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Jaded magazine is a form of alternative media to encourage political, cultural, and personal discourse among UCI students. We celebrate and support the Asian Pacific Islander community through the retelling of the past, engaging of the present, and sharing a vision for the future. We hope to build connections and bridge gaps between different people of different. 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.

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WELCOME

Open your eyes. Wider.

I declared this an open themed issue of Jaded. We had an “Identity” and “Impact” issue and it was about time we had a little freedom around here. But the resulting collection of articles are undeniably linked to sentiments of anti-corporation and consumer consumption. I guess all the writers are commenting on this little holiday called ThanksgivingChristmasNewYearsBuyMoreStuffYeahh. So instead of providing you with a list of “gift ideas under $75,” we provide you with a Buy Nothing Day proposal, suggest Von Dutch is evil in more ways than one, expose the profit motive behind politics, and accuse people who wear Hollister and Puma to be dirty and heartless students. This is how we do it.

Like the pictures suggest, open your eyes and look at what these rich folks are trying to sell you... or else we'll have to tape your eyes open and glue you to the wall.

Merry Winter.
Diana Jou

STAFF

Editor in Chief
Diana Jou

Creative Director
Chris Dea

Executive Editor
Amardeep Gill

News Feature Editor
Jessica Hong

Student Life Editor
Frank Meksavan

Entertainment Editor
Nicole Cruz

Copy Editors
Brian Helton
Jee Soo Kim

Angela Su
Writers
Jansen Cudal
Stephanie Ho
Jee Soo Kim
Charlotte Lee
Jessica C. Lee
Brett Miller
Maritess Santiago
Layouts
Chris Dea
Diana Jou

Contributors
Chris Appelhans
Jessica Blanchette
Davis Fetter
Henry Kim
Jennifer Lieu
Andy Lin
Johnny Lu
Karl Muthukrishnan
Aaron Thompson
Louis Trinh
Publicity Coordinator
Jee Soo Kim
Funding Coordinator
Erica Shen

Graphic & Illustration
Jeff Tang
Champ Tangkasem
Albert Ok
Julie Trieu
Beverly Shen
Webmasters
Chris Dea
Jee Soo Kim

Back cover photo by Ye Rin Mok

www.jadedmag.org

Send them all to comments@jadedmag.org.

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Andy Lin

Brett Miller
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Markess Santiago
Karl Muthukrishnan

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Loris Trinh

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HODGE PODGE

NEWS BRIEF by Diana Jou

STUDENTS PROTEST OCCUPATION OF IRAQ
What is a protest without media coverage? On November 10th and 16th, the Students for Peace and Justice at UCI held two demonstrations in front of the Langson library. The students demonstrated against our current military offense in Fallujah and our plan for military escalation in Iraq. They made bright catchy posters and passed out information leaflets about the war. Help spread the word and voice your opposition to U.S. imperialism in the Middle East and join their rally. Email, spj@uci.edu

NEW UNIVERSITY REFUSES TO TALK
After several complaints of the New University not being the objective school paper, the Cross Cultural Center organizations invited the editors of New U to participate in a public forum. The New U rejected the invitation to perform their duty as a concerned newspaper serving the student’s needs. Instead, they suggested that the students come to their conference room and sit quietly until after their two hour tear-down to address any questions. Even after 50 people showed up to their Wednesday meeting and pressed them to have this discussion in a larger room, they agreed on the spot but later wrote a letter to the organizations and retracted their offer.

GOVERNATOR REPEALS CONSERVATION LAW
Governor Schwarzenegger supports the President’s repeal of the Roadless Area Conservation Rule. The Roadless Area Conservation Rule protects 58.5 million acres of wild national forest land from most commercial logging and road-building. The Bush administration plans to replace it with a process where the Governors of each state would have to petition for the protection of their roadless areas. With Schwarzenegger supporting the repeal of the environment conservation rule, 2.5 million acres of national forest are vulnerable to commercial construction. Please write to our Governator and ask him to protect our environment. [http://environmentcalifornia.org/]

A&F PAYS FOR DISCRIMINATION
Abercrombie and Fitch agreed to pay 40 million dollars to settle a class-action federal discrimination lawsuit. The lawsuit was filed last June accusing the trendy clothing line store of discriminating minority employees. Abercrombie is implementing new policies to promote diversity and prevent discrimination in their new “diversity department.” They admit no wrongdoing or discrimination.

SIT-IN DEMONSTRATION
December 2nd 12 to 1 pm in front of Administration Building, solidarity sit-in students and UC Irvine Workers. Workers are demanding better pay and health care benefits. Workers have been trying to negotiate pay increases with administration with no progress.

“What is REAL?” asked the Rabbit one day. “Does it happen all at once, or bit by bit?” “It doesn’t happen all at once,” said the Skin Horse. “You become. It takes a long time. That’s why it doesn’t often happen to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don’t matter at all, because once you are Real, you can’t be ugly, except to people who don’t understand.”

- Margery Williams, The Velveteen Rabbit
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- Margery Williams, The Velveteen Rabbit

frankandfrank by Chris Appelhans
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he Atkins Diet is screwing Asian Americans. Let’s face it: even since the gung ho protein lifestyle came into popularity, the word “rice” has become demonized. This Asian diet staple is now the god-forsaken carbohydrate that Panda Express diners are leaving off their plates. As if skimping out on that side of fried rice is really going to make a difference on waistlines when scoops of deep fried meat stewed in a sugary sauce are heaped onto Styrofoam plates next to soggy green beans.

Forgive me for the poor example of “Asian” cuisine, but just when you thought that the western world couldn’t influence Asian Americans anymore, it has made its way onto our dinner plates.

It’s not uncommon to hear low-carb fanatics ask: “How do Asians remain so thin when they eat so much rice?” Stereotypes of the “Asian Body Type” have influenced outsider perspectives on how Asians should look in relation to what American women are unhappy with their bodies point to distorted images of physical attractiveness.

Perhaps we can attribute this to the juxtaposition of cultural standards of beauty that an Asian American is faced with. The second generation Asian American is caught between two distinct images of physical beauty. These standards of beauty reflect those from their parents’ generation: the geisha-in-spired porcelain doll image contrasting with what is considered an “American” image of attractiveness. As more Asians immigrate to America, their definition of beauty becomes integrated with that of the Caucasian’s sense: blond hair, blue eyes, thin waists and long legs. With this in mind it is no wonder so many Asian American women today are resorting to fast diets, double eyelid surgery and dying their hair all colors of the rainbow.

In 2000, Lillian Huang Cummins, a postdoctorate at the Addictive Behaviors Research Center at the University of Wisconsin’s Department of Psychology, conducted a study on the growing number of Asian American women with eating disorders. In her study she found that Asian American college women expressed more dissatisfaction with their bodies than Caucasian women. A survey conducted in 1997 by eating disorder specialist Liz Dittrich also reflects an increase in the number of Asian Americans who report a skewed perception of beauty.

While studying 234 women attending a junior college in Northern California, Dittrich found that there were no ethnic differences in body image dissatisfaction among Asian American, Hispanic, Black and Caucasian women. Overall, 49 percent stated that they wished to lose weight. 43 percent of Asian American women admitted that they considered themselves overweight despite the fact that 25 percent of that number was considered the “thinnest” of the surveyed group. Typically, Caucasian women are viewed as the most susceptible ethnic group to fall into dangerous eating behaviors. However, with the growing number of Asian American communities ac-

The theories that Chang states in her thesis relate to the way Christina* had dealt with her own personal demons regarding the ideal Asian American physical appearance. “I used to highlight my hair and wear light colored contacts all the time. It was so important for me not to look too Asian. But no matter how hard I tried to do something different, it never felt right. I guess I couldn’t deny the fact that I was who I am.”

Christina’s realization triggers criticism toward the supposed “standard of beauty” that Asian Americans try to attain. No matter what a person does to change their physical appearance, whether it’s dieting without rice, getting plastic surgery, or bleaching their hair, there is no denying who they are.

Granted there’s nothing wrong with wanting to make yourself look better, but it’s important not let shame rule your actions. Whether or not you identify with an Asian culture more than you would with an American one, or visa versa, the “Asian American Standard of Beauty” as a concept holds no validity. As cliché as this may sound, no two Asian Americans are alike—period. We’re a wonderful mixture of various Asian cultures with a modern American twist. Thus, Asian Americans can come in every different weight, shape, height, or color, and it doesn’t really matter because the “standard” of physical attractiveness for the Asian American culture is full of it. A “perfect image” of the Asian American is something that we really can’t attain because it’s not possible to correctly define what is “standard” or “perfect.”

Rather than beating ourselves down if we don’t fully fit the “Asian” or “American” criteria for “physical attractiveness,” it’s crucial for Asian Americans to celebrate the fact that we are who we are because we have two distinct cultures to identify with. We truly are a blessed generation in the fact that we are able to incorporate both Asian and American cultural aspects into our lives in order to make us well-rounded individuals.

Jessica C. Lee is a fourth year Literary Journalism major. Email Jessica at jessiccl@uci.edu.
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Many of these people attribute the “mystery” to genetics. Statistically, Asian Americans do have lower rates of obesity in comparison to other ethnic groups. Whether one attributes this to a “healthy” diet or genetics, the common perception of the “Asian Body Type” (especially that of Asian females) is one that is slender and petite. If these perceptions are true, why are there a growing number of Asian Americans dissatisfied with their body image and choosing to live their lives without rice?

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"It’s like everything I’ve been brought up to believe was made of bullshit.”

—John Connor, 10-year-old protagonist of Terminator 2: Judgment Day

What if everything your parents taught you about life and everything you learned about it in school turn out to be a lie? What if so-called “polite society” really existed to paste bright smiles on faces, good, euphemism and selflessness? What if every high-minded statement made by our leaders was just window-dressing to conceal their pursuit of self-interested goals? What if the people of San Diego are not. "What they are trying to do is disenfranchise 135,000 people who voted for Donna," fumed a local labor official. John Howard, the attorney who filed suit on behalf of Mayor Dick Murphy, said the lawsuits challenging the election result on the grounds that write-ins are not specifically allowed are implausible. All of these form communities linked not by conscious thought, but by commonality of purpose. I’ve long observed that within groups of humans the lowest common denominator is always the dominant characteristic. A congregation of racists, for example, doesn’t require lengthy debate to figure out what it ought to do and how it should relate to the outside world. Every member knows as though by instinct how to act and react, what the real issues are, and what goals they hope to attain. Have you ever attended a sex party? It’s clear from the start what everyone came for, and the clothes come off pretty quick. If these scenarios seem obvious, then why don’t we think in such terms about the wealthy citizens of this country? Isn’t it true that at social gatherings of well-heeled people, certain standards of dress, behavior, and speech are somehow understood to be in effect? I personally have offended many such gatherings with my presence. Maybe it was just my aftertaste, but I’m inclined to think that it was minute speech and facial cues, which betrayed my origin from the common and not privileged class. I learned early to limit my appearance and almost out to feel a chill. Here’s an interesting example of how the rich protect their own. Recently, there has been much newspaper coverage of the San Diego mayoral election. Get this: San Diego is a place that a challenger mounted a successful write-in campaign and won. This is akin to 51% of Americans deciding that, in the 2004 national election, Michael Moore would make a better president than either John Bush or George Kerry. So BAM, they write "Michael Moore" at the bottom of their ballots, and suddenly ball caps are all the rage in D.C. Hooray! Free ramen noodles and clean underwear for all! George Kerry. So BAM, they write "Michael Moore" at the bottom of their ballots, and suddenly ball caps are all the rage in D.C. Hooray! Free ramen noodles and clean underwear for all!}(http://evan.quuxuum.org/bgnw.html)
large numbers of people congregate in the same way fish schools do with no single guiding intelligence but each individual in harmony with the actions of the group? Why should that be such an alien idea? Humans are ani-
mals too. It is hypothesized that we share an ancient ancestry with fish, bees, ants, and colonies of single-celled organisms. All of these form communities linked by some conscious thought but by commonality of purpose.

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tom of their ballots, and suddenly ball caps are all the rage in D.C. Hooray! Free ramen noodles and clean underwear for all! Edited San Diego did just that. They wrote-in Donja 
Frey, a two-term city councilman who had gained some measure of fame for being the lone dissenter on most pro-busi-
ness or pro-development matters brought before the Council. “She doesn’t play the game,” noted a local political consultant. “She won’t be bull-dozed into doing something she’s uncon-
fortable with.”

Friends of the Republican incumbent, Mayor Dick Mur-
phy, have filed lawsuits challenging the election result on the 
grounds that write-in candidates are not specifically allowed under the law. Handicappers are divided on who holds the higher mora-
lar and legal ground, but the people of San Diego are not. “What 
they’re trying to do is disenfranchise 150,000 people who vot-
ed for Donna,” fumed a local labor official.

John Howard, the attorney who filed suit on behalf of May-
der, put it this way: “I feel strongly supported by people 
whom I respect, and scorned frankly by people I don’t give a damn about. I read this whole story in the November 
13 issue of the Los Angeles Times. In a nutshell: San Diego faces bankruptcy due to pervasive corruption and misman-
agement; citizens revolt and choose a tough-minded union-
ist/environmentalist; powers that be bankroll two lawsuits to 
prevent a loss of control.

Does this remind anyone of the 2000 national elections? Power protects its own. If Mayor Dick does enjoy a rightist 
lock on Tijuana’s sister-city, then all the honest politicians and concerned voters in the world won’t be able to dislodge him. The will of the people will once again be ignored.

The wealthy circle their wagons whenever the commoner 
gets uppity. There’s too much profit at stake to entrust gover-
ment to anything as unpredictable as a democracy.

So the scenario most dreaded by Jefferson, Madison and Adams has come to pass: the rise of an American aristocracy 
that chose whichever monarch it feels will most enrich its 
own pockets. Have you noticed? Nothing seems to matter any-
more in this country except the accumulation of wealth and 
stuff, which of course must be fried from the cold, stiffening fingers of lesser citizens, either here or abroad.

Having a few idle minutes and a burning curiosity, I sat 
down and calculated how much you and I work to support Bill Gates. To sustain the post lifestyle of just one success-
ful businessman, each worker in America must contribute one hour per year.

The calculation:

(Bill Gates’ average annual income of $1,743 bil-
ions) / ($39.8 million U.S. employer + real disposable 
2004 per-capita income of $27,090C) = 52 business 
weeks per year = .96 hours worked for Bill Gates per year.

Therefore Bill Gates owns all of us for one hour each year. Be sure to take a nice hour-long break from work when you first return from the holidays; you owe it to yourself and the nation.

And this is just one rich dude. Add up the incomes of all 
the other top-one-percenters and you’d no doubt be looking at 
moments of direct participation in an Ownership Society.

Why do we put up with it? Because it’s easier to trust 
than it is to comprehend motives. Motives are often compli-
cated and generally ugly to look at. Do you really want to 
know what drives the wealthiest citizens of our country to inhuman 
and often illegal extremes? Probably not. After all, these are America’s “best and brightest;” the people our political parties, 
religious institutions, and cultural elite hold up as role models 
for the rest of us. If we lose our national role models, what 
then?

But lose them we must. Funny thing, our U.S. Senators and 
Congressmen are all multimillionaires who favor the con-
trary of the war in Iraq. They are also overwhelmingly 
pro-business, pro-national service (read: pro-draft), pro-free 
markets, pro-globalization, pro-outsourcing, pro-corporate tax 
cuts, anti-regulation, anti-healthcare reform, anti-liability law-
suits, and anti-environmental protections.

Quite a coincidence isn’t it? How lucky for us that Repub-
licans and Democrats share the same interests as America’s 
richest individuals! There’s much less bickering that way.

Lost in all this happy circumstance is the will of the Ameri-

can people, who are steadily being reduced to the status of 
developing-nation laborers.

Understand motives, and you’ll understand what makes people tick. Sure, listen to what people have to say. Listen to 
their rhetoric; that’s important data too. Then discount it by 
three-fourths and try to discern the underlying motive.

Example: George W. Bush promised Christian-Americans 
that he would crack down on homosexuality and abortion, the 
two issues dearest to the hearts of evangelicals. Now that the 
election is over, he’s publicly backing away from both com-
mitments. Why? Because his real motive was to win a second 
term, not undertake a moral crusade.

Bush’s top two priorities for the coming year: convert-
ing Social Security into an investment banking enterprise that 
gambles our benefits on the stock market, thereby providing 
more capital for American corporations, and rewriting the fed-
eral tax code, no doubt with an eye to making it more favor-
able to corporations.

Motives. Ain’t they a bitch? But you and I have motives too, 
and I guarantee that ours run counter to the interests of 
big business. It’s time we got in touch with our own motives 
and started giving them political expression and real impact.

A http://evan.quixuum.org/bpnew.html
http://stats.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.nr0.htm
http://www.whitehouse.gov/fsbr/income.html

Brett Miller is a second year Literary Journalism major. Email him at mister_write@yahoo.com.
Canada are said to be receiving a record number of calls. Immigration offices in New Zealand and the United States are said to be receiving a record number of calls. This is not the case. Now, more than ever, liberals must be diligent with their cause and fight the good fight. Here’s a run down of what you might do to get your voice out there:

**WOMAN’S CHOICE**

As you might have seen in the news, David Hager, the author of As Jesus Cared for Women: Restoring Women Then and Now, has stated that the common birth control pill is an abortifacient, is now being considered to head up the FDA Reproductive Health Drugs Advisory Committee.

Hagar refuses to prescribe contraceptives to unmarried women and suggests that women who suffer from premenstrual syndrome should "seek help from reading the Bible and praying." Planned Parenthood opposes Hagar’s appointment and will continue to push for women’s reproductive rights within the FDA. Their site offers some ways for you to get involved.

**GAY/LESBIAN RIGHTS**

The American Civil Liberties Union vows to continue striving for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights, despite Bush. The first step is again at the local level, lobbying representatives to oppose the discriminatory federal marriage amendment.

Lobbying isn’t just for the stuffy suits on the hill. The Campus Activism Center (www.campusactivism.org) might be the route for building up environmentalists with some room to travel. The “expeditions link” leads to student opportunities in Costa Rica, Australia, and Alaska, focusing largely on conservation and gathering scientific data to influence large corporations on issues that support a sustainable environment.

**GAY/LESBIAN RIGHTS**

For example, question four reads: "Are you willing to require ALL hospitals—including those that claim a religious affiliation—to provide emergency contraception to sexual assault survivors?" If you want to take physical action, there are Planned Parenthood Action Networks across the country. Visit www.savewomen.com/action/index.php to find a local chapter and links to form letters and questions.

**ANTI-WAR**

There are rallies going on all over Orange and LA County, we just don’t seem to be hearing about them in mainstream media. Take heart placard makers and street marchers! A recent rally titled "No More Blood for Oil" took place in Long Beach in November to great support.

Even UC Irvine get involved with an anti-war rally staged around the administration building on November 16th against the US offensive in Fallujah.

For more information on rallying or getting involved with peace actions, contact Suleman Ahmed of the Students for Peace and Justice Organization at UC Irvine or visit www.peace-action.org to find paid summer internships with the Student Peace Action Network (SPAN) and their Costa Mesa branch. Explore “student network” and “national network” for local chapters and links.

Another unique way to help troops already deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan is to check out Operation Hero Miles. This website was created by US Airlines and Congressmen Dutch Ruppersberger to allow citizens to donate their frequent flyer miles to soldiers trying to get home.

Currently, the military covers international flights for emergency leave and R&R. However, once the soldiers are home they have to pay for domestic flights out of pocket. Many families cannot cover this cost. To help, just go to www.heronomies.org and contribute whatever frequent flyer miles you racked up from that backpacking trip to Europe or all those flights to Vegas to a deserving soldier. Over 540 million miles have been donated so far. Delta, Northwest, and Southwest are now accepting donations.

**ENVIRONMENT**

Some environmentally conscious on-campus organizations include CALPIRG (http://clubs.uci.edu/calpirg) and Campus Greens (http://www.campusgreens.org/). Through CALPIRG you can learn how to get involved with Habitat for Humanity and soup kitchens while also keeping your ear to the ground for bigger environmental projects or lobby projects. The Campus Greens website shows you how to join the Irvine chapter, download a guide to fight corporate media, and connects you to other activist sites tackling art activism, progressive politics, and fair trade clothing, along with the environment.

The Earthwatch Institute (http://earthwatch.org) might be the route for building up environmentalists with some room to travel. The “expeditions link” leads to student opportunities in Costa Rica, Australia, and Alaska, focusing largely on conservation and gathering scientific data to influence large corporations on issues that support a sustainable environment.

**EXTRAS**

If none of these causes tickle your fancy, check out these sites for more ideas:

- www.nerav.com/lefr (particularly the student activism section on the Student Action Network)
- www.visi.com/juan/congress (to contact any representative in Congress)
- www.votepunch.org (to find out how which Senators and Representatives voted on almost any issue)
- www.adbusters.org (for some activist inspiration and brain stimulation)
- www.indyvote.org (the League of Pissed Off Voters gives you a forum to shout out your angst while finding book readings, conferences, vigils and rallies in your area).
- Email the LA League at kylestewart@yahoo.com (a great directory of local and national projects)
- www.geocities.com/earthWatch (for the great directory of local and national projects)
- www.racismwatch.org (for panels and rallies on minority issues in LA)

So stop throwing darts at your Bush poster already. Get out there and stir things up.

Jessica Hong is a fourth year Literature Journalism major. Email her at jessica@jadedmap.org.
The 2004 Presidential race left a nation fractured. Political analysts contend that Americans have not seen such intense social, political, and economic divisions since the Vietnam and Civil Rights era of the sixties. Indeed, “W’s” victory was upsetting for at least 49% of the population. Many Redding activists are now throwing up their hands, seeing the future of gay rights, women’s choice, peace, and the environment as a loss with the election. For these people who put all their liberal eggs into the Kerry basket, the environment issues will be taken care of for them. This is not the case. Now, more for the candidates. For example, question four reads: “Are you willing to require ALL hospitals—including those that claim a religious affiliation—to provide emergency contraception to sexual assault survivors?” If you want to take physical action, there are Planned Parenthood Action Networks across the country. Visit www.plannedparenthood.org/action/index.php to find a local chapter and links to form letters and questions.

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REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH DRUGS
The Planned Parenthood organization believes that banning reproductive health drugs is not the answer. They have developed a guide to fight corporate media, and connects you to other activist sites tackling art activism, progressive politics, and fair trade clothing, along with the environment. The Earthwatch Institute (http://www.earthwatch.org) might be the route for budding green environmentalists with some room to travel. The “expeditions link” leads to student opportunities, college conferences, fundraisers and filmfests to get the candidates. For example, question four reads: “Are you willing to require ALL hospitals—including those that claim a religious affiliation—to provide emergency contraception to sexual assault survivors?” If you want to take physical action, there are Planned Parenthood Action Networks across the country. Visit www.plannedparenthood.org/action/index.php to find a local chapter and links to form letters and questions.

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What will you be doing the day after Thanksgiving? The food orgy is over; you're expecting turkey-in-disguise for the next couple of weeks—oh yeah, don't you need to start shopping for those Christmas gifts that you've been seeing ads for during the last month or so? Millions of individuals in the United States, and in the world in general (although to a lesser extent), will probably have similar thoughts in their heads and suffer from Post Thanksgiving Shopping Disorder. It's a statistical fact that Friday, November 26, the day after Thanksgiving, is the biggest shopping day of the year.

That's exactly why you should seriously consider abstaining from the rush this time and celebrating Buy Nothing Day. Created by Kalle Lasn, founder of Adbusters magazine and the Media Foundation, Buy Nothing Day is a day when you—wait for it—buy nothing! The statement onadbusters.org seems to nicely sum up the goals of this celebration: "For 24 hours, millions of people around the world do not participate—in the doomslaying economy, the marketing mind-games, and the frantic consumerism that's our culture."

This isn't just hippie-talk, either. This alternative holiday has been going on for about 13 years, and it gets stronger every year. Many participants in the past have gone beyond just abstaining from consuming to actively making a statement about consumerism gone wrong in the modern society. These creative individuals have made themselves up as zombies and trudged through commercial shopping centers open-mouthed (oh, the irony), set up makeshift stations outside malls to assist would-be shoppers in cutting up their credit cards, and sat cross-legged at entrances to major commercial areas dressed as "Zen Santas" (better known as "Zentas").

This year, to the dismay of major businesses everywhere, Lasn and his loose network of activists aim to make their message even more visible to the public. There are ongoing plans to air commercials about America's overblown consumerism on major networks and to print slogans like "The more you consume, the less you live" and "Because consumption won't fill the void" in newspapers nationwide.

It's understandable that some people are confused, even angry, at the concept of a holiday that encourages you not to buy anything. In fact, Buy Nothing Day seems like a direct contradiction to what many still believe is the "American Dream." After all, what is the point of being a self-made woman or man if you can't wield your newfound affluence with a vengeance?

There is, however, a fine line between buying for necessity and buying for pure desire. For years, this line has been blurred beyond recognition first by businesses and their media machines, then by the consumers who have either chosen or been forced to follow the businesses' set guidelines.

The commercials aired during the holiday season (and well before then) do such a good job of selling holiday cheer that we are almost incapable of detecting the sales pitch. It's always there, though. After the touching and/or funny family scene and the usual abuse of phrases like "Fill your home with holiday cheer" and "This year, get her a gift she'll never forget," the brand name sneaks onto the screen. It's usually the last thing you see and hear before you are bombarded with yet another advertisement for holiday cheer. Sure, it's advertising. It's also exploiting a tradition.

Somewhere along the line we lost the vision of what a real holiday is like. The Christmas tradition of giving from your heart has been perverted into an ugly and expensive buying frenzy by the heads of major corporations lusty after your paycheck. How many times have you heard someone complain about how much they're going to be in debt this time around or how stressed they are about not giving someone the "perfect" present? Ask around and you'll find that more and more people would rather put less emphasis on gifts and more emphasis on spending time with friends and family.

If all this talk of genuine holiday cheer and spending quality time with friends and family has you goggling, it's probably not a good sign. The cynics might want to ask themselves why their default reaction to not buying during the holiday season is a quick snort and shake of the head. What made us so dependent on gifts in order to show that we care? Would your boyfriend leave you if you didn't buy him that video game? Would your best friend stop talking to you if you didn't get her that sweater on her Amazon.com wish list?

The goal of Buy Nothing Day is not, contrary to popular belief, to cause widespread annoyance to shoppers everywhere (although that may be a side effect), but instead to make people aware of their place in society as consumers and to see what it's like to stay out of the loop for a day. It may not be as badass as a food fast, but a "consumer fast" can be just as effective in getting your point across. Of course, if you're feeling really daring, you can try taking part in a Buy Nothing Christmas. The Adbusters website conveniently has pre-made "Gift Exemption Vouchers" that you can download and print, for those willing to spend less money and more time on family and friends.

Buy Nothing Day is more of a symbolic protest than anything else. It would be impossible and unrealistic to expect the reformation of such a distorted culture in a short period of time. Lasn and his self-proclaimed "Culture Jammers," however, are taking the counter-culture movement step-by-step.

They operate on the assumption that these fledgling efforts, even at the smaller level, are just as effective as any old revolution if embraced by enough people. You can't change the world in a day, but by taking part in Buy Nothing Day you can at least jolt people into seeing a glimpse of what real holidays were like before the corporate takeover. ■

Buy Nothing Day is November 26, 2004. For more information, go to www.adbusters.org.

Jee Soo Kim is a third-year French and Criminology major. Email her at jeesoo@jadedmag.org.
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WHAT HAPPENED TO THE YOUTH VOTE?
by Aaron Thompson of the New Voters Project

S o this election is over and done with. All the results will be counted and everyone will soon settle into the thick of political life. What does this mean for the youth vote? Did we make a difference? The youth vote in America was up and very much so, despite what may have been heard from some news stations.

What many readers may have heard was that the youth did not turn out in any greater percentage than before. However, the 17 percent proportion that was so popularly touted about was based on an Associated Press article that was released at 9pm Pacific Time. This was around the same time that I remember standing out with hundreds of students waiting to vote.

This is, once again, an example of our elders’ underestimation of us and the propensity for the popular media to jump to conclusions. 4.6 million additional young people from the 18-29 age group showed up this election, compared to the 2000 presidential election. Overall, 20.9 million young people voted, hitting MTV’s Rock the Vote show. 4.6 million additional young people from the 18-29 age group showed up this election, compared to the 2000 presidential election. Overall, 20.9 million young people voted, hitting MTV’s Rock the Vote show. This is, once again, an example of our elders’ underestimation of us and the propensity for the popular media to jump to conclusions.

The youth vote is huge and we have the power. We should realize that there are nearly 20,000 students going to this school. The mayor of Irvine was elected with a total of 24,000 votes. University of California Irvine can and will be a force to be reckoned with and the mayor of Irvine was elected with a total of 24,000 votes. University of California Irvine can and will be a force to be reckoned with. So what may have been heard from some news stations.

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Email Aaron at asthomps@uci.edu.
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Ideally, I'd like to believe—it all started when a stork came by and hustled my parents into purchasing one genetic replicant of the possible combinations of their genetic history. Most likely, it's some lame story about some lazy Sunday afternoon as summer humidity dissipated and fall winds started to blow. And how I was probably conceived out of a combination of boredom and love, which isn't so bad if you think about the alternatives—better than a broken condom.

I would also like to believe that it will all end with me kicking and screaming, fighting until the bitterness ends. I guess you can say I'm a romantic in that respect. I want the ending to be long and painful so I can remember how much I loved life. Most likely it'll be some unexpected accident or a drive-by shooting (it's LA, you never know). I would be disappointed and in between beginning and unexpected ending, I would want the moments to be a steady incline of remembered truths and forgotten memories until it hits a climatic plateau. And hopefully it will be followed by a peak moment and then, the steady downfall. But I find myself involved in a perpetual stream of moments that act as a series of boring preambles to another boring preamble. There is no visible end, except the end. College is definitely one of those moments in time. Whoever said you must lay a foundation to build a monument, must've been screaming it from his giant concrete soapbox. He must've never heard that water carves stone in time, or whatever adage that defeats and explains this jaded feeling. I can hear Voltaire interjecting from his grave already, "A witty saying proves nothing!" but then again, look at what wit did for him.

You know, I could've been a great man if I was born rich. I'm not saying that I lack potential nor am I ridiculously poor, I'm just saying that if I had more money, I could've...saved the world. Earlier today, while trying to cheer me up about my school situation, my friend told me, "Bill Gates dropped out of Harvard and look at him now!" HE GOT ACCEPTED INTO HARVARD! A Harvard dropout immediately defines him as a upper-middle class white man and don't get me started on upper-middle class white men! Who's ever heard about what happened to Lil Joker and Sad Girl when they dropped out of East L.A. College? Not that I'm anything in comparison, but LOOK AT THEM NOW! Did you know by definition 'bourgeois' just refers to the highest echelon of the middle class? Leave it to the working man to hate on and aim for only the highest of the middle class. They've kept their standards so low they forget to aim for the peak. I'd like to believe that through it all, I would aim for the peak. Not just monetary goals, but as overall judgment of my life. But most likely, I'll fall a little short and become another middle-class jerk, go figure.

I'd like to believe that I am not a byproduct of an ongoing cycle of human sexuality and culture. But I find myself a big ball of pop culture with some arms and feet. As proverbs say and proverbia do, Aristotle said that every story has a beginning, a middle, and an end, but not necessarily in that order. And at this moment, all we have is the beginning. So ideally, I'd like to conceive a peak moment with someone out of boredom and love. But most likely it'll be a series of preambles until I drop out of college and become a middle class jerk....but not necessarily in that order.

Andy Lin sold out and graduates at the end of fall quarter 2004.
I'd like to believe—it all started when a stork came by and hustled my parents into purchasing one genetic replicant of the possible combinations of their genetic history. Most likely, it’s some lame story about some lazy Sunday afternoon as summer humidity dissipated and fall winds started to blow. And how I was probably conceived out of a combination of boredom and love, which isn’t so bad if you think about the alternatives—better than a broken condom.

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I t’s absolutely crazy what we call “cool” sometimes. I know you know what I’m talking about. Just take a look around at the trends: extremely expensive purses but not too much money actually in them, fixing up your mom’s 4-door automatic transmission Honda Accord, Lug boots with the tongue hanging out, and (my personal favorite) men with low rise jeans who are still sagging them. But like trends that come like ocean waves on which corporations ride, Von Dutch Origins reminds me once again how odd it is to be a human.

Kenny Howard grew up in Southern California, attended Compton High School during the 1940’s, and worked on cars most of his life. The man the public came to know as “Von Dutch” actually was an automobile pinstriper who made no mistake about his pro-Nazi and anti-Black views. Because of Von Dutch’s graphical creativity, his name reigned supreme in the 1950s and drew customers from all over the country. Von Dutch eventually died at the age of 63 on September 19, 1992, from complications due to alcoholism. His sister later sold the rights to use the name “Von Dutch” to Tonny Sorensen (Ceo of Von Dutch Originals) and Michael Cassel (Vp of Von Dutch Originals). These two entrepreneurs developed the Von Dutch-logoed hat and other kitsch that we have seen on Britney Spears, Ashton Kutcher, Justine Timberlake, Fred Durst and Paris Hilton, to name a few.

Ok, let’s take a step back and see what is going on here. So Nazi man Von Dutch gets his name bought out after he dies by two random guys with money. Random guys with money put his name on trucker hats and jack up the price. Jacked up Von Dutch trucker hats are worn by a few Hollywood celebs. In about no time the price of these “limited” hats skyrocket from about $30 a pop to about $70-$100. Not only does this certain hat of the working class American trucker cost about 100 times more than it should, but it becomes one of the trendiest hats in pop culture history. But wait, aren’t we forgetting something? There is a racist bigot’s name printed in big letters on the front of the hat!

Given all this information about the shady history of the man behind the label, are the consumer masses ready to burn all their Von Dutch attire and publicly denounce the company? I am sure that consumer apathy and complacency will prevent this. Perhaps one of the key reasons why people would still willingly and knowingly buy products even after they find out the dark histories behind them is because of what these products represent. Why do ethnic minorities choose Von Dutch as their attire? It could be the case that these products are a way for students to enter college and not be associated with their country of origin. Products like this are a way for any minority ethnicity to align themselves with the dominant culture of America. The college environment provides an opportunity where one can change his or her identity and previous associations with little or no pain. I personally notice an air of arrogance and confidence when people have these products. It seems like the more expensive clothes you have, the less humble you become. I am still astounded by how expensive these products can be. I feel an attempt on the corporations’ part to make these products only attainable to a certain privileged group. This translates to a product that serves to widen the discrepancy between the dominant culture of America and the cultures that attempt to assimilate it.

Frank Meksavan is a fifth year English major and Asian American Studies minor. Email him at frank@jadedmag.org
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Fear, intimidation, hazardous working conditions, dehumanization, verbal and physical abuse: the hallmarks of today’s garment and shoe factories. Countless economically vulnerable people around the world are being subjected to extreme exploitation under corporate slavery that is driven by greed and a never-ending hunger for ever-greater profits.

These factories have become work prisons where workers are monitored by surveillance cameras, prohibited from talking to each other, forced to work long hours often without a break, subjected to harassment, and placed under extreme pressure to fulfill unrealistic production quotas. To complete this slavery-style work environment, many factories lock the workers during working hours so that they are unable to leave the production line and the factory grounds. The term ‘sweatshop’ has been coined to name these modern day enterprises that degrade and exploit workers almost to the point of slavery. Sweatshops exist in every corner of the world, including the United States. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, over 67% of the garment factories in Los Angeles do not pay workers minimum wage or overtime. In fact, of the approximately 5,000 garment factories in Los Angeles, 4,500 are sweatshops. The average wage per hour in a U.S. sweatshop is one dollar, well below the minimum wage, which is a living wage.

The sweatshops in the Los Angeles area employ immigrant workers who are unable to find employment elsewhere due to either their immigration status or their lack of fluency in English. According to Delia Herrera of the Garment Workers Center, a non-profit labor rights organization in Los Angeles, many of these laborers are unaware of their rights as workers. “Regardless of their immigration status these workers are entitled to all rights under the State of California Labor Codes.” Herrera also adds that it is important for consumers to be aware and to take proactive steps to improve working conditions since sweatshop laborers here in the U.S. and around the world have to rely on public support in their struggle against degradation.

Conscience is a powerful ingredient of the policies we make about what to buy—is the most powerful tool that can lead to reform. These facts make every shopper a human rights advocate and have more of an impact on sweatshop reform and can take direct action by not buying clothes that are sweatshop-made. You have the power to say: No, I will not buy this,” Herrera said.

The choices that consumers make determine the corporations’ profits, and indirect forms of business practices. Once consumers start making conscientious decisions and start demanding that sweat-free labor is used to make their products, the corporations will listen—they cannot afford to ignore money. The National Labor Committee estimates that each year almost 30 billion garments made in El Salvador; in fact the U.S. takes in 63.1 percent of El Salvador’s exports worldwide. This gives the American consumer a very strong voice regarding the conditions under which these products we purchase are made. According to the National Labor Committee, Americans purchase an astonishing 2 billion pairs of shoes per year: this is a power. It is only such spending patterns that enable companies to not only survive but to make extravagant profits. Everyone is exploited—from the worker who produces the goods, to the consumer, you, who purchases the finished product sometimes at a great financial loss. On every pair of 70-dollar shoes it sells, the shoe company PUMA makes a net profit of 34.09 dollars—an almost fifty percent profit. This is after all production costs such as design, labor, shipping, material, and advertising have been covered. In fact, only 1.16 dollars goes to the salaries of the workers, and 6.78 dollars goes toward advertising to attract consumers—the other exploited party.

Even though the public is, to some extent aware of corporate greed, consumers still continue to ignore the facts and instead use several excuses to justify why they continue buying products that are manufactured by sweatshops. The most prevalent excuse is that everyone uses sweatshops, and that it is therefore impossible to buy sweatshop-free products. There is nothing that anyone can do—it would not make a difference. No! We can try to stop sweatshop labor by concentrating on a few companies and hoping that there will be a domino effect, and that others will then change business practices.

Whenever possible, one can resist shopping that the Gap, Abercrombie and Fitch and other companies that are known to violate labor rights. This is great way to keep your pockets full as well as keep your peace of mind that no one was humiliated and underpaid so that in return you could overpay for that shirt or those pants. The sources and accounts of mistreatment and exploitation are there—-it is up to consumers to either take the passive stand or continue to buy products regardless and implicitly support the sweatshops. The other excuse used is that companies are not responsible for the violations that occur in foreign factories because they do not have the authority to regulate working conditions and treatment of workers. But think about this: is the $25.3- billion Disney Corporation, the world’s largest manufacturer and pay recruitment fees of up to 10,000 dollars to secure sweatshop labor in the use of any other clothing company.

Why can’t healthy profits coexist with sustainable living wages? The majority of these wages do not meet the requirements for a minimum wage in these countries—in fact the wage that is paid to workers is hardly enough to allow workers to get by, miserably. *Furthermore, profits do not give any corporation the right to dehumanize people and deny them basic workers’ rights. The issue is not just that these people are extremely underpaid but are treated as sub-human and degraded in seemingly every possible way. If consumers continue being reckless and ignorant, then only the corporations will benefit. But first individual consumers must initiate change by making conscientious choices—only then will this lead to collective pressure, and eventually foster accountability. The satisfaction of knowing that the price paid actually includes a substantial wage for the workers, and not just excessive profits.

Consumers can take the first steps towards holding businesses accountable for fair labor practices by simply recognizing worker-led campaigns such as boycotts that are led by the factory workers themselves, by participating in the struggle for fair labor by boycotting that particular label, and getting educated about the workers’ demands. Success is not an absolute in this struggle. However, only through the joint efforts of consumers and workers may there be a chance of achieving justice and reform.

Source for further Information
1) Sweatshopwatch.org
2) The National Labor Committee—www.nicenet.org/
3) BehindtheLabel.org

Responsible clothing alternatives
www.indymerch.com
www.nosweatshop.org
www.shoptobechic.com
www.americanapparel.com
www.nosweatapparel.com

Recycle, shop at the local vintage or thrift stores.

Amardeep is a fifth year, Political Science and Sociology major. Email her at amardeep@jadedmag.org.
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The choices that consumers make determine the corpora-tions’ profits, including the way that sweat-free labor is used to make their products, the corporations will listen— they cannot afford to ignore money. The National Labor Committee estimates that each year billions of dollars in sweatshop wages are made in El Salvador; in fact the U.S. takes in 63.1 percent of El Salvador’s exports worldwide. This gives the American consumer a very strong voice regarding the condi-tions under which these products we purchase are made.

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The other excuse used is that companies are not respon-sible for the violations that occur in foreign factories because they do not have the authority to regulate working conditions and treatment of workers. But think about this: the $25.3- billion DisneyCo. annually pays workers who have no real power, which cannot be held accountable for im-plementing basic codes of conduct in the various factories that manufacture their products around the world? The Disney Corporation’s operational budget is four-and-a-half times larger than the budget of the government of Ban-gladesh, a common destination for corporations seeking to ex-ploit cheap and abundant labor. It is a misconception to believe that these corporations have no influence over laws and the conduct of business. Governments of poor and un-influential countries are put under pressure to keep wages low and to relax labor policies by corporations seeking to exploit and cheap labor. Whenever workers try to organize and demand better wages and working conditions, they meet with hostility, unemploy-ment and violent assaults.

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Recycle, shop at the local vintage or thrift stores.

Amardeep is a fifth year, Political Science and Sociology major. Email her at amardeep@jadedmag.org.
In addition to Bush-bashing, the trendiest social stance of today is to mock religion in its conservative viewpoints. They are coming at odds with a society saturated with controversies concerning gay marriages, abortions, adultery, and suicide to not-so-controversial issues such as drinking and drugs.

In the early 1990s, conservative Colorado Reverend, Keenan Roberts, created "Hell House kits", used to construct haunted houses that would scare youth of the consequences if they chose to lead "sinful lifestyles." The message: attending raves, drinking, and using illegal substances are a big no-no and heaven forbid if one should practice premarital sex!

The kits contain directions on how to present "sinful" scenarios, including tips on how to create mangled fetuses with your household hamburger meat and a 256 page script dictating how the Hell House should be performed. In addition, the kits provide costumes for the main characters such as Jesus and Satan.

Presently, Roberts has distributed over 300 kits, priced at $299 each, and the show has been performed in its conservative form in over 555 church organizations. A satirical spin on Christian fundamentalists' take on "hell" has been put on stage by a number of Hollywood personalities. This project was double-headed by Jill Soloway, director and writer for the hit HBO series, "Six Feet Under," along with Steve Keenan. Keenan believed that the true underlying message would eventually sink in among the audiences.

Reverend Roberts was tricked into sending Rowe a kit after she posed as a Christian Youth Leader.

Renamed "Hollywood Hell House", the show is leagues away from a typical parody or satire. Besides the exaggerated acting, the original script is left unaltered; it is performed as-is, by a rotating-cast of actors, some of which include Bill Maher and Steve Carell as Satan.

One would expect the audience to be comprised of raging liberals, being that the shows took place amongst intense controversial issues during the presidential elections and all shows had been sold out weeks beforehand. Surprisingly, the Steve Allen Theatre had a very serene and quiet setting; no one was walking around with flaming crucifixes, nor was anyone distributing bibles or performing baptisms.

Just a few red posters bordered the exterior of the house, outlining a few concepts that would be illustrated in the controversial spoof on religion. One such poster retracted a popular misconception by specifically stating that the purpose of the performance wasn’t meant to target religion but fundamentalism.

Groups of 15 were soon ushered into the hell house by a devil in full Hollywood dress and make-up. His goal: to spook the living giggles out of them.

During the 40-minute tour, people witnessed all products of "sin." There was a gay man dying of AIDS. After a few wall calls of despair, a devil-like hand pulled him down to hell. Fake blood was sprayed onto people as a raped adolescent pulled the trigger on herself after taking ecstasy at a rave. A black capped man danced a jig and repeatedly taunted the teen by chanting, "suicide, suicide!" An abortion goes terribly wrong as the doctor rips a fetus out of a young patient who regrets ever having sex or an abortion.

Shocking! There were Jews getting ground into hamburger meat and a penis monster that vowed to eat up all homos.

There was even an ascent into heaven as a bunch of fanatical Christians burst into song, while Jesus himself was getting it on.

The largely liberal audience relished in the concept of how creepy it is for people to take literal translations from the bible and enforce them in lifestyles of today.

Though of course, there are those who largely disagree and actually find the spoof to be offensive and immoral.

Reverend Keenan is one of those people. After seeing Hollywood's version of hell, Keenan has lashed out against this mockery by using a Maggie Rowe look-a-like as the Satan in his most recent production of Hell House.

Despite the cackles in the audience, he only positively viewed this outcome as a way for God's message to be distributed. Keenan believed that the true underlying message would eventually sink in among the audiences.

Due to the simplicity of the script and extensive media coverage on this new satire, plans to formulate spin-offs of Hollywood Hell House are underway. Rowe has given the heads up that they will continue the show come next Halloween, but will be holding next year's performance in New York.

I wager Hawaii, and all the other respective blue states will be next on their list.

Email Charlotte at charlotl@uci.edu.
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There are a lot of amazing artists out there who excel in their given
genre of music but fail in other fields. Take AFI for example. While
they may be deftly skilled punk revivalists, they could never pen a
song in the tune of big-band jazz. On the other hand, Shinya Ringo
can skillfully shift from punk rock to jazz-based pop to raw acoustic ballads to
word (yet listenable) concoctions assarmed with any and every synthesized
sound you can think of. For that reason, Ringo is a musical genius. Imagine
the stripped-down rock of Joan Jett, the touch of jazz in Fiona Apple’s tracks,
and Bjork’s electro-quirkiness, and you might get an idea of what Ringo does
in her music.

At the age of 26, Shinya Ringo has already released four successful albums
in Japan. Released in 1999, her first effort, Muzai Moratorium (Innocence Mor-
atatorium) was hailed “Best Rock Album of the Year” at the Japan Gold Disc
Awards. 2000’s Shouse Strips (Winning Strip) took Japan with its jazzy lead-off
single Honnou (Instinct). The album met with numerous accolades and sold-
d-out tours, cementing Ringo as a musical divinity. Her eclectic 2002 cover
album, Utaite Myôri (A Singer’s Pride) features renditions of songs by Marvin
Gaye, The Beatles, Peggy Lee, The Carpenters, and many others.

Ringo’s fourth and latest album is what she calls “the greatest bloom of
her ego.” Released in February of 2003, Karuki Kamen Kuro No Hana (Kalk, Semen, Chestnut Blossoms) fully explores Ringo’s infinite creativity by spo-
radically abandoning conventional pop instrumentation in favor of unorthodox
sounds made by any one of the 30-something instruments featured on this
album. Karuki’s opener, Shuukyou (Religion), is an extremely diverse track
which starts like a horror flick, jumps to a Disney movie, then fuses to become
something altogether mystifying.

With four brilliant solo albums under her belt, Ringo has started a new
phase in her musical career with a new band, Tokyo Jihen. Formed in May
of this year, TJ’s debut CD is set to release Nov. 28. With Ringo fronting the
group, TJ will be sure to challenge pop music conventions and inherit the “you
either love ‘em or you hate ‘em” characteristic typical of passionate, innova-
tive, and inspired musicians.

Download: Marunouchi Sadistic, Yamin furu ame, Torikoshi Kurou, Jazz a Go Go

SHINA RINGO
BY JANSEN CUDAL

T

1. Kort - Kärleken vantar
2. Queens of the Stone Age - Quick And To The Pointers
3. Ryan Adams – So Alive
4. Black Box Recorder - Jackie Sixty
5. Modest Mouse - Tiny Cities Made of Ashes
6. Of Montreal - Synergic Bible
7. Kings of Convenience – I’d rather dance with you
8. Blondie – Rapture
9. Jimmy Eat World - Drugs For Me
10. Josh Rouse – Come Back

SO HOT RIGHT NOW PLAYLIST
by the Yam Yam Kids

1. Kort - Kärleken vantar
This first song represents your determination
to study for finals. Like Rocky prepping for a
fight, you bell and weave through your notes
(or lack thereof).

2. Queens of the Stone Age - Quick And To The Pointers
It’s a traffic accident in your head; nothing you
study makes sense and you’re panicking. While
you’re struggling to stay awake you make a
new years resolution to stop procrastinating.

3. Ryan Adams – So Alive
After many sleepless nights studying, you
stumble out of your last test, elated. You’re
giddy over purchasing Abercrombie tacos
and hoodie combos for your sorority/fraternity
sister/christ.

4. Black Box Recorder - Jackie Sixty
This song is the sound of Christmas shopping
through department store speakers. The singer
sings just as indecisive as you’ve gonna be
when you’re buying out fragrances or whatever
the hell else they sell at the mall anyway.

5. Modest Mouse - Tiny Cities Made of Ashes
Your mom just called and you have to visit your
third cousins flying in from Delaware; It’s al-
ways a relative, but never relative.

6. Of Montreal - Synergic Bible
Your grandma kicks you five years ago and are so hot right now, literally.
Count the days till new years and then its
the time with your friends, serious.

7. Kings of Convenience – I’d rather dance with you
It’s a new years party and you’re picking out
who you want to lie with while the ball drops.
The good news: you don’t have to worry about
being mobbed with party flyers on ring road for
another week.

8. Blondie – Rapture
You’re lying next to a bearded someone with
button-up shirts.

9. Jimmy Eat World - Drugs For Me
Well, now the party’s over and you awaken
confused. You don’t know who you are, and
well, now the party’s over and you awaken
confused. You don’t know who you are, and
you’re lying next to a bearded someone with

10. Josh Rouse – Come Back
UCSB daisy dukes on. You find consolation in
the hell else they sell at the mall anyway.

It’s a traffic accident in your head; nothing you
study makes sense and you’re panicking. While
you’re struggling to stay awake you make a
new years resolution to stop procrastinating.

After many sleepless nights studying, you
stumble out of your last test, elated. You’re
giddy over purchasing Abercrombie tacos
and hoodie combos for your sorority/fraternity
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You’re lying next to a bearded someone with
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Well, now the party’s over and you awaken
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You’re lying next to a bearded someone with
button-up shirts.
Restaurant. Eat. Me.

In the vein of restaurants, the OC is well taken care of. Perhaps I can share with you where a true OC veteran goes...

1. Taco Loco: This is where you go when you want a really good tofu dish that doesn't make you think about tofu. The mushroom tofu burger rocks your face and the atmosphere is sort of a hipster vibe. They sell tacos too, as well as bean and cheese quesadillas. Scenesters hang out there weekend nights cuz it's open late; they open at 11am everyday and close at midnight during the week and 2am on Friday and Saturday nights. Honestly, you can't go wrong with PCH. (640 S. PCH)

2. Gypsy Den: Oooh. My life is quite possibly divided yearly by 2 things: vegetarian chili and spiced chai in winter. I know, it's really good. (2390 Bristol in Costa Mesa)

3. Sugar Shack: Huntington Beach is my hometown and I grew up going to this joint. It started as a cafe to feed diehard surfers who hit the beach before dawn. It still opens early, 5am-4pm everyday, and it still serves the best breakfast food I know. The wait can be a little daunting though, so get there early, put your name on the list, and walk the pier. (213 Main st. in Huntington Beach off PCH)

4. Vegetarian Wheel of Life Restaurant: If you made it through the title, thank you. The Wheel of Life is in Irvine off Walnut and Culver owned by a curious man who always says "good to see you! Have you been here before?" If you can overcome the chanting in the background, (a monk soundtrack, I think), you will be full of great soy goodness. (14370 Culver)

5. Salt Creek Grille: If you need to impress someone or have a really special event, go here. They serve meat (as I realize I've got a bit of a vegetarian thing). The best crème brulee I've ever had. I love it like a fat kid loves cake. (32802 PCH in Dana Point)

6. Vie de France: It's in the South Coast Plaza and apparently has the best French onion soup you can find around here. I don't like onions, so you're on your own. But they have some great food and desserts. (Near Nordstrom's on the bottom level)

7. TOI on sunset: This is my pick for the best out of the OC restaurants. Some good afternoons have been spent at this restaurant after making an Amoeba music run. They have a perfect lemongrass soup. The storefront might make you nervous as it is painted black and has a hot pink neon sign, but go against all your gut tells you, if only for the band posters. They're open from 11am-4am daily. Go to a concert, end up at TOI. (7505 W. Sunset in LA)

The Daily Show with Jon Stewart presents America (the book)

Diana Jou

Jon Stewart and his team of writers massaged a smart and witty critique on America in the form of a school textbook. The book is filled with laugh-out-loud pie charts, tables, naked supreme court paper dolls, pixel art, and news calculus cheat sheets. As irreverent and random as all this may seem, it is extremely well organized in chapters and sections. It covers all its bases from chapter one, Democracy before America, to all three branches of government to world politics. An example of chapter four's discussion questions, "In Star Wars: Episode II, Chancellor Palpatine convinces the Galactic Senate to grant him emergency powers in order to quell the Separatist movement's droid army. But Palpatine ultimately abuses his authority and disbanded the Republic, appointing himself the lone ruler of a new Galactic Empire. Could it happen here?" The clever writing and hilarious graphic representations should be taken to heart.

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From the Basement on the Hill (Elliott Smith)

The news of the posthumous release from Elliott Smith was taken with mixed feelings. On one hand, there would be one last album of emotionally-driven songs for Smith fans to delve into. But then again, the album would be completed by Smith's nearest and dearest, which, while they mimic his sound, is not the real deal. Actually, they did a pretty good job. Although the knowledge of mass collaboration makes you rethink the integrity of the album, From a Basement on the Hill contains Smith's same searing vocals and intricate folk-like guitar instrumentation. The album is reminiscent of Figure 8: more produced than some of his simpler albums like Either/Or, but still containing a distinctive Elliott Smith feeling. In short, Smith fans will enjoy this last album from the amazing late musician.

The New Danger [Mos Def]

Karl Muthukrishnan

With his newest offering, The New Danger, Mos Def provides us a seven-course meal when all we really want is the steak. The album is the Brooklyn MC's unbalanced venture into genres like Funk, Jazz, R&B, Soul, and Fusion, with the result being nothing short of awkward. Songs like "Grown Man Business," "Close Eye," and "Modern Marvel" display that Mos has not lost his rhyming ability. The New Danger is not a bad album, but simply unfocused. It seems as if Mos Def is making a concerted effort to cover all his musical bases instead of just going with what is natural to him: rhyming. If nothing else, the album is an interesting listen. The New Danger is an intriguing capsule of an artist at the crossroads of his career.

Power [Q and not U]

Stephanie Ha

If The Frailant and Fugast had a baby, they would name it Q and not U. With crazy guitar licks and a lead vocalist that screams chaotically, the discordant rock group gives your feet a reason to do more than tap. In their latest album Power, the insane use of a synthesizer and prolific beats bring the dance element up a notch from their last release, Different Damage. Ranging from seventies funk to dance punk to eighties new wave, Q and not U pretty much have their ABCs in body-moving covered. There is no way you can listen to Power and simply sit still. Throw a dance party and put this album on repeat.

Funeral [The Arcade Fire]

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In June 2002, Régine's grandmother Nancy died. In March 2004, Win and Will's grandfather Alvino Rey died; Richard Perry's Aunt Betty passed away in April. With a press release that names death as a primary influence for both its content and its musical spectrum of human emotion. The frustration and loss is there of course, embedded in lyrics such as "they say a watched pot won't ever boil well I closed my eyes, and nothing changed/Just some water getting hotter in the flames." But these lyrics are also encrusted in a variety of song forms and moods, ranging from passionate rock guitar assaults to hushed minimalist strings to propulsive dance beats. The result is a stunning send-off that refuses to simply wallow in that final moment, and instead recalls all the emotions and experiences that lead up to it.
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Jaded: How’d you all meet?
Mattia: I met Kerry up in Oakland, where we’re both from, and he was actually in another band at the time and me and a friend were going to drive his band down to LA because we had a Winnipeg. So we drove him down and kind of met on that trip and then parted ways. And I ran into him again in LA about a year and half later.
Gabrial: Kerry and I have known each other for 10 years. Most of the time he was living up north in the bay area and I’d always see him when we played up in San Francisco. And then he moved down here and just started working together.
Kerry: And the seed was planted.
Jaded: Where’d you get the name Oslo?
Kerry: Wanna hear the real story? I’ll tell you the real story, not the bullshit story. Okay, so this was around the time when we started really writing songs together and Gabriel and his wife were thinking to be married in Oslo. We were all planning to go to the wedding and I had this map on my wall and I had circled in red, “Oslo”. So one day I was watching TV, playing guitar, and being really, really stoned and I was looking at the map and I was like, “Those letters are really cool, man.” I don’t know what it was but I just started really trip off the O’s and S. It’s kinda cool, kinda eternal, kinda sexy.
Gabrial: What about the L?
Kerry: The L doesn’t count. Because the O’s are definitely forever and the S have this cool vibe to it. Something called it out and it’s very simple, four letters. And I almost feel in a sense that it kind of represents us in the period of what was going on because a lot of creations were happening. Relationships were forming and bonding, not only personally but on the creative level too. So it all came out of that and that’s just being stoned and hanging out. I mentioned it to Gabe and Mattia and they thought about it. I think Gabe said he even thought about it at one point too.
Gabrial: Yah, I had it in my head but I didn’t want to say it because it was too personal to me. I put it in the back of my head and if nobody comes up with anything better I’ll say Oslo.
Kerry: See that’s a weird point, because at that time whenever I was thinking of something to tell Gabe and he was thinking the exact same thing. So we’re always on the same page and it made sense. And then we tried to come up with an acronym for (Oslo) and it came out stupid and cartoonish. At one point we were still trying to change it. We were still trying to change it after 6 months. We were still trying to change up until we were about to play a show.
Jaded: Were some of the other names you came up with?
Gabrial: What was that one you came up with? Double Agent for China?
Mattia: Oh yah, that was later. [laughter]
Jaded: Are you guys signed to a label?
Kerry: We have distribution over in Europe. A label called KFE Records. We’ve kind of realized more and more that waiting for labels, it might happen, but you have to offer more, you have to give them a story, then have to give them numbers. I think we’ve kind of realized that more on the business side of it and we’ve just pushed on our own to make it happen and it gives you more control in the end.
Gabrial: Like Kerry was saying, it’s not a good idea to wait for a record deal, which we were waiting for, to see what would happen. Finally, we were like, “You know what? Fuck this, we’ll just do it ourselves.”
Jaded: Do you guys have a pretty large fan base now?
Gabrial: It’s growing. We have a lot of fans we don’t even know about.
Kerry: We’ve been really surprised and humbled. I think a lot of it is because of the Internet too.
Gabrial: For an up and coming band the Internet is extremely helpful.
Jaded: You guys get a lot of girls at your shows now?
Kerry: What do you think? There’s always four or five girls surrounding one of us. [laughter]
Jaded: How’d you guys decide on what your musical direction was going to be?
Mattia: We were all just into the same kind of music pretty much. When we wrote we didn’t try to write a certain style. We were listening to a couple albums that we like a lot at the time so I think we just naturally gravitated toward that kind of music.
Kerry: Like My Bloody Valentine, Blur’s 13, Bjork.
Jaded: What are you guys listening to now?
Mattia: That new yodeling record [Kerry] gave me, Swedish yodeling.
Gabrial: The one where you tickle the balls. [laughter] I’ve been listening to a lot of And You Will Know Us By The Trail of Dead. A lot of Blonde Redhead. Butterflies of Misery, fucking dope ass record.
Gabrial: Missery is a Butterfly.
Kerry: Is that what it is? [laughter]
Jaded: So you guys are going on tour in New York soon?
Mattia: Yah, we leave for New York on December 12th and we have three days after that, Brooklyn, Jersey and New York.
Jaded: And Adrian Young from No Doubt is going be drumming for you?
Mattia: Yah, he’s playing the show at House of Blues with us and he’s gonna do the shows out in New York with us. It should be pretty crazy.
Jaded: Are you guys looking for a permanent drummer?
Kerry: Yeah one to put up with our fucking pompous asses. But it took time for us to become really good friends. We’ve had people play with us and maybe they’ve had an attitude or something about them and it turned weird. We don’t go up to each other like that. That’s the hard part, really having that chemistry and relationship.
Jaded: He’s a fan of your guys’ music?
Mattia: Yah, he’s played with us before. He’s kinda branching out with other people. So he asked us.
Jaded: Are you guys happy playing this type of music?
Kerry: Oh yeah, I’m hell happy, depressing as it is. It can be a bit melancholy and bleak but its hopeful.
Jaded: So is Oslo the closest you’ve come to doing it how you wanna do it?
Kerry: Yeah definitely. It’s more grassroots and by word of mouth. In a sense we can almost guide people instead people guiding us.
Jaded: Do you guys have day jobs?
Kerry: We run an escort service.
Gabrial: Mattia you ever seen risky business? That’s my house dude.
Kerry: I’m the scout. [laughter]
Mattia: But yah, no jobs, we just eat sushi everyday, I don’t know how we do it.
Kerry: The wives and the girlfriends don’t support us.
Gabrial: Hopefully mine will soon. [laughter]
Jaded: You can visit Oslo online at: www.osloband.com and www.myspace.com/oslo
Oslo will be playing at the House of Blues in Anaheim on December 10th.
Mattia: You wanna split another roll?

Gabrial: Nah you had 4, that last one you ate was your fourth one. You think you only had 2 before that last one?

Gabrial: You had four pieces. I had five. I noted. I counted.

Gabrial: You wanna split another roll?

Mattia: Alright, I’ll trust you.

Gabrial McNair are quickly gaining recognition for their lucid melodic rock, sharing the duties of drums, guitars, bass, keys, and vocals between the three of them, Mattia Borrani, Kerry James, and Gabrial McNair. Our first full-length album is due out in February 2004 and the band is gearing up for their tour.

Oslo was nice enough to let us tag along and interrogate them while they ate sushi. Here's what they had to say.

Jaded: Where'd you get the name Oslo?

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Kerry: What do you think? There's always four or five girls surrounding one of us. [laughter]

Jaded: How'd you guys decide on what your musical direction was going be?

Mattia: We were all just into the same kind of music pretty much. When we wrote we didn't try to write a certain style. We were listening to a couple albums that we like a lot at the time so I think we just naturally gravitated toward that kind of music.

Kerry: Like My Bloody Valentine, Blur's 13, Bjork.

Jaded: What are you guys listening to now?

Mattia: That new yodeling record [Kerry] gave me, Swedish yodeling.

Kerry: The one where you tickle the balls. [laughter] I've been listening to a lot of And You Will Know Us By the Trail of Dead. A lot of Blonde Redhead. Butterflies of Misery, fucking dope ass record.

Gabrial: Misery is a Butterfly.

Kerry: Is that what it is? [laughter]

Jaded: So you guys are going on tour in New York soon?

Mattia: Yah, we leave for New York on December 12th and we have three days after that, Brooklyn, Jersey and New York.

Jaded: And Adrian Young from No Doubt is going be drumming for you?

Kerry: Yah, he's playing the show at House of Blues with us and he's gonna do the shows out in New York with us. It should be pretty crazy.

Jaded: Are you guys looking for a permanent drummer?

Kerry: Yeah one to put up with our fucking pompous asses. But it took time for us to become really good friends. We've had people play with us and maybe they've had an attitude or something about them and it turned weird. We don't go up to each other like that. That's the hard part, really having that chemistry and relationship.

Jaded: He's a fan of your guys' music?

Mattia: Yah, he's played with us before. He's kinda branching out with other people. So he asked us.

Jaded: Are you guys happy playing this type of music?

Kerry: Oh yeah, I'm hella happy, depressing as it is. It can be a bit melancholy and bleak but it's helpful.

Jaded: So is Oslo the closest you've come to doing it how you wanna do it?

Kerry: Yeah definitely. It's more grassroots and by word of mouth. In a sense we can almost guide people instead people guiding us.

Jaded: Do you guys have day jobs?

Kerry: We run an escort service.


Kerry: I'm the scout. [laughter]

Mattia: But yah, no jobs, we just eat sushi everyday. I don't know how we do it.

Kerry: The wives and the girlfriends don't support us.

Gabrial: Hopefully mine will soon. [laughter]

You can visit Oslo online at: www.osloband.com and www.myspace.com/oslo

Oslo will be playing at the House of Blues in Anaheim on December 10th.

INTERVIEW AND PHOTO BY CHRIS DEA

For the last year and a half, three guys from California in a band called Oslo (The capital city of Norway) have been writing their brand of melancholy rock together at a house/rehearsal space/recording studio in Santa Monica. Sharing the duties of drums, guitars, bass, keys, and vocals between the three of them, Mattia Borrani, Kerry James, and Gabriel McLaury are quickly gaining recognition for their lucid melodies and distraught lyrics among indie fans who've witnessed this sonic lovefest. With their first full-length album due out in February 2004 the band is gearing up for the long, windy tour road ahead.

Oslo was nice enough to let me tag along and interrogate them while they ate sushi. Here's what they had to say.

Mattia: You wanna split another roll?

Gabrial: I think I had 3 pieces of that?

Mattia: You had four pieces. I had five. I noted. I counted.

Gabrial: You counted them?

Mattia: I knew there was one extra. Someone was going to lose.

Gabrial: I thought I had 3.

Mattia: Nah you had 4, that last one you ate was your fourth one. You think you only had 2 before that last one?

Gabrial: It felt like it.

Mattia: It felt like it, but it wasn't.

Gabrial: Alright, I'll trust you.

Mattia: I'm getting a Hamachi.

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EVERYONE'S FAVORITE 'ASIAN MAN'
by Maritess Santiago

"As a country, we're stricken with apathy. The only way to make a change is to get involved in the community, and to be proactive instead of negative." - Mike Park.

If you came up with all the synonyms for "charismatic" and "down-to-earth," you'd have singer/songwriter and innovative musical entrepreneur Mike Park in a nutshell. Park is the founder of Asian Man Records, an independent label started in 1996 out of his parents' garage in Northern California. The label's interest in supporting unknown "anti-racist, anti-sexist, and anti-prejudice" bands has led to an impressive lineup over the years.

Bands such as Alkaline Trio have garnered a huge amount of support after getting their jumpstart from Asian Man. Others, such as NYC ska-veterans, the Toasters, are more recent additions to the Asian Man family.

A long time contributor to the underground music scene, Park started out playing the saxophone in the infamous six-piece ska outfit Skankin’ Pickle in 1989. He now sings and plays the guitar in the Bruce Lee Band and the Chinkees. The Chinkees' website explains the irony behind the name: it "is not meant to be a racial slur, but just the opposite! It's meant to be a direct look at racism and the reality of its presence!"

The all Asian-American band doesn't stop there – 10% of their royalties are donated to anti-racism organizations.

Despite his penchant for finding talent and the label's subsequent slew of success, this Asian(-American) man still runs his label out of the same garage with the help of only one employee – The Chinkees bassist Miya Osaki.

Park affirms that the Do-It-Yourself mentality is not meant to be elitist or closed-minded. He simply prefers the personal aspects of a small label. He runs Asian Man Records with integrity and seals agreements with a handshake.

"I do this for the love of music, not for capitalist gain or status recognition," Park explains.

Park started the non-profit Plea for Peace Foundation in 1999. Its goal is to promote positive change and the ideas of peace through the power of music. The annual Plea for Peace tour spanned two months and twenty states in 2004 and has helped raise over $100,000 for various charities.

Last year's tour was headed by the cello-driven and discordantly innovative Cursive, and backed up by several acts including Planes Mistaken for Stars and Park himself. That modest integrity shines through again in his willingness to meet fans after shows and speak with journalists. Park elaborated on his views of racism with Jaded.

"As a kid, you're very vulnerable in terms of identity," he comments. "It's hard being different." As he got older, he began to see how identity is about "embracing who you are."

Like any great songwriter, Park writes from the heart, and as a first generation Asian-American, (he was born in Seoul, Korea, and moved to California at age one), his experiences with racism have shaped his views. Park's powerful lyrics inspire listeners to take action and stand up for their beliefs without preaching.

His long-awaited solo acoustic debut, "For the Love of Music," is fit for the consumption of any audiophile. The solid guitar lines and occasional violin harmonies reflect a carefully orchestrated artillery of sound. Park's harmonized anecdotes and subtle ironies establish a thought-provoking conduit of social awareness.

As a product of the Bay Area punk scene, his musical style is influenced by bands such as Minor Threat, Seven Seconds, and the Specials. Park is also a fan of the legendary Operation Ivy's socio-political commentary and screaming guitar riffs.

Park admires bands that, like himself, have something to say:

"As a country, we're stricken with apathy. The only way to make a change is to get involved in the community, and to be proactive instead of negative."

As a final note, Park reminds our generation: "Be good. Smile big."

Mike Park will be on tour in Southern California this January. For concert dates and more information, visit: www.asianmanrecords.com www.pleaforpeace.com

Want to be featured? Email us at comments@jadedmag.org

Maritess Santiago is a first year Literary Journalism major. Email her at mrsantia@uci.edu.
Everyone's Favorite 'Asian Man'  
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Email her at mrsantia@uci.edu.
Calling all writers, designers, artists, photographers, business folks and publicity reps!

MORE INFO @ WWW.JADEDMAG.ORG

WORK FOR JADED!

Like what you see? Jaded Mag is looking for a fresh crew of interns to start an insurgence on apathy and boredom.

November
Wednesday, Nov 24 - 6-9pm
McDonald Douglas Engineering Auditorium. For more info: 949.834.3088.

Saturday, Nov 27 - 7am-11am
Grand finale of 16th Biennial Festival of Film, Video and New Media
Interactive videos, music, games, Karaoke and gallery openings throughout Central Plaza and Chung King Road in Chinatown Los Angeles. Also a new performance by musicians, visual artists and video artists from China. For more info: www.freeview.org.

Animal Charm in the Night: Video and audio performance by Animal Charm
L.A. Convention, Robert's Club-Sports Bar
1pm-2pm

Tuesday, Nov 30 - 3-6pm
Dean of Students & Humanities presents: The Triologue: Jews, Christians, and Muslims.
Student Center, Edward Hall B. Free.
For more info: 949.834.5590.

Tuesday, Nov 30 - 4pm
Sound, Politics, and Burlesque Mechanics
With Peter Sinclair, professor of sound and digital media, Aix en Provence, College of Arts.
Humanities Instructional Building, Room 139.

December
Thursday, Dec 2 - 4pm - 8pm
DCE Winter Solstice (holiday party)
Cross-Cultural Center Conference Room
For info, contact avip@uci.edu or lawrence@uci.edu.

Wednesday, Dec 2 - 7-9pm
Film & Video Center presents: Take Care of my Cat, debut feature from Korean Director/Screewriter, Lee Eun Sae.P. Set in the port city of Incheon, Take Care of My Cat follows the efforts of five friends in high school who step into adulthood only to find a very different world subject to constantly changing politics and circumstances.
For more info: 949.834.3688.
Humanities Instructional Building, Room 101. $3-$5.

Thursday-Monday, Dec 2-10
Studio Art presents
Sens Art exhibition
University Art Gallery (UAG) Bldg. 712 and ROOM Bldg. 727, room 1200
Admission is free.

January
Thursday, Jan 13 - 6-9pm
LUMIR, League of Electronic Musical Urban Robots
LUMIR is a group of artists and technologists developing robotic musical instruments. The LUMIR orchestra, a quintet of diverse musical robots, is presented in an interactive installation where visitors can direct the robots to play existing compositions or compose and play new works. For more information, visit http://www.lumir.org.
Beach Center for Art and Technology, admission is free.

Wednesday, Jan 19 - 1-7pm-1-11pm
Martin Luther King, Jr Symposium: Brutal Solidarity: Youth of Color, Military Service, and Neo-assimilationism
Cross-Cultural Center Conference Room
For info, contact tyler@uci.edu.

Thursday, Jan 20 - 12:30pm - 1pm
March & Rally
Atrium, student center.

Friday, Jan 21 - 12pm-3:30pm
The Department of Sociology presents
Min Zhou, professor of Sociology UCI
"The Multiracial American Experiences of the Children of Asian Immigrants: Lessons for Segregated Assimilation" Seminar Room, Room 305, 305 Williams, S.C., Cameron 100
Calling all writers, designers, artists, photographers, business folks and publicity reps!
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Saturday, Nov. 27, 7:00–11:00 pm
Grand Finales of 9th Eisencranz Festival of Film, Video and New Media
Interactive videos, music, games, karaoke and galatian readings through out Central Plaza and Chung King Road in Chinatown. Los Angeles. Also a live performance by musician, visual artists and video art from China. For more info: www.eisen.or.org

Animal Charm in the Night: Video and audio performance by Animal Charm
1–2pm, L.A. Live, Robert’s Club — Sports Bar

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 7–11:00 pm
Dear Students & Humanities presents: The Trilogue: Jews, Christians, and Muslims.
Student Center, Hoover Hall B3 — Free
For more info: 949.824.5590

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 7–11:00 pm
Scientific Politics and Burke’s Heirs: With Peter Galison, professor of sound and digital media, Aix en Provence, College of Arts. Humanities Instructional Building, Room 139.

December
Thursday, Dec. 7, 6–8pm
Let’s Talk Science (weekly party)
Cross-Cultural Center Conference Room
For info: contact iam@uci.edu or lawrence@uci.edu

Wednesday, Dec. 12, 7–9:30pm
Film & Video Center presents: Take Care of My Cat, debut feature from Korean Director/Screenwriter: Bes-Fun Seok. Set in the port city of Incheon, Take Care of My Cat follows the efforts of five friends in high school who step into adulthood only to find a vastly different world susceptible to constantly changing politics and circumstances.
For more info: 949.824.3638
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March & Rally
A&F, student Center

Friday, Feb. 11, 12–2pm
The Department of Sociology presents
K. Johnson, professor of Sociology, UCLA
SPP 4020, Robin Williams, JA Cameron Hall