The Alternative Media at the University of California, Irvine is a collection of the independent newspapers run by UC Irvine undergraduates. The members of the Alternative Media Board include Cellador, InQuery, Irvine Progressive, Irvine Review, Jaded, La Voz Mestiza, New Forum, MedTimes, Sanskriti, and Tangent. Alternative Media meets on the 1st, 5th, and 9th Fridays of every quarter. These meetings are open to all UC Irvine students.

The purpose of the Alternative Media Collective is to provide a quarterly review of each independent newspaper and to organize the distinct voices of each paper under the Alternative Media organization.

Interested in starting a newspaper? Contact Poonam Kaushal or email AltMedia.UCI@gmail.com

Cellador

Statement of Purpose: The 2004-2005 school year was the first year Cellador was recognized as an Alternative Media publication. It was founded to showcase creative works of UCI students. Cellador provides the UCI community with a publication that allows students of all disciplines to share and network with other students through their creative expressions. By printing quarterly throughout the academic year, Cellador provides a consistent opportunity for students to view the works of other students and submit their work for publication.

Contacts: Christina Luiz (ecluiz@uci.edu), Elijah Calderon (eicaldero@uci.edu), and Stephanie Shao (sshao@uci.edu)

Modern Scheherazade

BY ELIZABETH FAZZIO

I want the rain to keep on falling. And the sky to keep its blue. I want the silence to be louder and my stories on the pages; if the sunlight starts to wane and the moon becomes your candle. I want my stories to come alive and the firelight to dance them through. I can give you seven daughters, and to each of them, a name. I fight for them to live my stories, and weave their own in time. But let not my mind wander so like a grain of sand in a storm. Leave me to my stories here, but do not yourself seek to read them.

The Coral Tree

BY TABATHA J. SMITH

InQuery

Statement of Purpose: The InQuery strives to provide a safe place for the expression of the voices of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning, Intersex, and Ally (LGBTQIA) community at UC Irvine.

Contacts: Royce Anders (andersr@uci.edu) and inquery@gmail.com

An Outside Perspective

By Sam McAbee

InQuery Copy Editor

Community: it’s one of the most important things for students to find during their college experience. People join club sports, religious groups, organizations that they find interesting, get a job; the list continues. All of these groups are designed around the central concept of developing a community for students to feel connected to and to allow young people to find a niche where they feel they belong.

I haven’t been at UC Irvine very long, but in the time that I have spent here thus far, I have found a community that I feel connected to; a community that I am proud to be a part of and that I enjoy my time with. This is the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Ally community here on campus. Now, it is important that I say here that I am a heterosexual man; I do not identify as one of the typical members of the LGBT community. But I am an ally to the LGBTQIA community; I support their rights and seek to further improve the lives of those individuals who identify as a part of this group, some of whom I call my friends.

In my search to find a place here on campus, I have been warmly welcomed by the LGBTQIA community and at the LGBT Resource Center. The number of allies involved with the LGBT Resource Center is few. However, every ally I have met there has been a strong individual who wishes to further enrich the lives of others. We find a sense of belonging in our interactions with those people that we have grown to care for. Our passion for equal rights for the LGBTQIA community drew us into this group, but it is the people who keep us there.

Over the past year and a few odd months, I have grown as a member of this group. Sometimes, I will admit, it is difficult to understand every nuance of the LGBTQIA community. But that is how people grow. If we seek to learn more about those things that we do not understand, we improve ourselves as human beings. My time with the LGBTQIA community has been invaluable, and the appreciation that others hold for me because I support them in their trials and tribulations makes me feel empowered.

As a part of a community like this one, it is typical that some of the difficulties members face rub off onto one’s own life. Every time I hear the word “gay” used as a derogatory term, I feel as if I have been targeted. It’s not that I myself have been threatened by other’s misconceptions of homosexuality; but because I feel close to the LGBTQIA community, it is natural that things like this would be disturbing. If one of your closest friends were to be harassed because (Continued on page 2)
they had a physical disability, or were set apart for the "norm" in general, won't you be upset just as if you were the one who was being targeted? Perhaps this goes too far, but it is natural to feel pain for those who are members of any community you are con-
ected to.

Working as an ally with the LGBTQIA community here at UC Irvine has been a rewarding experience. I feel as though I've grown more accepting and empathetic towards others' struggles. My time with the LGBTQIA community on campus has pushed me to support others, and to grow as a person. And each time I see a smile on the face of someone I know from the community I have grown close to, the rewards are apparent.

The Implications of Stereotypes

By Royce Anders
Inquery Editor

Yes yes, I know we’ve all heard this word so many times and have been taught over and over the implications of this word—stereotypes. But I invite you to take a step into the world of stereotypes and how they influence the LGBT community and the general population’s view of the LGBT commu-

nity. To start with, I’d like to take a look at first experience of learning what a gay male was and acted like. I think it’s safe to make the assumption that most of us initially learned that gay males were mostly all flam-
bouyant, much more feminine than the average heterosexual, and very into fashion and arty endeavors. On the other hand, we may have initially learned that gay females were mostly all more masculine and more like tomboys.

Now, from my experiences in the LGBT community and in looking at my friends, I see these descriptions as incredibly inaccurate and false in truth to describe the majority of those I have encountered. Not only that, but I feel that most individuals who enter the LGBT community are more inclined to fit the flamboyant, feminine, art/fashion, stereotype because of the strong expectation and mind-frame it exerts on American society and culture.

Something that I have always had strong values for was being true to myself and encouraging others to be true to themselves as well. What I personally feel is that a percent-

age of LGBT individuals choose to be true to themselves in their sense of sexuality but at the same time choose to fit a persona that isn’t necessarily them such that they can fit into a societal expectation and fit/feel more belong-

ing to the general LGBT community. I agree that sometimes stereotypes may hold some truth in respect to resembling a particular per-

son. In fact, do not get me wrong, I have met LGBT individuals who fit both of the stereo-

tytes in which I mentioned earlier. But at the same time, I have met individuals who made large transformations in which they felt un-

comfortable and with this has even lead to them being uncomfortable or unsure of their sexualities. Yet, in considering this, I feel that we must be aware of a number of ideas.

One idea is that a majority of LGBT people come out to both themselves/society in either later high school years or in college.

Growing as a young person here at UC Irvine, we all look to find a place that we can feel at home with while we are away from the homes we knew for so long. The most im-

portant advice I can give is that we use that need for community to help others. My place as an ally of the LGBTQIA community has helped me develop as a person, and I hope that other can see a group as rewarding to work with as I have.

Irvne Progressive

Statement of Purpose: The Irvine Progressive is a non-partisan publication dedicated to fostering political awareness and intelligent discuss-

ion. We seek to provide a forum chiefly for viewpoints associated with the political left at the University of California, Irvine.

Contacts: Heidi Khaled (hkhaled@uci.edu), Gerald Tan (gtan@uci.edu), and Alexander Phillips (aphillip@uci.edu)

One Nation Divided Over God

God or no God, the Pledge of Allegiance does little to promote civil society, political par-

ticipation, and democracy.

By Alexander Phillips
Irvine Progressive

In 2002, the radical right wing of America was getting a brace new hognin to demonize. His name was Michael Newdow, and he had just won a battle in the cause to ensure the separation of church and state in this nation. In 2002, Michael Newdow took the Elk Grove School to the Ninth U.S. Cir-

cuit Court of Appeals, arguing that the fact that his daughter was asked to recite the Pledge of Allegiance with the words "under God" was in violation of the establishment clause of the constitution and interfered with his right to bring up his daughter as he saw fit in terms of religion.

As most who have been following this case have by now learned, the Pledge of Alle-

giance was originally written in 1892 in preparation for the 400th anniversary of Co-

lumbus’ voyage to the Americas, and is credited to Francis Bellamy (who, by the way, was a socialist. Heavens!). The Pledge continued, becoming more and more popular. During the

Red Scare of the 1950s, at the urging of the Knights of Columbus, a Catholic proselytizing group, the words "under God" were added to the pledge as a way of distinguishing the United States, supposedly anointed by God, from atheism, thought to be one of the very dark elements of communist society. The question now at hand is whether the words "under God" should remain in the pledge, or whether it should be restored to its earlier form.

This, of course, is not the first time that there has been controversy over the Pledge. In 1940, two Jehovah’s Witness stu-

dents were expelled from a school in Pennsylvania after they refused to participate in the pledge. The Supreme Court did not uphold the case of the students, but three years earlier in a case involving the Jehovah’s Witnesses ob-

jection to the Pledge the first ruling was over-

ruled.

The argument in favor of the Pledge goes that the Pledge is simply a patriotic exer-

cise, and the words "under God" simply refer to the religious foundation of this country.

The latter claim is, of course, subject to de-

bate. It brings up the timeless church vs. state controversy. On the one hand is the radical Christian right, arguing that government func-

tions by the grace of God, on another are those who feel that the presence of the words violates the establishment clause, while still others feel that the words amount to little more than ceremonial desim, and are not con-

stitutional threat.

The first thing we should be consider-

ing is whether or not the battle over the Pledge is even one worth having. Much like Tartuffe, politicians right on up to George W. Bush invoke religion all the time in order to get people to side with them on some issue or another. References to God are seen from our coins to some of our great public buildings. And while respect for other religions is a very important issue, there are greater things to be dealt with, such as Bush’s assault on the envi-

ronment, the erosion of a woman’s right to choose, the attempt to discriminate against homosexuals by forbidding gay marriage in the Constitution, and, of course, the fact that
One Nation Divided Over God
(Continued from page 2)

As Americans as young as sixteen are dying because George W. Bush lied about WMD and the threat posed by Iraq...

May be what we should be considering more closely is whether or not we even should have a Pledge at all, and if so, is the current one really worth hanging on to? Let us carefully consider the Pledge of Allegiance: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." If you read it carefully, this "simple patriotic exercise" sounds pretty serious. Just take the word allegiance. What is one saying? If one criticizes government policy in some way or another, does that mean that one has broken the pledge? And what if someday, hypothetically, the United States commits some atrocity, is one bound by the Pledge that one repeated so often in elementary school not to speak out? Whatever the case may be, if one has never heard the Pledge before, it reads like a very serious oath.

Yet, every day, students as young as five years old rise and recite this chant before moving on to the day’s lessons. The Pledge of Allegiance is little more than a cheap recitation, a ceremony that children go through every morning without ever considering: Can we truly take it seriously when it’s recited every day by people who will stop at nothing to hide the fact that they stole a cookie? Eventu- rally the Pledge comes to be like the word "goodbye," which is derived from "God be with ye." Today, of course, "goodbye" is simply a way of concluding an encounter, and nobody thinks that they are really saying "God be with ye." Like "Goodbye," the Pledge of Allegiance is little more than a simple ceremony, and does not even need to be a part of every school child’s morning.

So where do we go from here? Is the total abolition of the Pledge is not realistically going to happen, but if the Pledge as some sort of serious patriotic oath loses its meaning, than ALL the words within the Pledge lose their meaning, and this is why Christians who truly attach value to their faith (rather than using it as a tool for political gain, as George Bush and many other politicians love to do) should see the removal of the words "under God" as being reasonable. If references to God should be serious and solen- nized, than mindlessly saying the Pledge every morning would cheapen references to God just as much as "Goddamn" or "thank God Susan didn’t eat her paste today!"

Studies suggest that nine out of ten Americans favor leaving the Pledge as it currently is, and if the Supreme Court gives its ruling on the issue, they uphold the Ninth Circuit Court’s ruling, it would be a great surprise to the pro-gressive community. If we ultimately must have a Pledge, maybe we could have something more meaningful. Something that goes beyond simple allegiance. Perhaps in this new pledge we could all promise to take part in the democratic process, to be informed citizens, to give our energy towards the betterment of the country... and sometime soon, be the "for everybody" bit isn’t communist).

A graduate student in the writing department could come up with something nice, and he will be remembered every time a new controversy surrounding the pledge comes up.

The Weaponization of Space
Why Star Wars Could Become a Military Strategy

By Chris Roa
Irvine Progressive

The Air Force has recently asked the president to issue a new presidential directive that would authorize both offensive and de- fensive weapons in space. The Air Force be- lieves that superiority in space is a major pri- ority for national security. Space superiority is defined by the air force as "freedom to at- tack as well as freedom from attack."

According to General James E. Cart- Wright, head of U.S. Strategic Command, "[Our] growing national dependence on space-based and space-enabled capabilities establishes a true imperative to protect our space assets and our ability to operate freely in, and from, space. We currently enjoy an asymmetric advantage in space, but our adver- saries are gaining on us." Because of the growing reliance on satellites for communica- tions, intelligence, and military applications many worry have worried about the safety of satel- lites from attack. Due to the fairly predictable orbits of satellites and relatively slow move- ments they could be easily targeted for an at- tack.

A proposed solution to this problem has been the idea of satellites that are capable of moving their orbit so that they can avoid such attacks against them. However the ad- ministration has instead decided to pursue space based weapons program which will be incredibly expensive and threaten to start a space arms race.

Such a program has been a long time goal of the administration. Donald Rumsfeld led a commission in 2001 when he had just been nominated for Secretary of Defense, which recommended that the military should "ensure that the president will have the option to deploy weapons in space." The administra- tion withdrew from the Anti Ballistic Missile treaty in 2002. The Anti Ballistic Missile treaty banned space-based weapons. In 1996 President Clinton signed a directive which emphasized the global use of space for peaceful purposes. Clinton’s space policy allowed the use of space for spying, arms control, and nonproliferation. However Clinton vetoed several space based weapons programs during his administration. President Bush plans to change the policy to insure US dominance in space.

The use of weapons in space by the US could potentially start a new arms race. Countries such as China and Russia may respond by building more warheads. This would actually create a worse threat to national security than that perceived by proponents of a new policy of space weaponry by increasing the number of total nuclear weap- ons. In the new issue of Naval War College Review Captain Hardesty said that, "To pro- ceed with space-based weapons on any other foundation would be the height of folly." Cap- tain Hardesty believes that the US developing space based weapons would lead to other countries doing so as well.

The idea of space weapons is also heavily criticized for being incredibly expen- sive. So far $130 billion have already been spent on missile defense programs, and the costs of a space weapons program could be much higher. Experts believe that the con- struction of a space based defensive system for the country would cost between $220 bil- lion to $1 trillion.

The effectiveness of such a weapons system is also in doubt. They can be countered by the use of decoy missiles or by hiding missiles on balloons. And the current ground based missile defense system has failed nu- merous tests. Spending so many tax dollars on a system which has proved to be a failure would be outright reckless.

As part of the expected presidential directive the Air Force actually has a new strategy which would include a space plane that could carry half a ton of munitions and have the ability to destroy bases all over the world. Other countries are uncomfortable with the idea of the US having the capability to quickly launch such an attack against them. There are also plans for a weapon which would shoot a dense metal tube at tar- gets on the earth’s surface with enough speed to have the force of a nuclear weapon. This has been referred to as "rods from god." This idea has been criticized for being as much as 50-100 times as expensive as a traditional land based weapons system.

Clearly the presence of weapons in space will only lead to an arms race with the United States and other states which will lead to countries constantly trying to outdo each other. Countries will continue to spend more money without feeling any safer. And the US would only further alienate the rest of the world with the weaponization of space. The US should instead live up to the UN treaty which bans weapons of mass destruction in orbit and encourage other countries to do so as well.

Interested in getting involved?
Contact the papers individually or email AltMedia.UCI@gmail.com
Irvine Review

Aznar: “We Were Right”

By Ivan Chen

“Irvine Review

“We were right.” No other politician could have said it ... in the State Assembly and the State Senate. Bruce Cain, director of the Institute of Governmental studies at UC

Paul,

Irvine Review

California

Sacramento

populist

By Andrew C. Marshall-Lund

Irvine Review

When Arnold Schwarzenegger was elected to the office of Governor of this state in November of 2003, he made a pledge to the voters to clean up the state and end business as usual in California.

As part of his campaign Governor Schwarzenegger has proposed an amendment to the state constitution which will change the current redistricting policy of the state. This policy gives the politicians the power to determine their own districts after they have been elected into office based upon changes in population.

Unfortunately, politics as usual in Sacramento has prevented this legislation from making its way into law. Therefore supporters of this legislation have changed it into a ballot initiative for the next election cycle in November of 2006. This proposal will change all of this in the following ways.

First, it replaces the legislature with a three-member panel of retired state judges who will be in charge of determining the state Senate, Assembly, congressional and Board of Equalization districts in the State of California.

Secondly, it will ensure that these judges are non-partisan by setting up a diverse pool of judges three of whom will be selected representing the major political parties (Republican and Democratic), and at least one member will

be from neither major political party. In addition, the proposal requires that public hearings be held and that the people have a say in the process as well as independent experts who will be required to evaluate the proposal. (“Summary of SCA3”)

The fact of the matter is that for too long politicians in this state have been playing politics with their districts. In a statement made by the governor earlier this year Gov. Schwarzenegger explained that “In the Novem- ber elections, 153 California Congres- sional and Legislative seats were up for grabs, and not one changed parties, that is not a de- mocracy,” said Governor Schwarzenegger. “It is time to make our representatives more re- sponsive to the people who elect them.” (Common Cause Announces Support for Gov. Schwarzenegger’s Redistricting Prop-osal)

It is true that democracy may exist in such a system where the districts are chosen by the politicians because after all the people of that district did elect their representative, but when districts are drawn in such a way that they are borderline gerrymandered, and there is little or no opposition to the majority then there is a problem. This is what the cur- rent situation is like in California today.

In such a system people in the minor- ity have little or no influence on what goes on in their districts and the only remedy for a situation such as this would be to move out of that district leaving your schools, friends, and way of life behind just because the majority

politician wanted it so. The governor’s plan will protect against this kind of political mon- opoly and return power back to the voter.

This call is echoed by Common Cause, an organization founded by John Gard- ner in 1970 to promote voter’s rights. Its cur- rent president Chellie Pengree believes “The results in California, where elected officials are virtually assured of re- election, show that this system is broken. In California and across the country, we need to put the power to draw political lines in the hands of truly independent commissions and we need to put the power of the vote back in the hands of the voter. (“Common Cause An- nounces Support for Gov. Schwarzenegger’s Redistricting Proposal”).

Mr. Pengree’s organization believes restructuring districts to include equal popula- tions, boundaries that follow city lines where possible, geographically compact and contiguous regions, more competitive, and incumbent blind, as well as districts which conform to the US Constitution and Voting Rights Act. (“Common Cause Redistricting Guidelines”) Common Cause has come out in full support of the governor’s proposal and are supporting all legislation to that effect.

Despite how good this proposal sounds, many people are concerned that this proposal will not help the voters at all, or that it is somehow not effective. Governor Schwarzenegger to get more Republican seats in the State Assem- bly and the State Senate. Bruce Cain, director of the Institute of Governmental studies at UC

made it seem like he lost because the people of Spain didn’t support the War in Iraq; this just goes to show which side our television is on.

Aznar also commented that “if the ter- rorists have the opportunity, they would take that opportunity.” This is a powerful and in- sightful line that needs to be considered deeply, for the terrorists that Spain is fighting are no more different than the ones we faced in the past and today. The best we can do to prevent their opportunity is to sabotage any chance they have against us. One had to re- member the incredibly hard task our men and women in the armed forces and the counter terrorism agencies do, for the terrorists only have to succeed once, while we are forced to succeed many times. The odds are against the U.S. from the beginning.

The responsibility of the citizens is the government and not the terrorists,” said Aznar, noting that this was one of the first times during his administration that people were thought to be blaming the government instead of those who were actually responsi- ble: the terrorists. This can be asked to all those anti-war protesters when further vio- lence escalates in Iraq. Why are they blaming the US instead of blaming the terrorist fac- tions that are truly the ones killing people?

Redistricting California

Statement of Purpose: The Irvine Review Foundation is a non-profit, non- partisan educational foundation established to promote conservative ideas and enhance the quality of student discourse on the University of California, Irvine campus by publishing a student newspaper and by hosting educational campus events.

Contacts: Ryan Peeke (rpecke@uci.edu) and Ivan Chen (ifchen@uci.edu)
Website: http://www.irvinereview.org/

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ALTERNATIVE MEDIA COLLECTIVE

VOLUME I ISSUE 1
Jaded

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

Contacts: Diana Jou (diana@jadedmag.org), Chris Dea (chris@jadedmag.org), Rosanna Huang (buangr@uci.edu), and Annie Ly (acly@uci.edu)

The Invisibles

By QTT

Jaded

Every night, while UCI students, faculty, and administrative employees enjoy the comfort of their own abode, the custodians remain hard at work on campus. Employed by One Source, a UCI service subcontractor, they carry out the humdrum, yet strenuous tasks of cleaning offices, classrooms, student lounges, libraries, laboratories, and restrooms. In addition, there are also day custodians, who service every nook and cranny of the Student Center, the dorms, and various buildings throughout campus. Their quiet contribution to the well-kept image of UCI often goes unnoticed and is taken for granted. Various factors, such as their late shifts, language barrier, and students’ general oblivious to their existence on campus, contribute to the custodians’ invisibility among the UCI community. In this issue of Jaded, we will bring forth the heroes behind those gray-shirt and blue-pant uniforms, without whom, our learning and living environment would be in total disgust and chaos. We will let them tell their stories, share with us their experiences, wishes and concerns.

Meet Señora Silvia Martinez*, one of the custodians servicing the Langson Library’s restrooms and offices: J (Jaded): When did you start working at UCI? Sra. M (Señora Martinez): I started in 2002 at Sciences Library and here last year. J: How many hours do you work a day? When does your shift start and end? Sra. M: I work here at (UCI) 8 hours and 4 hours part-time at John Wayne. My shift here starts at 4 o’clock and ends at midnight. J: Could you please describe your work routine here at UCI? Sra. M: I clean the restrooms in this building, refill toilet paper and seat cover supplies, refill soap and clean up any spills. Then around ten o’clock Wednesday night, I go with a partner to pick up trash in offices and vacuum carpet, if necessary. We also make sure that all chairs and desks are in order on every library floor and pick up any trash left around there. J: When do you usually get home? Sra. M: About 1 o’clock in the morning. I come from Riverside County. J: Do you go home by yourself? Sra. M: No, I carpool with three other girls working at UCI. The company (One Source) set up the carpool system. They

have a lot of employees in this area (Orange County). J: Do you have children? Are they still awake when you go home to them? Sra. M.: I have 3 children, one 12 year old girl and 10 year old twin boys. My sister takes care of them when I’m not there. Yes, they are usually asleep when I get home. But I see them in the morning before they go to school. J: Do you think the UCI students respect what you do? Sra. M.: I don’t generally see them around, but I guess they do. J: Do you have any concerns about your job? Sra. M.: Once in a while, they (the library patrons) make my job much harder. Like some people don’t throw the toilet paper in the trashcan, but all over the floor. Or they splash water and make the whole place wet. Some people don’t flush toilet when they are done and it’s disgusting to clean the bowl afterwards. To be honest with you, no one likes cleaning up after other people’s mess. But since I need the job, I guess I have to deal with it. Meet Señor Sergio N., one of the custodians working at the Eater’s Food Court and the Student Center. J (Jaded): How long have you worked at UCI? S. N. (Señor N.): Since 2003. J: How many days do you work a day? S. N.: Eight hours here (UCI) and eight more hours at another place. J: When do you start your day at UCI? S. N.: 7:30 in the morning and I leave at 4:30 in the afternoon. J: What is your routine job here at UCI? S. N.: I wipe the tables after people eat, pick up trash from the floor, and take them away and put new bags in the trash cans. J: Since you work in the Student Center, there are a lot of students coming in and out. Are the students respectful to you? S. N.: Well, some look at me like they feel sorry for me, and others give me malicious looks. J: Do you think they appreciate what you do at the Food Court? S. N.: I don’t know. Some of them throw the trash in the wrong place and don’t pick up things they dropped. J: What’s the busiest time for you during the day? S. N.: The Food Court is busy all the time. J: What do you like most and least about your job? S. N.: I don’t like picking up trash and cleaning up after spills. However, I like it when I receive my check in the mail. J: Do you live in Orange County? How do you get to work? How long does it take for you to get here? S. N.: Yes, I live in Orange County. I take the bus to work and it takes about an hour. J: Do you have any children? S. N.: I have 3 kids. J: If you could be a super hero, who would you be? S. N.: The Terminator. Meet Señora Flora Fernandez*, a custodian at one of the Mesa Court dorms. J (Jaded): How long have you been a custodian? Sra. F. (Señora Fernandez): I have been doing custodial work for ten years. I worked in Santa Monica before this job at UCI. J: Could you please tell me what your daily routine is like? Sra. F.: I start at 7:30 am with my partner with the first dorm we were assigned to. We clean up the kitchen, living room, hallway, and bathroom areas. In the kitchen, we wipe counters, empty trash cans, arrange tables and chairs, and mop the floor. J: How would you like to see the student’s dormitory? Sra. F.: Yes, especially when they have some kind of party the night before, or on the weekends. J: What’s the worst day you have had at your job? Sra. F.: Around finals week last quarter, one of the dorms was very yucky because some students left the dishes piled up and the sink was overflowing with dirty dishes, trash, and they were very moldy. And they must have been drinking because the entire bathroom stank like puke and urine. J: What’s the best day you have had at your job? Sra. F.: Last year before Christmas, some of the kids bought flowers and Christmas cards and left them on the table for us before they left. That was very nice. J: Are the students generally nice to you? Sra. F.: Yes, most of them are nice. They say hi to us when they see us around. Some of them want to know our names and even try to talk to us in Spanish. J: Do you wish to do something else if you don’t have to work as a custodian? Sra. F.: Yes, I would like to be a teacher. That’s what I was learning in El Salvador before I came to this country. J: How come you don’t finish your education? Sra. F.: No money and this was the only thing I could find. J: Do you miss school? Sra. F.: Yeah, I feel sad because sometimes I see the kids at the dorms go to their classes, I remember about my school days in El Salvador. Hired by One Source, whose motto is “You take care of your stu-

(Continued on page 6)
**New Forum**

**Batting Cage**

*BY RICHARD SIMS*

Most of my friends collected baseball cards of strange men they held as heroes. Who had who, or what—a childhood Currency.

I can here to watch my father hack at cage balls, quiet evenings lit by headlight sulking off his truck when mother was busy, when she worked late or claimed a meeting with one of her clients. I studied every swing—tightly wrapped twine swallowed in cowhide thudding against a stick of solid oak, and the quick silence that followed—the sound of air shifted and splitting in two.

**Statement of Purpose:** New Forum is a publication dedicated to UC Irvine's undergraduate creative writing. We take submissions of short fiction and poetry every quarter, and selected submissions will be printed in our quarterly publication.

Contacts: Daniel Ross (dpross@uci.edu) and Julie Littman (jllittman@uci.edu)

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**Medtimes**

**Statement of Purpose:** Med-Times is a medical/scientific newspaper that assists in the advancement and awareness of the art and science of medicine for the educational enhancement of University of California, Irvine (UCI) community.

Contacts: Zainab Saadi (zsaadi@uci.edu)

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**Pesticides and the Food We Eat**

*By Jenny Mao*

Pesticides are chemicals used to prevent, eliminate, and control unwanted pests such as insects, rodents, weeds, mold, and bacteria. In farmer's food crops, the use of pesticides contributes greatly to providing consumers with a wide variety of vegetables, fruits, and grains that were never as readily available as they are now. Pesticides allow growers and handlers of fresh produce to increase production in volume and in new environments. Pesticide use also favors in prolonging shelf life and improving the look of food products. However, using pesticides for food production concerns the public since consuming foods with pesticide residues may be harmful to their health.

While pesticides have significant uses, studies show that certain levels of exposure can cause health risks. Laboratory studies show that pesticides can cause health problems, such as birth defects, nerve damage, cancer, and other effects that might occur over a long period of time. These effects depend on how toxic the pesticide is and how much of it is consumed. Specific types of effects that were tested as potential health problems in humans are eye or skin irritation, skin sensitization, and neurotoxicity (nerve system damage). Under prolonged and repeated exposure, non-cancerous and carcinogenic chronic effects resulted. Hormone disruption was also discovered among the measured risks, with the possibility of disrupting the endocrine system. The endocrine system consists of a set of glands and the hormones they produce help guide the development, growth, reproduction, and behavior of animals and humans.

Many infants and children in particular are more susceptible to harm from pesticide exposure. Since their internal organs are still developing, consumption of pesticides poses greater health risks. They also weigh less than adults and eat and drink more, which makes them even more vulnerable. Families can minimize exposure to pesticide residue by following better preparation methods before eating. Healthy, sensible food practices take into account washing, peeling, and trimming different foods. Washing and scrubbing all fresh fruits and vegetables under running water reduces dirt, bacteria and traces of chemicals. Peeling and trimming also helps remove dirt, bacteria, and pesticides. Because pesticides are sprayed directly on the crops, discarding the outer layer of foods eliminates more bug spray residue. Eating a variety of foods from different sources will give you a better assortment of nutrients and will reduce your chances of contact to a single pesticide.

An organization formed by the Federal Government, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), aids in protecting consumer’s health by regulating the amount of pesticide residue that can remain on food. In evaluating a pesticide chemical, EPA must estimate the combined risk of that particular pesticide from all sources, which include food sources, drinking water sources, and residential sources. In 1996, former President Clinton and the Congress put into law the Food Quality Protection Act, which set stronger, stricter standards on pesticide treatment on our food. These changes are key elements of the current risk assessment process. By 2006, EPA will have reviewed every pesticide that is used to assure that they pass the new safety standard.

Most of today's food growers are implementing an approach called Integrated Pest Management (IPM) on their crop growing. This approach helps prevent, reduce, and eliminate pest problems by integrating decisions based on incentives for sustaining long-term crop protection with minimal disruption to the environment. With the IPM strategy, when alternatives are not available for pest control, then proper application of pesticides will be used. Professional crop consultants that work in the agricultural community assist in maintaining and increasing production through the utilization of IPM programs. Before leaving the farm, all food products are inspected by IPM at the food processing facility. IPM practices include plant sanitation, monitoring for insect and rodent pests, and controlled temperature strategies in the food crop environment. All of these are systematically incorporated into the food processing cycle, which results in a decreased need to use pesticides. IPM efforts and decision making benefit the consumer by providing foods with minimal or no pesticide residue.

Nearly four out of ten individuals believe that the potential risks from pesticide residue outweigh the potential health benefits of eating fresh fruits and vegetables. Nutritionists and Dieticians, on the other hand, gen-

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**Andy Goldsworthy**

*BY MICHAEL HSU*

He secures rocks in circles overlap. Hand bandaged, he builds the thing, slab by slab, spiraling it tall, forming a cup, then doming it over until it becomes a black stone egg. He respects the ocean which brought the rocks, and lets the tides swallow what he made, the destruction being the completion of his art.
Paint the Town Red..ish-Brown

By Sweta Kikani

Mehndi is the traditional art of adorning the hands and feet with a paste made from a Henna plant. Although general theory claims that this art originated in India, other sources note that it may have been brought over to India by the Moguls in the 12th century after use in the Middle East and North Africa. One of the earliest documentations of mehndi was in Egypt, as the Egyptians would put it on the toes of the pharaohs before mummification. Age-old beliefs in India and parts of the Middle East claim that mehndi has medicinal and magical elements, curing everything from the curse of the “evil eye” to thinning hair and stomach pains. Most commonly seen on brides during weddings, mehndi has carried with it old superstitions. It is said that the darker the reddish-brown design appears on the bride, the more the mother-in-law loves her. Similarly, until that color comes off her hands, the bride is not allowed to perform any household, wifely duties. Mehndi made its big break into the western world in recent years. It can now be found in major fashion and women’s magazines such as Vanity Fair and Cosmopolitan, and even on the bodies of some of the most famous celebrities. Gwen Stefani, lead singer of No Doubt was one of the first to pioneer this trend in the west, mixing her funky style with ancient tradition. Soon to follow were other famous pop icons such as Madonna and Prince. Celebrity endorsements slay you in the face with every new trend that hits the scene. But while the A-list Elite use this ancient art as an expression of themselves, one must ask, is it for the art or the image? Strolling down any local beach town you will find a countless number of tattoo shops with signs in the window advertising this art. However, what you will not find is the traditional designs to wear. Instead, you browse through a design book full of flowers, symbols, tribal designs and Chinese characters galore, none of which have anything to do with the symbolic meanings that mehndi carry. An art that takes time, patience, and appreciation has lost all meaning in the western world and is now seen as nothing more than a trendy accessory decorating one’s lower back at a fraternity party. With this recent trend in body painting as fashion, one can’t help but wonder if the next big trend will be throwing on a dash of Holi rang to spruce up that of Gianni Versace dress.

The Festival of Lights

By Aditi Mehta

The grand festival of lights known as Diwali is on November 1st this year. Diwali also known as Deeparali is the most celebrated Hindu festival all around the world. On this day households are traditionally decorated with diyas (small lamps) in order to light up the house. Many people also decorate the outside of their home with beautiful rangoli designs made from colored powder on the ground in front of the entrance. People dress up in new colorful outfits and women will wear their best jewelry in order to celebrate the festive day. At night, the skies are lit with fireworks and adults and children of all ages gather around with family to celebrate the joyous occasion.

Diwali is celebrated for the triumph of good over evil. There are many stories that are told from different parts of India describing the victory of good over evil. One such story is about Lord Rama returning to Ayodhya from exile along with Sita and Lakshman. The kingdom was overjoyed and lit the way for Rama to come back to his home. Another story is about Naraakaarsura, the demon king who became too egotistical due to his boons and turned to evil and mis-treated the people of his kingdom, Praagjyothisapura. The gods asked for Lord Krishna’s aid to defeat this almost invincible demon and he responded. Lord Krishna marched himself over to Praagjyothisapura, defeated the army and beheaded Naraakaarsura. Each region of India has a different way for celebrating Diwali. For the Punjabi Sikhs, Diwali is celebrated as Vijay divas for the return of their Guru and so the Golden Temple is lit up with diyas and special ceremonies are performed there. In Gujarat, Raha-Jastan and the other northern areas, people will buy new pots (vessels) and gold or gold ornaments to welcome wealth and prosperity. Also during Diwali, people celebrate by performing Lakshmi puja since the New Year is the day following Diwali. In Bengal, Diwali is celebrated with a Kali puja, bhog (prasad), and firecrackers. The regions of India including Maharasthra, Karnataaka, Tamil Nadu, and other southern states, celebrate Diwali similar to other regions by performing a puja, buying new ornaments, and decorating homes with diyas and rangoli. Most of the country also celebrates Bhai Bheej during the Diwali time too which is significant because this was the day that Lord Yama visited his sister’s home and she prays for his long life and prosperity. Even today, many sisters pray for their brothers’ prosperity and prepare their favorite dishes.

Diwali is a traditional Hindu holiday celebrated by Indians all over the world. Although people vary in the way they celebrate it, the Festival of Lights brings many families and friends together for joyous festivities. I wish you all the best this year, and hope you have a happy Diwali!

Pesticides and the Food We Eat

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cerally consider that the issue of pesticides in food is not a major food issue. Medical and Health care communities encourage the public to eat a healthier and more nourishing diet by increasing the consumption of fruits and vegetables in everyday meals. Significant evaluation and regulatory scrutiny has provided today’s consumers with the benefits of high quality food. The essential inspection mandated by federal law proves that the benefits of using a pesticide outweigh the risks that may be posed to public health.

Statement of Purpose: Sanskriti (“culture”) is a monthly paper that aims to create a permanent forum for debate, discussion, and enlightenment on the various issues and topics concerning Hinduism and the Hindu culture. Sanskriti aims to capture not only the diverse views of the Hindu culture and heritage, but also aims to address misconceptions and distortions that have pervaded Western society. Sanskriti bridges the traditional Hindu beliefs to the contemporary Hindu outlook to raise awareness and understanding of the culture as a whole.

Contacts: Poonam Kaushal (pkaushal@uci.edu) and Jay Shah (jshah@uci.edu)

Tangent

Statement of Purpose: The Tangent is a student-run alternative media publication, which aims to strengthen the communication culture within the UC Irvine engineering community. The Tangent is strictly a member of the UCI Alternative Media Board and is not affiliated with any engineering organization. The goal of the publication is to not only serve as a forum for the expression of diverse and creative viewpoints, but also as a form of community activism through education and awareness. We support and celebrate the engineering community through the promotion and strengthening of non-technical skills—communications and writing for engineers. The Tangent is a non-profit newsmagazine that reaches students, faculty, staff, and alumni of the UC Irvine community. The views expressed in The Tangent do not necessarily represent the opinions of the University of California.

Contacts: Catherine Phan (phanct@uci.edu) and Phillip Ngo (phil491@uci.edu)
OP_ERA: Sonic Dimension

By Annie Change
Tangent

Artists Daniela Kutsch and Rejane Cantoni bring their award-winning and thought-provoking installation of OP_ERA all the way from Brazil to the UC Irvine campus with their interpretation of the immersive interactive environment of a sonic space.

Using the design of a “music box” measuring 10 by 13 feet, their project embodies Pythagorean principles while allowing user interaction through two different inputs of either sound through a microphone or action through an array of sensors.

Housed in a dimly lit environment, the music box is actually an open cube in which a person can walk into the center and be surrounded by virtual “violin” strings vertically lining the three wall panels. The strings are laser-lighted emblems of vertical lines streaming along the box walls in an orderly fashion.

For a microphone hangs above from the exact center of the cube and is so extremely sensitive that it picks up the ambient noise of the central air-conditioning. Even when a user is not actively interfacing with the music box, a couple of strings can be seen vibrating softly in response to input from the air-conditioning.

OP_ERA is designed to transmit back to the user their input of sound as a visual output of relative frequencies and motion. Sound is analyzed by a software system that exports it to equivalent visual outputs. These relative frequencies are vibrating as strings to demonstrate the artificial instrument’s interpretation of human action.

The user or art enthusiast can approach the strings by stepping into the enclosure of a box, and activate the motion sensors lining the walls as if one were strumming an oversized guitar or harp. The lighted images of the strings begin resonating and cascading against each other in response to the user’s movement.

Cantoni and Kutsch spent the last six years developing this installation as a research project. They have already been awarded two national art and technology awards for their efforts to make possible the experience of space-time concepts of dimension in a multitude of strings can be dedicated years at the other.

While sound-based elements are only one way of modeling space, this project is the culmination of their research and design towards the group of scientific methodology. It is the artists’ belief that visual-sonorous-tactile forms of information are most acceptable to people as the best depiction of space-time concepts.

“It’s too bad though, Clark Kent isn’t an engineer. You can take an “automatic” engineer and strip away the TI-89 calculator and arrogant personality then hand him a reporter’s notebook with a pen on the back and a “Go get ‘em tiger.” But, your pseudo-journalist will probably piss in his pants.

It doesn’t take an evil genius to wildly breed some engineering-journalism hybrid. Although they call a room — and chuckle. I couldn’t recall anything anyway. Then when it was all over, I couldn’t even sell back “The Student Guide to Writing at UCI.” Happily, it did keep me warm one freezing night.

Writing didn’t make sense—the infi nite variables and lack of numbers. What does it all equal?

The press though, wasn’t about bullshit. It makes sense now and even in my days of high school journalism.

Construct the lead with its function being a mousetrap for the reader. Simplify the sentences to filter information. Use parallel structure. Use the same grammatical order in succeeding sentences or place the same number of sentences in succeeding paragraphs. Vary sentence length. Follow a long sentence with a short one. An anecdote within the story creates momentum to pull the reader through the copy. Elaborate on a cause and effect by using examples or quotes. Tune the elements of the product to match a specific story angle.

It was a language I understood. Everything else—the essays, the compositions—that were put into my head didn’t fit together nicely and was too much out of proportion. It leads me to mindless writing, as if I was programmed—programmed to bullshit.

The lack of writing skill would be the handicap of a lifetime. Every man is allowed one vice. Mind you, writing can’t be that vice. This struck me, like a foot in the groin, about a year into the New University, fixing up lay-outs in the most copious publications for dedicated years at the other.

I was determined, or rather given a significant push, to report the news—the events and controversies, and the people and the general state of science, art, new research, suicide victims, lecturer strikes and bomb scares. It felt like being Superman minus the red cape and blue tights.

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