typically is a smaller line at the self-checkout counter than the express lane, and...the personal involvement in the scanning process creates an active, rather than passive process [which] appears to make the time pass faster." However, IHL has found that though "the customer typically perceives that the self-checkout process is faster than a staffed checkout... the actual transaction process is faster with staffed checkout because of the experience of the checker and

the avoidance of delays from the security features of the self-checkout devices." Customers use these machines because of the allure of convenience, and yet they actually receive slower service.

Due to their cost effectiveness, self-service machines are expected to continue to replace service workers over the next few years. Since 1996 ATM's have more than doubled, with over 200,000 new machines added nationwide. Self-checkout technology, which has been used for an estimated \$161 billion dollars in purchases this last year, is expected to nearly triple to \$450 billion dollars by 2008. This massive increase threatens to impact numerous jobs beyond the grocery store and bank. For instance, the vending machine industry is no longer limited to soda and snacks; everything from iPods to digital cameras can be bought from Zoom Shops, which are machines being marketed as electronics store substitutes. The fast food industry has been experimenting with self-service ordering machines. These advances distance the workers from those they serve. The social means of consumerism are separated from the ends. Likewise, the expansion of online spending makes workers invisible. Cardboard boxes appear on doorsteps almost as if by magic. Social interaction dissipates and worker power diminishes as the number of places employing these kinds of technologies grows.

This transformation of the service industry into a self-service industry is only one of many attempts at mechanizing everyday rituals. In post-industrial society, mostly services and information are exchanged, rather than manufactured goods. Roughly 70 percent of the workforce is in the service industry, in jobs ranging from lawyer in a major corporation to burger flipper at a fast food joint. While the former professional may seem exempt from the politics of technological replacement, office jobs are likewise impacted by industry change. Computer systems serve as virtual

bosses, and software reduces the necessity of technical knowledge. Also, as with the grocery store clerk, there are a number of set procedures and technologies which prevent corporate employees from gaining the complete confidence of their clients. Corporations decide which relationships to foster and which to destroy. Workers in all fields are therefore becoming more controlled, and more alienated.

People talk about machines taking over the world as if it hasn't happened already. While they worry about their computers becoming self-aware, a concept projected into their minds by the media, the value of human interaction is slowly eroded. Machines are the mechanisms of such erosion, but not the culprit. Whether using a self-checkout machine or placing an order through online shopping, consumers are molding a new, machine driven social environment – an environment where genuine cultural interactivity is routinely replaced by the mere illusion of it.

Unfortunately, in our fast paced, highly competitive society, the necessity of social interaction is often neglected and overshadowed by desires for personal wealth. As with the self-checkouts, the illusion of convenience readily replaces its true form. In order to slow this cultural suicide, a reversal of consumer priorities is necessary. Refusal of and creative misuse of technological infrastructures is a first step in that direction. However, the solution isn't nearly that simple. There must be an understanding of the relationships people have with machines, particularly when these relationships threaten both the livelihood and social function, of an individual. Overall, the cost-cutting ventures of businesses need to be carefully considered. They need more than just to make sense economically. They also need to protect the most valuable natural resource there is: the human community. ■

MINUTEMEN ON PARADE

TEXT BY CRYSTAL HWANG
IMAGE BY CHRIS DEA



“ONWARD TO SECURE OUR BORDERS FOR GOD AND COUNTRY” reads a poster for the Minuteman Civil Defense Corps, an organization that has its roots in the notorious Minuteman Project that began in April 2005. Directed by Jim Gilchrist, a retired Orange County resident, the Minuteman Project was a month-long operation that rallied 1,000 volunteers around the nation to patrol a section of the Arizona-Mexico border for the entire month of April in order to stop immigrants from crossing illegally. Organizers claimed that their sole objective was to observe and report incidents of illegal border crossing, but many members with concealed state weapon permits were (and still are) allowed to patrol the border with guns. Although the Minuteman Project concluded after about 18 days and only 200 or so people showing up with pick-up trucks and lawn chairs to camp out on the border, efforts to recruit members to the organization have persisted and local chapters have sprung up in various states as far north as Illinois. In a move to expand membership, the organization has begun advertising via the internet, with spokesman Chris Simcox calling out on the Minuteman Headquarters webpage for volunteers to join “the most important, socially responsible, and peaceful movement for justice since the civil rights movement of the 1960s.” Volunteers are encouraged to take action since the federal government has failed to offer “the citizens of the United States protection from people who wish to take advantage of a free society.”

Throughout U.S. history, immigrants have been widely represented as threats to national security and have functioned conveniently as scapegoats for all manners of societal ills and economic crises. Eastern Europeans, Chinese laborers, and other hyphenated Americans have periodically been subject to waves of anti-immigrant backlash and characterized as a threat to society. This is usually sufficient to “justify” government indifference to their dispossession and exclusion from citizenship and the civil protections that accompany it. Although the Minutemen claim to be indicting the federal government for its failure to “secure our borders,” the group’s focus has primarily

the outsourcing of labor since the 1970s have resulted in a shrinking of the middle class and growing disparity between the extremely wealthy and the destitute. Yet, the state’s continuing indifference to the disenfranchisement of its people and its sponsorship of big business at the expense of the average working citizen is obscured and focus is rhetorically shifted to the “crisis” of illegal immigration.

Anxiety over national security and economic crises is channeled into anti-immigrant sentiment and the scapegoating of “illegals.” Why not? The “illegal alien” is an easy target: she lives in constant fear of deportation and therefore is an easily exploitable source for cheap labor, and lacks any protections afforded citizens under our Constitution. Not only is there a sleight-of-hand maneuver in which the state transfers the blame to immigrant laborers, there is also a bizarre inversion of power in which the vulnerable and exploited undocumented immigrant becomes a source of fear for American citizens who in fact occupy a distinctly privileged position of power. Immigrants are portrayed as menacing hordes who steal jobs from Americans and wreak havoc on the economy, and the government is seen as failing to protect its citizens. Yet nowhere in this discourse is the government exposed or criticized for its complicity with corporations in implementing economic policies that create unemployment and increase inequality.

The government indirectly authorizes the actions of the Minutemen in its inconsistent enforcement of the law. Local law enforcement agencies have been silencing opposition to the Minutemen by arresting and prosecuting protesters while ignoring the unlawful actions of Minutemen members. On May 28, 2005, Jim Gilchrist spoke to the California Coalition for Immigration Reform at the Garden Grove Women’s club. Minuteman supporters, including the white supremacist organization National Alliance, as well as various student-based and immigrant support groups arrived to voice their support and opposition outside the club. The Garden Grove police arrested five protesters, charging them with numerous counts including “assaulting a police officer with a deadly weapon” (water bottles were allegedly thrown at random from the crowd). Meanwhile Hal Netkin, a Minuteman sup-

“THE EMERGENCE OF THE MINUTEMEN IS INDICATIVE OF A LARGER ASSUMPTION THAT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS ARE THE CAUSE OF PROBLEMS AND THEREFORE DO NOT BELONG IN OUR SOCIETY.”

been directed towards undocumented immigrants. Members from the self-described “truly patriotic nationalist” group have recently begun targeting laborers at day labor sites, following and photographing workers who congregate at these sites to wait for work opportunities. The Minutemen claim that laborers are taking jobs that do not rightfully belong to them. Jim Gilchrist blames illegal immigration for the nation’s “floundering public education, bankrupt hospitals and criminal cartels.”

But it is not just the Minutemen who are blaming societal ills and economic problems on illegal immigrants. The media is responsible for propagating this one-sided view of undocumented immigration. Dominant media coverage of the Minuteman Project ranges from valorizing the actions of the “concerned citizens” to criticizing the volunteers for occasionally taking extreme measures. Yet underlying even the most critical media reports is the tacit assumption that illegal immigration is the serious problem. Articles covering the recent actions of Minutemen seldom refrain from including commentary about the current border situation as it “continues to sink into chaos.” Media coverage often quotes interviews with county sheriffs, state governors and other figures of authority who agree that the threat of terrorists and criminals seeping in through the “porous” border is so serious that they “cannot wait for the federal government to implement needed border security measures.” Even California’s own beloved governor Arnold Schwarzenegger commended the actions of the Minutemen, claiming they were doing “a terrific job” during an interview on KFI, a Los Angeles radio station on April 28, 2005. By substantiating the claim that illegal immigration is a crisis, the media is discursively justifying the actions of the Minutemen as an understandable, albeit misguided, attempt to address a legitimate national concern.

The media also frames public perception of illegal immigration as a domestic social problem, deemphasizing the impact of the government’s implementation of economic policies which produce inequality. Anxiety over economic decline is easily addressed by diverting attention to the visible “torrential flow of aliens coming across the border,” as Senate Majority leader Bill Frist sees it. Corporate downsizing and

porter, drove through a crowd of protesters while leaving the event, injuring several individuals. After reviewing a tape of the incident, the Garden Grove police released Hal Netkin without a citation, claiming his actions were justified since the protesters were crowding around his van.

Authorities have also been reluctant to penalize those who have confronted immigrants crossing the border. A man boasted without impunity to a local newspaper about an incident where he pointed a gun in the face of a would-be border crosser, forcing him to turn back. Another confrontation involved three Minuteman Project volunteers who apprehended a 25-year-old man and persuaded him to pose for a picture holding a shirt that read, “Bryan Barton caught me crossing the border and all I got was this lousy T-shirt.” The Sheriff’s office of Cochise County in Arizona cleared the Minuteman volunteer of any wrongdoing.

The selective enforcement of the law is a testament to the state’s deeply rooted enmity towards immigrants. State sanctioned anti-immigrant sentiment not only downplays government and corporate accountability, but also secures a docile, exploitable source of cheap labor necessary to the survival of major sectors of our economy. The widespread representation of immigrants as the cause of social and economic instability fosters antagonism that leads to anti-immigrant political measures which only further marginalize immigrant communities, documented and undocumented alike.

The emergence of the Minutemen is indicative of a larger assumption that illegal immigrants are the cause of problems and therefore do not belong in our society. The rhetoric of “regaining control of our borders” is thus a thinly veiled slogan for excluding “undesirables” from the body politic, safeguarding the privileges and protections of citizenship for “deserving” citizens (white propertied heterosexual males) and securing the cheap exploitation of undocumented immigrants. The state maintains its legitimacy, citizens find an easily identifiable problem with a quick solution, and capitalistic enterprise continues to flourish. ■

ARAMARK: THE NEW BULLY ON CAMPUS

GETTING AHEAD ON THE BACKS OF OTHERS

TEXT BY JULIANNE ONG HING

In the summer of 2004, when student government and campus groups were on hiatus and the pace on the already quiet UCI campus slowed to a crawl, a multi-million dollar contract was quietly signed that forever altered the underpinnings of the socioeconomic landscape of UC Irvine.

The now-gutted Student Center was scheduled to come down and many contracts in the food court it housed were about to expire. After years of managing separate and sometimes unstable vendors for every food outlet on campus, the University was desperate for a convenient food provider that had the capability of keeping pace with the expanding campus. With one eye on its pocketbook and another focused on the future, the University turned to Aramark Corporation, one of the nation's largest food and vending service providers. During that summer UCI administration signed a contract that gave Aramark total control of all food options on campus. Aramark's pre-existing management of residential dining halls in Mesa Court and Middle Earth Housing was extended to include Cornerstone Café, Phoenix Grille, BC's Cavern on the Green, Cyber A Café, and the outdoor food carts scattered throughout campus.

For the University, Aramark was a safe option. By consolidating all of the food providers under a single management, UC Irvine would have none of the annoyance of dealing with individual companies and their fickle business. It didn't hurt either that Aramark offered to pay for \$2 million dollars worth of kitchen equipment in the new Student Center. Ray Giang, ASUCI Executive Vice President of Administrative Affairs, commented that along with the other benefits of consolidation (fiscal stability and sheer convenience) Aramark provided, "to be honest, the University gets a bigger kickback, too." Relinquishing control of campus food operations to Aramark has been a panacea for UC Irvine administrators who were more than willing to outsource the headache of food operations to an outside company.

But all of this – the expediency and shiny new oven ranges – comes at a heavy price. Aramark Corporation is consistently named as a Forbes 500 top performing company, and also has a reputation for unjust



labor practices. The corporation is able to outperform its competitors by cutting costs off the backs of its workers. The health insurance plan Aramark offers its employees is so limited in its services but requires a monthly premium that is so high that many of its workers forego health insurance altogether. Aramark's starting wages are \$8.50 per hour, but some food service employees who have worked at UCI for over twenty years are still making the same amount they did when they started. Most appalling, many full time Aramark employees qualify for public assistance and rely on Medi-cal, low-income housing, and other social programs. UC Irvine has entrusted the entirety of the campus food options to a company whose central business tenet prioritizes profits over people.

But just because these workers prepare and serve food on the UC Irvine campus in our residential dining halls, they are not afforded the same rights as UC service employees. Aramark Corporation prohibits its workers from organizing or unionizing to fight

for higher wages. An ongoing student-worker struggle to bring Aramark workers "in house" would make them official employees of the University of California and automatically give them the protection of a labor union, along with extensive and inexpensive health coverage, and options for a pension plan.

It is not just workers at UCI who are hurt by Aramark's presence on campus. Unless students organize and act we, too, are at the mercy of the corporation. Giang acknowledged that Aramark "could theoretically be very good [for students], but the problem is that now, it's essentially a monopoly and they do have the opportunity to gouge students and have poor food quality."

UC Irvine is the last UC campus that subcontracts its food services. Students at UCLA, UCSD, UCSF, and UCSC have in recent years successfully organized to bring their formerly outsourced workers under direct University of California employment. Outsourcing our service workers and overcharging our students can and must end now. ■

FIGHTING LABOR ABUSE AT UCI

TEXT BY DIANA JOU



A group of students has joined together with workers and AFSCME (American Federation of State, County, Municipal, Employees) Union, Local 3299 to fight for better wages and affordable healthcare for the hundreds of food service and maintenance workers employed by Aramark Corporation and Commercial Landscaping Services (CLS) at UCI. When the Student-Worker Alliance officially went public with its campaign on October 26, 2005, the students and AFSCME held a press conference and a rally next to the Administration building. The rally attracted almost 200 students and workers. A four-page research paper that was distributed revealed shocking details about labor abuse at UCI.

While the workers lack the voice and the power to directly challenge their current conditions, students, who are in a unique position of privilege, have the power to make their concerns heard. The students have been one of the major pulling forces in the labor campaign and the student-worker coalition is currently mobilizing around the movement to get all subcontracted food service workers and landscape workers hired as official employees of UCI. Employees of the University of California system have access to UC benefits, a significantly higher hourly wage, and labor union representation. The student labor coalition is comprised of students from M.E.Ch.A, Students for Peace and Justice, Asian Pacific Student Association (APSA), the Muslim Student Union (MSU) and other unaffiliated students from the general student body. This labor issue is

not just about students helping the workers with their cause; students recognize that this fight is a collective struggle. Daisy Chavez, lead student organizer, explains, "We began to do more student activism in the sense that we took control of the labor campaign. The union is the source but not really leading or controlling the student activism."

Current talks with Vice Chancellor Manuel Gomez, Gail Brooks of Human Resources, and Executive Vice Chancellor Michael Gottfredson are proving less successful. The administration has the power to change how the workers on campus are managed and treated, but as Chavez explains, "The negotiations have been really tough. We kind of hit a wall. They refuse to make any real deals with us... It seems like they were just going in circles."

Meanwhile, the student labor coalition has focused on a consciousness raising campaign by passing out flyers, educating students with classroom announcements, and collecting over 700 signatures for a petition intended for UCI administration.

Since ASUCI has worked closely with Aramark in catering for their events, the student labor coalition also made the president of ASUCI more aware of what's going on with Aramark and CLS. "To some extent they are held accountable, they get free catering from Aramark. We just want to make sure they are aware of what's going on. They have decided to support us, so they are on board to speak with administrators," explains Chavez.

Negotiation with administrators is one of the coalition's greatest challenges; the other

is organizing the workers. Although state and federal laws protect the workers' right to organize, and UC management have promised that they will not tolerate any intimidation tactics from Aramark and CLS, the workers are still scared. It is natural for the workers who don't have a voice on campus and are basically invisible to feel like they have everything to lose. Juan Castillo, AFSCME Local 3299 organizer, gives an example of a tactic used by the managers to intimidate the CLS workers, "The manager had a meeting with the worker informing them they didn't have enough money to bring them in-house. And if the university decides to take them, they were only going to take 20 and the other 40 were going to be unemployed." Ironically, the threats came on the same day the university promised not to tolerate any intimidation.

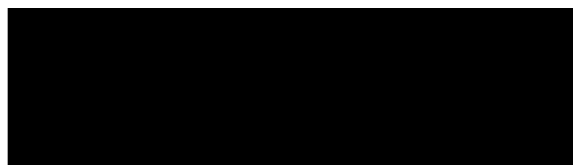
Because intimidation tactics are illegal and the University can actually be sued for prohibiting workers from unionizing, the next day the manager said he wasn't going to say anything against the union anymore and the workers were free to organize. Before the CLS workers didn't have any benefits at all and no paid holidays. The actions and pressures put on by AFSCME and the students are working bit by bit. Castillo says, "On Thanksgiving they paid them on Friday and they got paid on Christmas and New Year. They are really happy. Some of the people that were not convinced, they're saying, 'wow, it's working'. And this is because of the pressure that we are putting. They are feeling more confident, they know it [the movement] is working."

Daisy Chavez emphasizes the importance of solidarity and understanding what you're fighting for. "Last quarter we began by doing house visits so that we can be more aware of the personal struggle the person goes through. We took the initiative to get to know the workers a little bit better so that we can have that relationship going, where if they need us, we're there. And if we need them, they're there for us too."

Economic injustice is often seen as the fault of the individual not working hard enough to achieve the elusive American dream. It problem is not about working ethics. The conditions the workers have put up with through Aramark and CLS, is an example of a greater structural inequality that is perpetuated by corporation's labor policy.

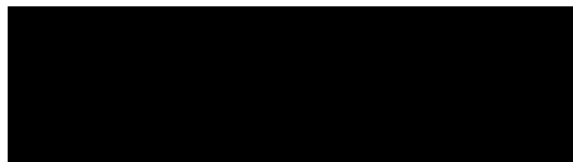
Trinh Luu, student organizer adds, "Should we, students and administrators, wish to present UCI an embodiment of progress, diversity, and community, a system of contracting labor is an inexcusable defect. While we continually reverberate the University's 'advancement,' 'achievements,' and 'contributions,' our blindness to the workers' conditions ultimately proves the emptiness of these words." ■





ORGANIZED

IMAGES BY CHRIS DEA















SPEAKING OUT

AN INTERVIEW WITH EDUARDA LATUCHE

**“I AM WORTH A BETTER
WAGE AND BENEFITS. I
HAVE WORKED 30 YEARS
FOR THEM AND IT IS NOT
FAIR WHAT THEY ARE
DOING WITH US.”**



Second from left: Eduarda Latuche

¿Qué es su nombre, su edad, y su país de origen?

Mi nombre es Eduarda Latuche, Tengo 57 años de edad, y soy de Guatemala, Centro América.

¿Cuántos años ha trabajado con Aramark?

Yo tengo 31 años trabajando por Aramark.

¿Cuánto le pagan la hora, aproximadamente?

Me pagan como \$7.50 la hora.

¿Cuántas horas trabaja a la semana?

Entro a la una y salgo a las nueve.

¿Cuántas veces a la semana?

Trabajo cinco veces a la semana y es el único trabajo que tengo.

¿Qué es su trabajo en Aramark?

Yo lavo trastes.

Puede describir un día típico ¿Por ejemplo, toma el camión o maneja?

Me levanto como a las ocho de la mañana y tomo el camión como a las once. Tomo dos camiones y luego como diez minutos para la una. Al llegar poncho el reloj y me pongo a lavar trastes hasta que salgo a las nueve.

¿Como no tiene beneficios de salud en su trabajo, que hace cuándo se enferma?

Gracias a dios no me he enfermado ni del flu. Cuando faltó dos a tres días es porque me estoy mudando o porque mis hijos se han enfermado.

¿Cómo balancea ser madre y trabajar al mismo tiempo?

Tengo dos niños una hija de 20 años y un hijo de 24, y mi hija sigue viviendo conmigo. Bueno, le voy a decir que cuando era más joven mi hija y yo trabajaba, se pasaba mucho tiempo sola. Me levantaba temprano para entrar al trabajo. Entraba a las seis

de la mañana porque empecé cortando verduras en Aramark. Mi hija se iba a la escuela y como no salía hasta noche no pasa mucho tiempo con ella.

¿Organizando con AFSCME usted tuvo miedo al empezar la campaña?

Yo no tuve miedo, es más, un día me llegó una mujer a mi puerta queriendo hablar conmigo. Ella no me dijo que era de Aramark pero dijo que era de una unión que no era AFSCME. Desde que me dijo eso yo no le tuve confianza porque AFSCME me hubiera dicho que alguien me iba a contactar. Sospeché que la mandó Aramark. La deje pasar a mi casa y comenzamos a platicar. Me mostró una lista de todos los trabajadores de Pippin con su información de teléfono. Luego me dio una tarjeta para firmar para serme miembro de su unión. Yo le dije que no podía firmar nada porque no la conocía y porque necesitaba más información. Al siguiente día hablé con AFSCME y me dijeron que hice bien al no firmar porque Aramark fue la que mandó la mujer para quitarnos de AFSCME.

¿Hay algo que les quiere decir a los administradores?

Si, que me merezco un sueldo mejor y con beneficios. He trabajado 30 años por ellos y no es justo lo que están hacienda con nosotros.

¿Hay algo que les quiere decir a los estudiantes?

Si, los estudiantes batallando por nuestros derechos son un amor, soy muy agradecida.

Hay muchos estudiantes que no saben de su historia ni de lo que esta pasando en su propia escuela por nosotros le agradecemos mucho por compartir su vida con nosotros. ■

What is your name, your age, and your country of origin?

My name is Eduarda Latuche. I am 57 years old, and I am from Guatemala, Central America.

How many years have you worked with Aramark?

I've worked at Aramark for 31 years.

How much do they pay you an hour, approximately?

They pay me \$7.50 an hour.

How many hours do you work a week?

I get there at one and leave at nine.

How many times a week?

I work five times a week, and it's the only job I have.

What is your job with Aramark?

I wash dishes.

Can you describe a typical day? For example, do you take the bus or do you drive?

I wake up around eight in the morning and take the bus around 11:00. I take two buses and arrive about ten minutes before one. When I arrive and clock in and I start to wash dishes until I leave at nine.

As you don't have health benefits at your job, what do you do when you get sick?

Thank god that I haven't gotten sick or had the flu. When I miss two or three days of work it's because I am moving or because my children have gotten sick.

How do you balance being a mother and working at the same time?

I have two children; a daughter who is 20 years old and a son who is 24, and my daughter still lives with me. Well, I am going to tell you that when my daughter was younger and I worked, she spent a lot of time alone. I used to wake up early to go to work.

I would get there at six in the morning because I would start cutting vegetables at Aramark. My daughter would go to school and as I didn't get off work until night I didn't spend much time with her.

Were you scared to join AFSCME and the labor campaign?

I was not scared, but one day a woman arrived at my door wanting to speak with me. She did not say that she was from Aramark but said that she was from a union that was not AFSCME. From what she told me, I was suspicious because AFSCME had told me that someone was going to contact me. I suspected that Aramark sent her. I let her into my house and we started to chat. She showed me a list of all the workers at Pippin [resident dining] with their telephone numbers. Then she gave me a card to sign to become a member of their union. I told her that I could not sign anything because I did not know her and because I needed more information. The following day, I talked with AFSCME and they told me that I did well not to sign because the woman was sent by Aramark to get us to leave AFSCME.

Is there something you would like to say to the administrators?

Yes, that I am worth a better wage and benefits. I have worked 30 years for them and it is not fair what they are doing with us.

Is there something you would like to say to the students?

Yes, the students fighting for our rights are amazing. I am very grateful.

There are many students that do not know your story or what is happening at their own school. We are very grateful that you are sharing your story with us. ■



SAFETY FIRST: THE POLITICS OF SUBURBAN LIVING

TEXT BY PATRICK APPEL
IMAGE BY ALBERT OK

We live in a literalization of the Patriot Act. The basic principal of the 2001 Patriot Act is the surrendering of certain civil liberties in exchange for a theoretically safer state. Irvine, as a master planned community, makes a similar trade. The city looks to provide both economic and physical safety by implementing strict controls over the physical landscape.

Irvine's #1 rank from the FBI as the safest city in the United States for cities with populations exceeding 100,000 is the result of such control. This ranking is the result of decades of hard work and billions of dollars, mostly on behalf of the Irvine Company. More than anything, it is city planning and policy that has produced this distinction.

However, the real basis of Irvine's master plan doesn't have to do with crime prevention; it has to do with money. The Irvine Company, as a monopoly landowner, has been able to highly regulate the city in order to maintain security, predictability, and thus, profits. Creating physical safety isn't just a social policy; it protects property values and tax revenues.

The underlying economic interests of the city's plan can especially be seen in the design of the commercial sector. For one, Irvine lacks a downtown. It has no centralized community area. The Irvine Spectrum, which has the closest resemblance to a downtown area in Irvine, is really just an outdoor mall, something closer to an expanded Ikea than a legitimate public space. As Professor Scott Bollens of UCI's Planning Policy and Design

department said, Irvine leaves little room for what he calls "spontaneous public space." The public spaces that do exist, typically, and ironically, are privatized. According to Bollens, there is little in the way of "public spaces where people can get together of all races, ethnicities, [and] income levels. [Likewise, it is difficult to] rebel, or protest, or just voice collective angst or frustration."

This intentional minimalization of spaces where crowd gathering, protest, or class interaction could take place can be seen though the controls present in Irvine, for they go far beyond reducing criminal behavior. If you have gotten lost in the concentric rings of Irvine's roads, which feel like they were laid out with the help of a spirograph, you have participated in Irvine's policy of isolationism. The road systems keep residential communities out of the way and secluded. As a safety mechanism, this acts at the expense of communal interaction. Through the confusing road network, a type of gated community with hidden barriers is created.

Likewise, this emphasis on business and personal safety is visible in the layout of homes. Houses are often sucked away from off the street or the front of the house is literally barricaded from the neighboring properties by a garage or wall. Houses are turned away from each other, giving the impression of creating safety, albeit through household disconnect.



Anything creative one might do to their property to try and eliminate the barriers is subject to the decision of homeowners' associations. Everything from the placement and size of shrubbery to when one can put up holiday decorations is mandated. The city, through the use of homeowners' associations, is split into smaller and smaller sections, into self-regulating communities, thus fracturing a larger sense of citywide or state belonging.

Considering this isolationism, it should come as little surprise that Professor Bollens remarked the people he is most worried about are teenagers growing up "in Irvine, and other places like it." He elaborated, "If they can't get into productive trouble or fun, just finding creative places to be and feeling like it's fun, they are going to feel incredibly stifled. I'm sure generations already have gone through Irvine and feel incredibly stifled and frustrated, and that can't be healthy for that kid who needs to explore."

Whereas older communities favored safety through communal interaction, Irvine, and the many cities like it, use communal seclusion. Front yards typically are not designed for utility, but manageability. Even recreation areas lack personality; for they consist mostly of highly manicured community parks. Through their planning, these spaces

have had much of the potential creativity drained out of them because they do not lend themselves to imaginative manipulation. They are difficult to use in the same way a highly refined living room, with plastic wrapped couches and expensive vases, is difficult to fully relax in.

The alternative to this smart planning, also termed New Urbanism, is an alternative form of community planning which produces denser neighborhoods, made to foster community, not just profits. The dependence on cars is minimized as much as possible, and the commercial sector is integrated in as a component of community, a tool used to bring people together.

The economic controls in Irvine, particularly around property values, have not only isolationist principals but also exclusionary ones. The city's population tends to be racially and economically homogenous because of the lack of affordable housing.

As a result, low-wage workers are imported into Irvine. Largely Latino work crews and cleaning crews enter the city on a daily basis; they clean the streets you walk on and the classrooms you sit in, and yet they

are invisible. This racism and classism is an institutionalized practice, as residents we no longer even have to be confronted with the poor "other." As Bollens said, uncomfortable social dynamics have been "structured out of the equation for us, made us feel safe... We don't even have to deal with our own angst over the racial other, that's power."

Safety today is a bigger issue than ever. With the media and the government announcing a constant stream of terrorist threats, cities like Irvine, and there are already many, are likely to become even more abundant. To what limits we are willing to go to for the sake of security? Without a genuine connection between city residents, the communities we are trying to protect are already lost.

Being a citizen today requires intimately understanding the politics of space. The world around you has been designed for a purpose. We can either buy into that mindset or find ways around it, but we can't challenge it unless we know it exists. ■

FALLEN FRUIT

CREATING A SLICE OF PARADISE IN URBAN AREAS

TEXT BY ALEXANDRA PIOTROWSKI

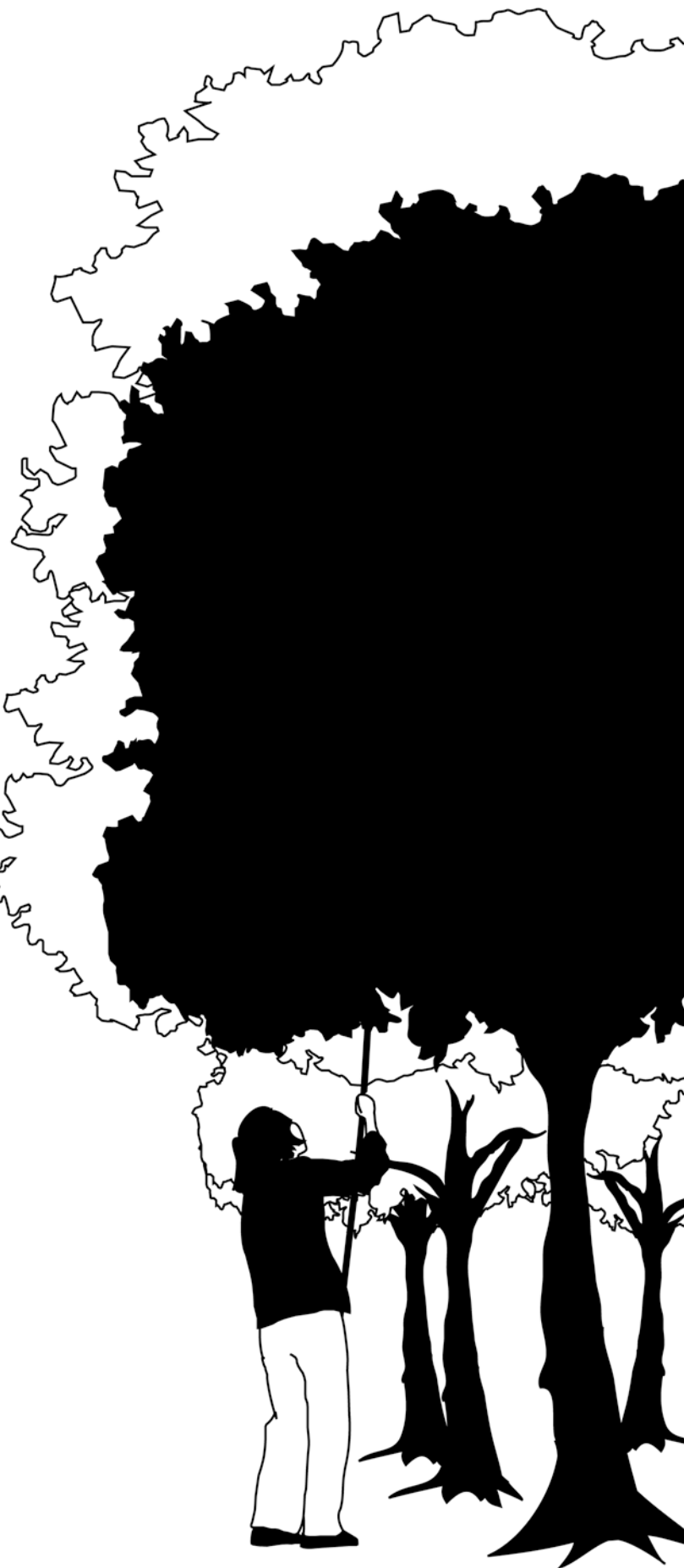
There's an old story about two people who, many many moons ago, used to live in a garden; let's call them Adam and Eve. Now, these lucky kids had everything provided for them, mostly fruit hanging on abundant trees, not unlike a naturally occurring, all you can eat buffet. The system was genius; they had everything they needed at an arm's length and would never have to worry again. Regardless of how the situation turned out for ole Adam and Eve, or whether you believe their situation was fact or faith, it is difficult to deny that such a system of self sustainment was a little slice of paradise.

Enter three young men, Dave Burns, Matias Viegner and Austin Young, and their simple, yet innovative contribution to the greater good. They founded the non-profit organization Fallen Fruit two years ago, originally conceived as a project for the third volume of *The Journal of Aesthetics and Protest*. The organization's principle objective is to promote the preservation and rejuvenation of community gardens and fruit-bearing trees in public venues, such as parks, as a way to make the land more functional and beautiful. One way they do this is by mapping fruit-bearing trees in and around the Los Angeles area as a guide for the public. Burns said that the program grew "naturally, with no master plan. First there was research, and we found a gray area in the law, we wrote a manifesto, mapped [the location of where fruit trees could be planted], made a website. Which led to grants and then publishing and all of a sudden we're on NPR and in the LA Times." As I am talking with him, I am overcome with a warm fuzzy feeling, part optimism and part restored faith in the human race. All that is necessary to enact change is an idea, and "similar minded, civic and social responsibility," said Burns. The project represents the small strides that any person can make to benefit their community.

I asked Burns what the mere mortal can do, and was met with an unexpected reply. Burns said that "what has been lost in the past 20 to 30 years [is] the concept of sharing resources and learning your neighborhood and your neighbors." He made the point that "we are taught not to know where our food comes from," except for the pretty, shiny bins at Trader Joe's or Albertsons. I automatically feel rightly ashamed, for I half expected to hear the standard protocol of community service organs: make checks payable to blank and your contribution will help us help others. But this is not what Fallen Fruit stands for. What makes it so revolutionary is its simplicity. Burns announced that the project is currently working with the city of Los Angeles "to plant public fruit parks, [and] to turn unused land into a resource that can be shared by all." He suggested that property owners plant fruit trees on their outer perimeters, where everyone can benefit from a tempting, apple hanging for the taking. He directed me to treepeople.org, a program that gives away free fruit trees every spring. The ability to help everyone help themselves is truly an inventive and unique idea.

Currently, Fallen Fruit operates in the Los Angeles area, specifically Silverlake, Echo Park and Los Feliz. But Burns mentioned that the northern perimeter of none other than South Coast Plaza is lined with loquat trees, which will be ripe for picking by early March. Fallen Fruit does not take the credit for these trees; instead, Burns is delighted at how their simple idea is growing. He and Young and Viegner are enjoying seeing the good will "snowball." This is the mission of Fallen Fruit: the belief that sharing resources and considering the common man can be contagious, and ultimately create a small garden of Eden for everyone. ■

To get involved, go to www.fallenfruit.org and www.treepeople.org.





TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES

GLOBAL EXCHANGE THAT'S ACTUALLY FAIR!

TEXT BY NICK REFUERZO

So you've just finished the newest issue of Adbusters and put it on top of that issue of Bust your friend told you to buy. You look up and think, "I need to do something. There's injustice in this world and I can make a difference!" But instead you decide to steal more music off Soulseek, go on Myspace and head to Urban Outfitters. Way to go, you consumer whore.

But there is hope for the altruistic. There's always hope; you just have to drive a few extra miles or click a few extra links. Straight from the 1940's and infiltrating our cynical liberal ethos is Ten Thousand Villages - an organization dedicated to improving the lives of (as you may have guessed) thousands of developing villages and people worldwide.

Ten Thousand Villages was founded by Edna Ruth Byler in 1946. It began as a program of the MCC (Mennonite Central Committee - a Christian organization which sends services, food and material goods to those who most need it around the world), and now is one of the largest fair trade organizations in the world. In fact, it is the founding member of the International Fair Trade Association (IFAT) which forges relationships between all Fair Trade organizations and helps any disadvantaged producers. Take that, Proctor & Gamble philanthropists!

Ten Thousand Villages markets products produced by diverse artisans around the globe. They make it a point to trade only with groups that will pay fair wages and who are concerned about the artisans' welfare. They work with the groups and artisans themselves and help them develop products that capture their rich cultural background. They also help artisans develop products that are appealing to North American consumers (yes, this includes Canada, our better half). The types of products available for purchase are: baskets (beautifully woven and painted), candle holders (carved from wood,

onyx, soapstone or marble), scarves (all hand made, woven, embroidered or sewn), hand-bags (beautiful and durable), toys (mobiles, onyx chess sets, hacky sacks, etc.), jewelry (necklaces, earrings and bracelets), musical instruments, stationary - basically everything (except those \$200 designer jeans you shouldn't purchase anyway).

By March 31, 2005 the total sales for the year came out to be a whopping \$16,085,864. Currently there are more than 220 Ten Thousand Villages stores operating in North America. In California alone there are four stores located in Healdsburg, Reedley, Santa Rosa and Sonoma. Every Ten Thousand Villages offers an incredibly warm and inviting environment. All employees are volunteers and help out tremendously.

However, in today's digital age you can easily just cruise the website and peruse for products that not only help people out, but also fill that consumption urge deep within all of our souls. That's taking care of two birds with one loving humanitarian stone. In fact, just this December, I personally did about 90% of my Christmas shopping entirely on this website from the comfort of my own floor. I can confidently say their gifts were more beautiful, meaningful and helpful than silly gift certificates or the cop-out CD.

Ten Thousand Villages proves that fair, positive businesses are possible. The products are excellent, everyone benefits, and profits are negotiated and dealt directly to the artisans in the many villages around the world. In today's pessimistic immoral beast of a market, Ten Thousand Villages offers a much needed optimistic (and loving) stab in the eye. ■

<http://www.tenthousandvillages.com>

REVIEWS

[MUSICBOOKSMOVIES
BUT IT'S USUALLY JUST MUSIC]



Belle and Sebastian **The Life Pursuit**

Scottish kings of twee pop Belle and Sebastian are back for another round of "I love you, but I'm not in love with you" themed anthems. The Life Pursuit continues the group's attempt to change their sound and move away from their trademark mopey-disguised-as-happy songwriting in favor of more funk and soul-influenced arrangements. Even the lyrical content seems decidedly less depressing than their previous fare, with joy-filled tracks like "Another Sunny Day" and "Funny Little Frog" balancing out the ballads. For a band that's put out seven solid albums, including one which was produced by the guy who also does Tatu, a move in a wholly different direction is not only expected, it's necessary. Whereas previous Belle and Sebastian records sounded like lo-fi, folky homages to sixties songwriters, The Life Pursuit brings the rhythm section to the forefront and comes off like a seventies-inspired jam session. There are still traces of the old Belle and Sebastian present, especially on the piano-driven "Act of the Apostle II", but the record plays up the moments where the horns blare and the chorus bounces along blissfully, led by Stuart Murdoch's distinctive voice. The Life Pursuit is many things: a psychedelic funk project sung by Scots, a T. Rex tribute (there's even a short guitar solo!), and a traditional old Belle and Sebastian record. No matter how much they change their sound, they'll never escape their reputation as the makers of heartbreakingly happy pop. But when it sounds this good, who would want them to?

-Kayleigh Shaw



Jenny Lewis with the Watson Twins **Rabbit Fur Coat**

Rilo Kiley fans—rejoice! (Or not.) The band's singing starlet has transcended into a certifiable crooner on her debut solo project, Rabbit Fur Coat. Jenny Lewis serves up an album

with a distinctly country-folk feel, but don't let that frighten you. Pensive, heartfelt lyrics and a melody that makes you want to sit by a fire with a cup of cocoa (I mean, if it weren't 80 degrees in the middle of winter) will draw listeners into the album that gets better with each passing minute. Backed by the harmonious Watson Twins, the album's title track features a gripping personal story, while the Travelling Wilburys' cover "Handle with Care" features a handful of everyone's favorite sorrowful singer/songwriters, including Ben Gibbard, M. Ward and fellow Saddle-Creeker Conor Oberst. Cameos and gimmicks aside, Rabbit Fur Coat is a euphonic delight from the opening spiritual to its last haunting notes.

-Eva Meszaros

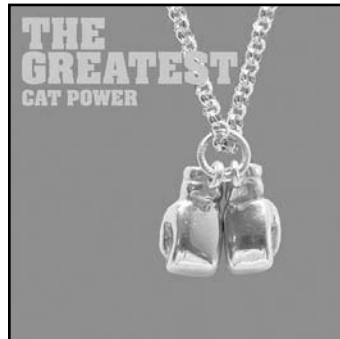


Sun Kil Moon Tiny Cities

Cover records are tricky to review. They require a semi-intimate knowledge with both the artist doing the covering and the artist being covered. That being said, I was understandably excited about this release. I love Sun Kil Moon, I love Modest Mouse, put the two together, hippie love fest for my ears, no? Actually, no. Tiny Cities is a considerably underwhelming album, and a tragically doomed project from the start. Modest Mouse is a very difficult band to cover, especially in the limited form of the folk song which Sun Kil Moon employs. A few successes aside, most of the songs on Tiny Cities are disappointing, adding nothing to the originals. In fact, there were many instances where I wanted to return to the original Modest Mouse songs, if only to wash the strange folk taste out of my mouth. When Kozelek succeeds, he does so because he sticks to what made the original songs so damn good in the first place. Case in point: "Convenient Parking" retains the galloping melody and the quick vocal register change chorus. Kozelek employs quick finger picking and his voice sounds almost strained to keep up with the intensity of the song. "Ocean Breathes Salty" sounds dead, floating listlessly and hits the chorus with all the energy of an overworked donkey. It takes all the bounce and punchy existentialism out of it. There are a couple other successes ("Exit Does Not Exist" and "Neverending Math Equation"), but even these can't save the album. This isn't to say the record doesn't contain its share of enjoyable moments. A person with no knowledge of either Sun Kil Moon or Modest Mouse would color this a decent-to-good psychedelic folk album.

For those unfamiliar with Sun Kil Moon, don't judge on the basis of this album. Pick up Ghosts of the Great Highway instead. Modest Mouse junkies should just steer clear of this. For fans of both, give it a listen, then return contentedly to the artist's respective original music.

-Spencer Seward



Cat Power The Greatest

Everyone has that one friend who's just too weird to understand. It's the girl from high school who started the UFO club, or the guy from your neighborhood who runs everywhere, all the time. It's like the kid is afraid of walking. Chan Marshall, who has been making music under the Cat Power moniker for several years, is the music industry's weird friend. Either when she's playing piano or strumming simple melodies on an acoustic guitar, Marshall is always a step ahead of everyone. Maybe she'll scream at the audience and run away. Or maybe she'll just release a covers record and baffle her own record company. Then again, maybe she'll go to Memphis, get Al Green's guitarist and Booker T and the MG's drummer to play on her new album, and write the best music of her career. Of course, she has done all these things. To top it off, she names her new Southern gospel-meets-folk album The Greatest, which is both presumptuous and funny. Title track and opener "The Greatest" is a stripped-down piano number, with Marshall's haunting voice leading the charge. Vague as her lyrics may be, the imagery speaks of some defeated athlete or hero: "Once I wanted to be the greatest/no wind or waterfall could stop me." After the sleepy haze of an opener, the rest of the record drifts along like a hot Mississippi afternoon. Unlike previous Cat Power releases, The Greatest features Marshall's vocals backed by more complex arrangements, and the addition of organs, backing vocals, and other instruments round out her delicate voice. She sings about living in bars, losing her lover, the moon, and other Southern-fried themes. The Greatest is possibly the most normal thing this weird woman has ever done. Maybe she'll wear nothing but mumus on tour. One can only hope.

-Kayleigh Shaw



Goapele Change It All

Goapele (Go-op-pa-lay), the Bay Area native, comes out strong with her sophomore release "Change it All." This 15-track album's basic concept is promoting social change through love. Unlike such prior projects as "Even Closer"—independently produced by Skyblaze record founded by herself, her brother, and her boyfriend—this album's signature under Sony Urban Music translates to tremendous improvement in the overall quality. Besides displaying her dynamic vocal range the album includes commentary tracks featuring political prisoner Mumia Abu Jamal. For those unfamiliar with Goapele's music, her talent is like a fusion of Sade's smooth slick voice with Aretha Franklin's vocal strength. An even more impressive feat is the fact that she writes most of her songs—the mark of a true musician.

-Adrian Lau



Ethiopiques Volume 4 Ethio Jazz & Musique Instrumentale, 1969-1974

If you've watched Jim Jarmusch's *Broken Flowers* then you've probably heard a few of these tracks by Mulatu Astatqe already. The story with this guy is that he came to America and England in the 1960s where he studied music before returning to Ethiopia and created a brand of music that blended jazz, Latin music, soul and funk. This album contains 14 instrumental tracks of moody horn sections, smooth keyboards, jazzy guitars, and subtle driving rhythms. Compared to other Ethiopiques albums I've heard, this is one of the more mellowed out compilations and is truly worthy of some drug-enhanced meditations. Cop it now and thank me later.

-Chris Dea

SO HOT RIGHT NOW PLAYLIST

HOW TO HAVE A SUCCESSFUL COLLEGE CAREER...

TEXT BY DAVIS FETTER

First understand that the two best things about college life are sex and diversity. That is why it is best to diversify your sex as much as possible.

Oh yeah, it's also a good idea to share as much music with each other as possible. Here is a musical journey of college life containing the necessities for happiness.

Failure – Another Space Song

1. Broaden Your Musical Taste. Listening to Coheed And Cambria is like hearing the soundtrack of an adventure where toddlers take over a space ship and fly to a distant playground; try this instead.

Oasis – Fucking In The Bushes

2. Party as much as you can. The first two years of college are meant for sexual exploration, so seduce your RA if you have to. If you are truly desperate I recommend visiting UCSB or San Diego State.

Badly Drawn Boy – Silent Sigh

3. Black ball'd 'er fuckin' ankles man cause she fancy'd a spot of raspberry jam.

Magnet – Little Miss More Or Less

4. Take Adventurous Breadth Requirements. If you ever asked Jaded staffer Chris Dea what the best part is about attending an opening art show at UCI, might he say it's the free chips and salsa and burritos supplied at the door?

Keane – We Might As Well Be Strangers (DJ Shadow Remix)

5. Meet People. Please don't let your opening

line concern itself with what dorm you live in. I mean who gives a shit where you live as long as your roommate is never home and you can use his bed for physical mischief with a bearded someone.

The Cars Are The Stars – Helikopter

6. Travel Somewhere Other Than Back Home. After all, it's pretty hard to get laid when you're being tucked in by mum you wanker. Start with Orange County (Costa Mesa, Laguna Beach, Newport (home of many large women)) and then move up to Los Angeles, Seattle, and San Francisco (home of many large men).

Filfla – Backyard

7. Get A Social Job (not to be confused with social worker). Working in a restaurant gets you lots of money, but working the Balboa Island Ferry gets you more. Why is money important? Because someone's got to earn enough to support the fuckin' Urban Guerrilla at the UNI center.

French Kicks – Oh Fine

8. Join A Band. Every other dude in college plays guitar. So please congregate with all the other John Mayer fans and revive the alt rock movement. Bonus points if you cover Collective Soul songs.

The Smiths – How Soon Is Now

9. Declare A Major. Okay it's probably about time to attend class and study some kind of discipline. Try sociology, everyone else does. But I do warn you, listening to The Smiths will never help you pick up that punk rock girl

in your art history class. Hi Jenny, it's Davis. Remember me?

The Monkees - Porpoise Song

10. Define Your Fashion Sense. If you need help, attend the Gateway Commons any night during finals week.

Aqualung – Another Little Hole

12. Get A Girlfriend/Boyfriend. Why? Cause at this point you haven't said the words "What's wrong?" or "I'm Sorry" enough in your life. Plus you need someone to be the punching bag for your stress during finals.

Travis – As You Are

13. Stay For A Fifth Year. Who needs a career when you have a degree? This will sound like the greatest idea ever while you are a junior. I know from experience dude...well not me but a guy I know...

Spiritualized – Ladies And Gentlemen We Are Floating In Space

14. Start writing an "edgy" playlist article that's "so hot right now" because you're content with the number of times you've had sex in your life.

Honorable Mention:

The Kooks – Time Awaits

Inspiral Carpets – This Is How It Feels

Golden Boys – Berimbau

Suggestions for the next playlist? Having trouble finding these songs?

Email JadedDavis@gmail.com



Make it

free condoms

love carefully

1. 800. 230. PLAN

Make the Connection



Planned Parenthood®
Orange and San Bernardino Counties

SOLART

ORANGE COUNTY'S BEST GALLERY/CAFÉ/MUSIC VENUE

TEXT BY KAYLEIGH SHAW



A wise individual once said, “If you don’t fit in with the scene, then damnit, start your own.” Is there any kind of community more snobby and exclusive than a community of artists? Probably not, and Santa Ana native Sali Heraldez found out for herself and her artist friends just how difficult it is to get access into a tiny network of artists who have already established their presence. So she began holding art shows in her apartment, but the size of the crowd that was gathering soon outgrew her makeshift gallery.

“As artists, we don’t have money to open up our own spaces. That’s why we go to different galleries. But this time, I had the money and everybody else had the talent,” she explains.

Heraldez wanted to open a space that would function as more than a gallery to show her friends’ artwork. Heraldez and her friends were all very passionate about local, radical politics, and she wanted the space to be a meeting place for social activists and art admirers alike. But that’s not all. Heraldez also wanted a place to showcase local bands that weren’t getting the opportunity to play real venues. Once a location was found, an old flower shop on North Main Street in downtown Santa Ana, the plans for the SolArt Gallery Café began to take shape.

It took two months of round-the-clock renovation for the old building to be transformed into what SolArt is today: a two room space, where the colorful walls are decorated by the works of an ever-chang-

ing cast of local and international artists. In the main room, a small wooden platform serves as a stage for the various entertainment acts, which is across from the handbuilt bar in the corner. Soft lighting, numerous tables and chairs, and a couch and coffee table give SolArt a relaxed, lounge atmosphere.

In April of 2004, when SolArt was ready to be opened to the public, Heraldez received disappointing news from the city of Santa Ana. Her application for a business license was turned down by the city, citing that her facility lacked sufficient parking. But Heraldez didn’t let the city’s refusal to allow her to sell anything at SolArt shut her down. She opened SolArt as planned, but because she can’t charge money for the art or for shows or even for coffee, Heraldez has to rely on donations from visitors to keep the space open. She works a day job to pay for the monthly rent.

“I am SolArt,” says Heraldez.

A year and a half later, SolArt is still open and thriving. Heraldez is as busy as ever, because when she’s not working on SolArt projects or standing behind the bar, serving wine and soda to visitors, she’s working on one of several other community projects. She’s on the board of the Santa Ana Cultural Center, a member of the political activism group Orange County Mujeres in Action, and on the board of the Grain Project. The Grain Project is a non-profit organization that provides Santa Ana’s mostly low-income residents with a weekly farmer’s market. It also promotes community gardens and the proliferation of public artwork. The Grain Project steps in where the city of Santa Ana fails, which is to help its people have continuous access to healthy and affordable food while also working to “bridge social & economic gaps within community” (grainproject.org).

The most attractive aspect of SolArt is its fusion of art, culture, politics, and music all under one roof. Heraldez and her friends work tirelessly to put on the gallery café’s weekly events and monthly exhibits. Since its opening, the SolArt stage has been home to over 150 artists and counting. Every weekend there is a different slew of bands and DJ’s performing, from punk rock to experimental noise to Latin acoustic folk. The repertoire is always changing, and so is the artwork. But perhaps the best part of hanging out at SolArt is the atmosphere. Visitors can sit at the bar and have a glass of apple juice or maybe a slice of pie and listen to music, talk to the artists whose work is on display, or play a game of Connect 4 on the couch. They can also read a variety of underground literature about political activism in Orange County. Heraldez and a few others are trying to start their own publication titled *Fuertemente*, which will feature articles about social justice and progressive issues all written in Spanish.

It’s amazing that a place like SolArt can exist in the heart of the commercialization and vapid wasteland that is Orange County. The OC Weekly named SolArt the “best capitalism-free zone” in its Best of 2005 issue. Its existence is unbeknownst to the multitude of OC residents, and maybe that isn’t such a bad thing. If you’re interested in socially conscious art, local music, or just ache for a Starbucks-free latte, you need to visit SolArt. Located at 2202 N. Main Street in Santa Ana, it’s easy to miss from the street, but it’s definitely worth the trip around the block. Don’t forget to give Heraldez a few bucks for that cider. Visit solartgallerycafe.com for more information on weekly events, current exhibitions, and information on how to submit music or art. ■

www.solartgallerycafe.com



CALENDAR

January 27th, 2006 8:00PM–Midnight at SolArt gallery café “New Bathroom Reading Material Party” Jaded’s first magazine release party, with tons of giveaways, funky music and good company.

January 27, 2006 2:00PM till January 29, 2006 11:00PM at Garden Grove Park 9301 Westminster Blvd Garden Grove, CA 92844-2752

Tet, the Lunar New Year, marks the beginning of spring and is the most popular and single-most celebrated holiday in many Asian cultures. This year, as we celebrate the Year of the Dog in the City of Garden Grove, thousands of people, young and old, are expected to attend the festival.

February 1, 2006 at 6:00PM in Social Science Trailer 103

Justin Arana, a medical aid volunteer that went to Darfur will come to UCI to speak to us about his experience. He went to the many refugee camps to help the millions of displaced civilians in desperate need of medical aid. When he was in Sudan, he was arrested and put on death row.

February 3, 2006 6:00–10:00PM

Cross Cultural Center Conference Room American History X- a discussion on discrimination against Blacks with regard to the KKK.

February 6, 2006 5:00–7:30PM in Aldrich Park

Embracing our Past—candlelight vigil. Make a poster or design a t-shirt to commemorate those who have passed away and have made significant impacts on your life. After poster/t-shirt making, we will remember these people by holding a candlelight vigil in Aldrich Park. Participants will have the opportunity to memorialize these significant people through poetic expression, song, etc.

February 7, 2006 3:00-4:00PM and February 23, 2006 12:00-1:00pm

Cross Cultural Center Conference Room Legends of China Info Session. Come learn about the opportunity to serve as an Ambassador of Peace to China for the summer.

February, 9th, 7:00PM in MSTB 120

Girls Fight Back with Erin Weed is an empowering and motivational personal safety program for women. Weed has a unique approach to teach women about personal security and self-defense by using simple techniques instead of complicated moves. She has been praised for her humorous style of presenting, as she sprinkles a little stand up comedy into a very serious topic. For Women Only.

February 22, 2006 6:00-9:00PM in SSLH100

Day of Remembrance, Preserving the Japanese American and Japanese Latin American Memories. A day to honor and commemorate the Japanese Americans and Japanese Latin Americans who were forced into concentration camps after the signing of Executive Order 9066 during World War II. With displays, performances, a Q&A panel, and free L&L's!

February 23, 2006 12:00–1:00PM at the Flagpoles

Black Panther Activist Patricia Davis will be speaking on “Revolutionary Suicide” as well as the Willie Lynch syndrome in the Black Community.

March 2, 2006 7:00PM Little Theater in Humanities Hall (HH 161)

African Student Union presents a play entitled Po'litically “N”correct. A compilation of original and established works by African American writers.

