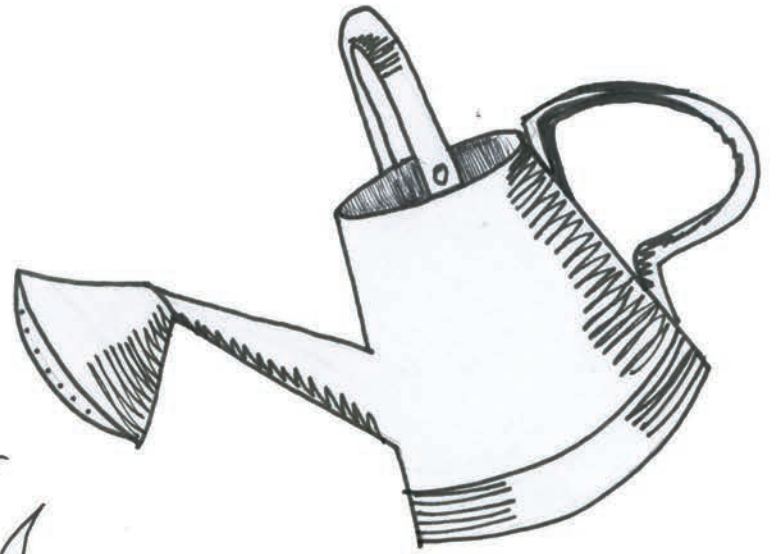


ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER NEWSMAGAZINE AT UCLA

PACIFIC TIES

volume 33 issue 1 | fall 2010



the



issue

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Undocumented
students
DREAM of a
better tomorrow

Understanding the
DREAM act and
how it affects Asian
American students



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello readers,

Pacific Ties is coming back to the 2010-2011 year with the roots issue. First, when I thought of "roots," I thought of our ancestors and our past. But as the PT staff and I collaborated, it delved into more about how we continue to nurture these roots, making sure that they grow into something beautiful, something that can help foster our own growth. We feed stories to each other. We advocate for our rights. What ties us with our community? We continue to water our roots.

Kumu Randy dances and teaches hula. Gwendoline Yeo acts out her story. These are examples of taking care of ourselves and our stories from the past. We live immortally this way. How have we grown and shaped ourselves? Roots can be defined as where you come from originally. Majority of Americans are immigrants. Look how far we've come, yet there is still a lot to do. The DREAM Act has been placed on the table for a long time, being revised, put down year after year. I wait for it to bloom out of the ground.

With that being said, I want you, as a reader, to interact with us. Send us e-mails with your thoughts. Plant inquiries in our inbox about topics you want to read and see. You are one of our resources that keeps us going. Now... read!

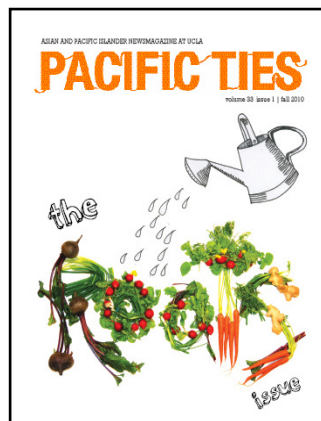
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New Editor-in-Chief

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COVER ART

Designed by Keli Arslanlan & Leila Mirseyedi



While the whole PT staff thought of the theme and what should be on the cover, fourth-year Art History major Keli Arslanlan & third-year English major Leila Mirseyedi brought it to its form. They went out and bought the vegetables, rearranged it, then snap. Keli doodled the water can.

Know your roots. Where do we come from? Most importantly, how do we keep them alive?

JOIN PACTIES 2010-2011

Since 1977, we have been committed to serving the Asian Pacific Islander community on-campus and beyond. Pacific Ties has provided readers with a unique perspective, alternative coverage & relevant source for contemporary news, culture, art, politics, entertainment and issues.

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GLOSSARY

We cover so many topics and issues here at Pacific Ties that language often gets technical. Here's a handy little glossary to help you out while reading through the issue.

Throughout our publication, you will find various acronyms related to our the ways we identify ourselves:

AA: Asian American
AAPI: Asian American Pacific Islander
APIA: Asian Pacific Islander American
APA: Asian Pacific American
API: Asian Pacific Islander
AB540: Assembly Bill 540
APALA: Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
APALC: Asian Pacific American Legal Center
APC: Asian Pacific Coalition
API: Asian Pacific Islander
ASPIRE: Asian Students Promoting Immigrant Rights Through Education
DREAM Act: The Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act
FAFSA: Free Application for Federal Student Aid
Halau: Traditional Hula School
IDEAS: Improving Dreams, Equality, Access and Success
JACL: Japanese American Citizens League
Kanin: Rice
Kumu: Hula Master
Longanisa: Sausage
Ohana: Family
PWC: Pilipino Workers Center
SeaClear: Southeast Asian Campus Learning Education and Retention
SEIU: Service Employees International Union
SPUF: Spirit Pride Unity and Friendship
UC: University of California
UCI: University of California, Irvine
UCLA: University of California, Los Angeles
USAC: Undergraduate Students Association Council

NEWSPRINT

feeding your appetite with short news items that you can really sink your teeth into + in-depth analysis of local, regional & national news for those who are hungry for more

First Asian Professor at Harvard Law School to be granted Tenure
November 23, 2010

Jeannie Suk, a Korean American, is the first Asian professor to be granted tenure at Harvard Law School. On October 14, she was granted tenure through faculty vote. She is an alumna from Harvard Law School, and became an assistant professor at the Law School in 2006. The courses she teaches include criminal law, and performing arts and law.

Burmese Leader Suu Kyi released from House Arrest
November 15, 2010

Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi was released from house arrest on November 13th. Suu Kyi was held for protesting against the military junta that currently has power in Burma. She has been under arrest for fifteen of the last twenty-one years.

Suu Kyi is one of the leaders of the National League for Democracy Party, one of the main rivals against the Union Solidarity and Development Party, the ruling party. She has requested free dialogue between her party and the junta to come to a compromise over the country's political system.

Suu Kyi has said that she plans to travel around the country and abroad to raise

support for her cause. The junta has currently made no restrictions over where she can go.

Although Suu Kyi's release was elated by spectators, it is possible that she could be placed under house arrest once again by the regime.

Jean Quan: First Female Mayor of Oakland and First Asian American to lead major U.S. city
November 11, 2010

Following several days of tallying votes, results have concluded that Jean Quan won with 50.98% of the votes, compared to her opponent Don Perata's 49.02%. When inaugurated to office in January, Quan will be the first Asian American woman mayor of a major US city and the first female mayor for Oakland.

With the new ranked-choice voting system that allowed voters to list their first, second and third-place candidates, Quan won by her majority vote of second and third choice votes, which is causing controversy since her opponent Don Perata had majority first choice votes. Quan, 61, is an Oakland native and former school board member.

Her diligent work ethic was vital for her win and will be crucial during her time in office where she faces a

shrinking city budget and violent crime rates.

Higher Unemployment for Asian Americans
October 8, 2010

Asian Americans ages 16-24 have a more difficult time finding jobs than whites with the same level of education, according to a study by the Economic Policy Institute.

The study, released in July, shows that while the likelihood of whites with a bachelor's degree being unemployed is 4.7%, Asian Americans with the same degree have a 7.2% of being unemployed. The rate of unemployed Asian Americans with advanced degrees is also higher than that of whites with the same degree.

In addition, more Asian Americans remained unemployed for the second quarter of this year than other minority groups. According to Ken Wong, who teaches at UCLA's Center for Labor Research and Education, these statistics are due to the fact that many Asians do not have the network or language skills needed to find new jobs. Lena Ren, a 21 year-old Yale student, holds a similar opinion, saying that in general, Asian families place a heavier emphasis on academics over extracurricular activities.

Ren said, "To successfully get a job one needs to not only be smart, but possess teamwork and leadership skills as well. I think that regardless of ethnicity, one needs to have enriching experiences both inside and outside the classroom in order to excel in the workplace."

Shattered Dream for Elderly Female Immigrants of Indian Descent
September 16, 2010

U.S. employers are exploiting elderly women immigrants from India. Although Indians are the third-largest immigrant group residing in the United States as of June 2010, the American Dream is not in sight for these women.

With limited language skills and unclear immigration statuses, these elderly women resort to supplying babysitting and housekeeping services for people in Northern California. These jobs have proven to be unstable, with wages below California's minimum wage and unspecified work hours.

At UCLA, advocates for Californian seniors assert that an income of about \$20,000 is necessary for Californian seniors' basic needs. In 2010, about 1 million California seniors live at or under the federal poverty level of \$10,830, which is half the perceived necessary amount.

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Events raise voter awareness in API community

By Cherry To | cto@media.ucla.edu

According to UCLA's Asian Pacific Coalition, only 43.3% of Asian and Pacific Islanders in the U.S are likely to vote. Despite the continuing increase in population, the API community is #1 in voter non-turnout, especially among young voters.

"I think it has to do with Asian parent influence. If parents aren't political then their children aren't going to be either. Asian families are less likely to talk at the dinner table about political issues compared to other ethnicities," said Emily Cheung, second-year electrical engineering major.

APIVote, an APC voter awareness event, listed reasons in their press release such as citizenship status, family upbringing,

apathy or lack of information on voting processes as factors of likelihood of voting.

The API community is unaware of how issues in this election directly affect them.

Prop 25 would allow the state budget to be passed with less than a two-thirds majority, resulting in the budget being passed—and financial aid being dispersed—on time. This year, the University of California and the California State Universities covered the Cal grant because the government did not sign the budget on time.

While our system was able to afford it, community colleges and private institutes were left in trouble. It was not until October that the budget was

signed, sending relief to students awaiting their financial aid.

Furthermore, issues facing gubernatorial candidates this year, such as the DREAM Act, are crucial to UCLA students. The DREAM Act would allow qualifying undocumented students the opportunity of a six year long path to citizenship, which requires completion of a college degree, or two years of military service. This act is similar to AB540, which allows qualifying undocumented students to pay in-state tuition at state colleges.

Considering that 40-44% of the AB540 undocumented students are Asian Pacific Islanders, "API elected

congresswomen and men play a significant and vital role in the retention of API students because there is an increasing representation of this community on the legislative level, which means that their voice is present at the discussion table," said Diego Sepulveda, External Vice President's Office, National Affairs Co-Director.

Many on campus events have been organized to increase voter participation. Events such as "Rock the Vote" by USAC and "APIVote" by APC offered students the chance to register to vote and learn about the issues.

"We found it very important to engage students. This low voter community means we are not

considered. People in power are making decisions without our say. The event was significant to increase voter awareness and educate them on a personal level," Layhannara Tep, director of the Asian Pacific Coalition, said.

Or the simplest solution is to personally talk to a friend about voting.

"My friend sort of cared but not really," said Angela Arunarsirakul, second-year SEACLEAR Peer Counselor. "After taking her to the Bill Clinton rally, she learned so much more about the candidates and was inspired to vote."

Angela added, "Just talk about it. If you don't, who will?"



Book binds Japanese American history through generations

by Jiemin Zhou | jzhou@media.ucla.edu

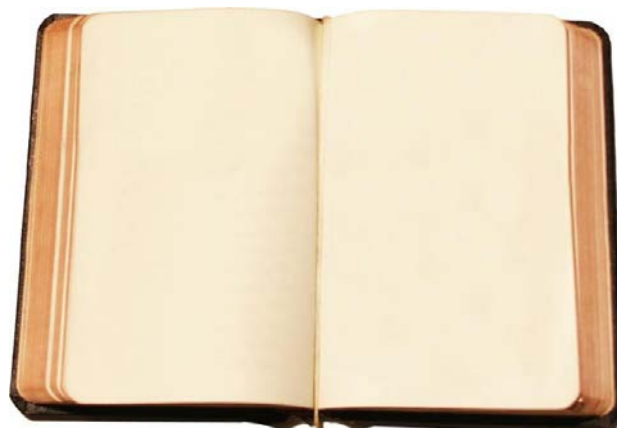
The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is currently working on a historical text that will encapsulate the rich heritage of Japanese Americans within the Los Angeles area. This work will cover a time period stretching from first-generation Japanese Americans to fourth-generation Japanese Americans.

"We wanted to capture the stories of the generations so the future generation can understand what it was like at a time," said Sharon Kumagai, the President of the Venice-Culver JACL

chapter and one of the members of the project.

Kumagai essentially states that the main goal of this project is to unite the community around its history. In addition, another purpose is to share with younger members of the community the events of the past before they are forgotten and the older generations pass on.

Some of the main focuses of the work are first- and second-generation Japanese Americans and the



eras before and during the war. In addition, the book will cover the third generation and Japanese American

life during the mid-century such as life during the 60s.

The book will be released in a plain vanilla cover rather than an ornately designed one because the creators of the project believe that the real value of the text lies within the pages. This is shown by the rich amount of original black and white pictures and colored images, providing readers with a visual guide to events throughout the

generations.

About ten members, mainly volunteers, have been working on this project for the last three years. They have been reaching out to the community to collect stories and pictures to include in the work.

Although the book has not been released yet, plans have already been made for what is to come afterwards. For instance, an online website is in the works and will include more pictures and even video content.

Filipino Americans unite to celebrate heritage with FRIENDSHIP GAMES

by Grace W. Yim
gyim@media.ucla.edu



Photos courtesy of Grace W. Yim

Katrina Morales grew up learning about her Filipino heritage. She learned to eat foods like longanisa (sausage) with kanin (rice) for breakfast and was exposed to popular Filipino idols such as Regine Velasquez and Martin Nievera at a young age.

But it wasn't until she came to UCLA a year ago that she developed a heightened sense of pride and deep cultural understanding of Filipino Americans.

"Meeting other Filipino students allowed me to connect with first generation individuals who shared a part of my identity," said Morales, a second-year neuroscience student.

She recently participated in the Filipino Student Association's annual Friendship Games (FG), an event held in Cal State Fullerton every fall to celebrate Filipino heritage.

This year, over 7,000 individuals from more than 30 Filipino college student organizations across the nation gathered in Cal State Fullerton to compete in fun and friendly games. Games such as "Conveyor Belt," "Tidal Wave," "The Nasty" and "Groundhog" not only required a great deal of strength and physical skill but also communication and teamwork. These traits fostered a sense of school spirit and unity.

"We got all dirty and sweaty for Friendship Games, but it forced us to communicate on sly tactics and encourage each other towards the finish line," added Morales.

Friendship Games also celebrated its 25th year anniversary with award-winning performances from UC Irvine's Kabba

Modern to R&B hits by 4Play and Innerlude. Saturday's event featured appearances from DEEP FOUNDATION!, a rap group that has made its impression on the national and international Hip Hop scene.

Luigi Seno, an acoustic singer from Southern California most famous for his appearance on America's Got Talent, also entertained the participants with his version of "Sunday Morning" by Maroon 5.

"Celebrating the 25th anniversary was exciting because we broke records," said FG coordinator Jerrell Rosales, a third-year film and television student.

"In previous years, the event attracted 6,000 participants from 37 different schools. This year, we had over 7,000 people from over 41 colleges and the support of many high profile performers."

Although UCLA lost the Spirit Pride Unity and Friendship (SPUF) Champion title to San Jose State University, the event culminated in a successful combination of passion, intensity and friendship.

"Although every school opened with a different cheer and competed with each other, we were all united as a community that wanted to celebrate our collective roots," said Annalou Lingat, a second-year psychobiology student.

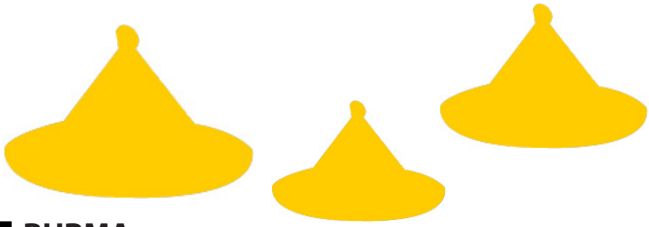
The event was also a reminder of the importance of cultural unity and pride, and the need to break existing stereotypes in the world.

"Friendship games allowed us a space to remove any typical quiet Asian labels. We love to dance. We like to sing. We want to be loud," added Rosales.

“Meeting other Filipino students allowed me to connect with first generation individuals who shared a part of my identity.”

your quick guide to happenings,
culture, society, and politics!

GLOBAL AFFAIRS

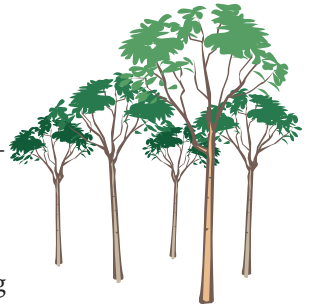


BURMA

The National Democratic Front, a new political party in Burma, is using the khamauk as their symbol. This used to be the symbol of the National League for Democracy, Aung San Suu Kyi's party in the 1990s. Although Suu Kyi's party is not affiliated with the NDF--she and the NLD are boycotting the 2010 elections--the symbol still has the power to rally people. The NDF has criticized the use of its old symbol, saying that it misleads people into thinking that Suu Kyi will be part of these elections, but the NLF has said that the symbol simply means they are part of the same democratic movement.

CHINA

Michael Bloomberg, New York's mayor, visited Hong Kong and Shenzhen for a meeting of city leaders on climate change and environment. While there, he criticized the US for scapegoating China for its problems. In response to complaints about China's new push for environmentally friendly technology (there are concerns that China is violating its World Trade commitments not to shut other countries out of the market for clean energy), Bloomberg said, "I think in America, we've got to stop blaming the Chinese and blaming everybody else and take a look at ourselves."



INDIA

President Obama visited India. Indian politicians said they were pleased with Obama's focus on creating a permanent seat for India on the UN Security Council. However, separatists in Kashmir were also pleased that Obama referred to Kashmir as a "region in dispute," and that the president did not rule out help from the US for resolving the Kashmir issue.

CAMBODIA

During a festival in Phnom Penh, a stampede occurred killing 339 people. The main cause of death was suffocation and electrocution. The stampede may have likely occurred because a suspension bridge packed with people began to sway, which caused a panic.



VIETNAM

PepsiCo has recently committed to building a plant in the province of Bac Ninh. This will be the largest Pepsi plant in Vietnam, and the second largest in Southeast Asia. PepsiCo has pledged to invest \$250 million in Vietnam over the next three years.



IN THE PACIFIC

According to the United Nation's Human Development Index, the Pacific Islands are lagging behind the rest of the world on quality of life. Global wealth, poverty, health, and education are factors that are taken into account when evaluating a country's quality of life. While Norway is at the top alongside Australia and New Zealand, the best of the Pacific Islands is Tonga, which does not appear until number 85.

Crop specialists across the Pacific have launched a project to conserve the indigenous diversity of foods critical to fighting dietary health problems. The project would involve the conservation of 1,000 crop varieties unique to the Pacific. Because of their vulnerability, a disease outbreak or cyclone can destroy the entire collection. That is why the collections are essential to maintaining traditional Pacific crops for future generations. Root crops and starchy fruits such as taro, yam, sweet potato and cooking banana make up the staple foods of the Pacific region, which includes 22 countries across 7,500 islands.

FEATURE

David Cho as a panelist for the symposium held on Nov. 8th at Moore Hall.

Students signing up at the event "Undocumented and Unafraid" - Symposium on Undocumented Students and Higher Education.



Undocumented students **DREAM** of a better tomorrow

By Leila Mirseyedi | lmirseyedi@media.ucla.edu
Photos courtesy of Imelda S. Plascencia

David came to the U.S. when he was 9 years old. Living in Southern California, there was only one college he wanted to go to. UCLA was David's first choice. Once he got in, David was excited, "UCLA had everything I wanted-academics, athletics, band, people, environment, diversity, and it was close to home."

Due to unfortunate circumstances, David became undocumented during his freshman year. Despite this hardship, he stuck with school and gained a little relief on his tuition from AB 540. Under the stipulations of AB 540, David does not qualify for FAFSA, Cal Grants, loans, a driver's license, or even a work permit, but he is able to pay in-state tuition.

David stays focused and continues to make the most out of his education at UCLA. He is studying international economics and Korean and is a member of the UCLA

Marching Band. He is the first Korean and undocumented student ever to become the head drummer in UCLA Marching Band history! Despite all his school commitments, he found time to win the Campus Progress National Speaker's Contest this year. Now a senior preparing for graduation, David is looking toward a bleak future if the DREAM Act is not passed.

David is the founder of the Asian Pacific Islander component, called ASPIRE, of Improving Dreams, Equality, Access and Success (IDEAS) here at UCLA. These groups are a haven for undocumented students looking for support from peers and a way for documented students to learn about the issue. IDEAS and ASPIRE work on spreading knowledge about the DREAM Act to get it passed in the near future.

David is an inspiration. With high hopes and dreams, David plans

on joining the U.S. Air Force after he graduates in the spring, if the DREAM Act passes. Having entered the school with all the right documentation, David is now graduating with none. But, his undocumented status does not get him down. Always happy and energetic, David thinks positively about his situation and he will not give up until he is a citizen.

Do not think that David Cho's case is singular. In fact, out of the 181,700 students in the UC System, 340-630 are undocumented; 40-44% of these students are of Asian and Pacific Islander descent. The DREAM Act could change that.

Many young adults are undocumented through no fault of their own. Families come to the U.S. in search of a better life for themselves, and though the reasons range, political persecution is one of the main causes for immigration.



These families come with their young children, who have no knowledge about documentation or citizenship, to make a better situation out of a bad one; the kids are caught in the middle. The children grow up, find out that they are undocumented, and are left with no promise of future work, documentation, or citizenship. This is where the DREAM Act comes in.

The DREAM Act allows 6 years of legal residency to high school graduates, who arrived in the U.S. at the age of 15 and have continuously lived here for 5 years, eligibility for citizenship if they attend college or serve in the military for 2 years during that period. This is a controversial act that has been introduced and re-introduced since 2001. It is now gaining a lot of support amongst

U.S. citizens and non-citizens. This act will allow young adults caught in between documentation status a chance to drive, vote, pay taxes and work legally.

Connie Choi, an attorney at the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC), believes that “it doesn’t matter [how the bill gets passed] it just depends on how it needs to be implemented at the right time.”

DREAM Act supporters are heating up the coals and lighting the fire. The time to act is now. It is up to us as a community to support each other. Lucia Lin a staff member of the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA) remarks, “It’s difficult to get people to talk about these issues because it’s so sensitive. Fear to let other people know of their situation—the law, embarrassment, shame. Most Asian families prefer not to talk about the ‘bad stuff.’

The issue often gets ignored in the community. [...] Most times kids do not want to speak up—it exposes themselves and their family.”

Lucia makes a point to note that the API community is stratified in regard to income and each person has a different story of how they got to the U.S. The American perception of the model minority, how Asians are hard workers and do everything by the book, and how much Asians really do buy into this misconception is detrimental to the community.

As a community, we should give some assistance and help out brothers and sisters trying to reach the same goal we are: the American Dream.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

UCLA ALUMNA GWENDOLINE YEO

SHARES STORY IN ONE-WOMAN SHOW

By Deanna H. Tran | dtran1@media.ucla.edu

Spotlight

The typical characteristics of an Asian American immigrant: the strict family, the accent, and the changes. “Laughing With My Mouth Wide Open,” a one-woman show, delves into Gwendoline Yeo’s life journey. As the writer and star, Yeo incorporated both fictional and biographical elements into the show, marking significant events and stages throughout her life.

Yeo saw herself as a geek before she emigrated from Singapore to the U.S. at the age of 12. Transitioning from an academic-intensive environment, she would blossom into the actress she is today.

“When I moved to the states, suddenly, things started to flip exactly opposite,” said Gwendoline Yeo, “My mind started opening up that there were different possibilities. That I didn’t just have to be a doctor or a lawyer because that was what I was raised with.”

Her first step into the entertainment industry was the 1994-95 Miss Teen Chinatown San Francisco Beauty Pageant. Though her parents thought the pageant inappropriate, going so far as to equate it to prostitution, Yeo became a contestant. Imagine her parents’ surprise when

she won the beauty pageant and was in the newspaper.

“My mom thought I was going to go to UCLA and become a gangster,” said Yeo, “But I think that when I won the pageant, it helped them to say OK well maybe she does know what she’s doing ish.”

At UCLA, she chose to major in communication studies, instead of the sciences. She was pursuing her own path.

“I need to follow my heart. I need to follow this, instead of my head or instead of following my parents,” said Yeo, “You know, I respect them. I love them. But, there was something deeper that said that you need to do what you need to do.”

Yeo graduated from UCLA in three years. She pursued an acting career, where she realized that she could use her charm and her humor.

“Gwendoline is very talented at what she does. She’ll nail whatever part is given to her and can make every character very convincing,” said Brian Bobila, Yeo’s friend. “But I know her drive played a big part of where she is right now...I’ve never met anyone as driven as she is!”

Despite being known for her role as a maid in the

TV show, “Desperate Housewives,” her roles in period pieces like “Broken Trail” are closer to her heart. In the “Broken Trail,” she played a prostitute brought from China to America to service Chinese men building the railroads.

Audiences can peek into Yeo’s life by watching her show, “Laughing With My Mouth Wide Open.”

“The most important artistic endeavor of my life has been this show,” said Gwendoline Yeo, “You just tell your story. People can receive it however they want.”



hula on over to the halau



Left to right: Brittany Jang 2nd Year, Alex Zeng 4th Year, Tracy Abe 4th Year, & Bryant Hirai Alumni. Photo courtesy of Momoyo Ozawa.

By Megan Tokeshi | mtokeshi@media.ucla.edu

Halau (dance school) transformed into more than just a place of learning, creating an ohana (family) for the dancers as well as the teachers. Kumu (master) Hula of Hula Halau Kaulana Ka Hale Kula 'O Ka 'Aina, Randy Kaulana Chang said, "I take care of [the dancers] and do anything to help them."

The Halau has transformed into more than just a place of learning and will continue to evolve and adapt to teach more of the Hawaiian culture. At first, Halau Kaulana was opened to teach only men but changed as Kumu Randy learned more about the protocol of teaching as well as more dances. There are now both male and female students, ranging in age from 13-35 at the Halau. Each Halau is different in terms of the

dances practiced or even the environment at the Halau itself. Kumu Randy places an emphasis on the evolving practice of hula, the constant need to prepare for the future, and the need to preserve Hawaiian culture.

Brittany Jang, a UCLA student under Kumu Randy's tutorial said, "One of the dances I learned seemed very old fashioned, giving me a glimpse of the style of hula back in the day."

As a student, Brittany had no prior hula experience and enjoyed hearing the stories behind each dance movement as well as the stories behind the dance itself.

"Even though I have always had an interest in hula, I've never really learned it from anyone else besides my mom," said Jang. "It was cool to hear other stories from more traditional people,

Left to right: Cyndi Tano 3rd Year, Aly Aly Ochiai 2nd Year, & Tracy Abe 4th Year dancing at a luau held at UCLA. Photo courtesy of Momoyo Ozawa.



inspiring me to learn more about the culture."

Kumu Randy currently teaches hula at UCLA for the Hui O 'Imiloa Hawaii Club. He continues to participate in various Pacific Islander related groups and tries to learn more about the Hawaiian culture. Hula has such a stronghold on his life;

he will often wake up in the middle of the night and start dancing.

Inspiration strikes him throughout the day and often leaves him scrambling to remember everything.

"In order to be a good teacher, you must make hula a part of your life," said Kumu Randy.

more

Hawaiians first began practicing hula in the 10th-12th century as a way to pass down events occurring during that time to future generations. It was prohibited from being practiced during the late 1800's to the 1920's until teacher Kent Gerard reintroduced hula as a way for girls to make a living in Waikiki.

Gerard and other teachers opened studios in

Waikiki as a way to practice hula without following the restrictions ancient Hawaiians had in place.

A Halau is a traditional school for dancers to learn the art of hula from a Kumu, or hula master. This allows dancers to gain a better perspective of what hula is and a way to learn more than various dances.

REVIEWS

At the End of Daybreak thrills filmgoers



By Ray Luo | rluo@media.ucla.edu

The mother laughs hysterically at us as if we have been fooled all along: “my son would never call.”

Thus climaxes Yuhang Ho’s surrealistic family psychological drama “At the End of Daybreak” (or “Sham moh”), which recently showed at the Anaheim International Film Festival.

Ho, best known for his critically acclaimed “Rain Dogs” (2006), is one of the best new talents in Malaysian/Hong Kong independent cinema. His works, like “Min” (2003) and “Sanctuary” (2004), focus on modern Malaysian life, contrasting villages and city centers, although the best of his works also dwell on the unexpected, much as “At the End of Daybreak” does.

The story begins with a love affair between a motorcycle-riding 23-year-old named Tuck (Tien You Chui) and a 15-year-old high school student named Ying (Meng Hui Ng). Ying’s mother discovers her use of contraception and demands to know who the boy is. Her family threatens to sue Tuck and put him in jail for statutory rape. Distraught, Tuck’s mother asks her ex-husband for money, but after the money is transferred to Ying’s family, they still want to pursue legal action.

At this point, the story turns from family drama to crime mystery. Tuck invites Ying and her friend to go out to the forest, where he accidentally kills Ying. Although Tuck’s friends cover up for him by choking the other girl, he later tries to commit suicide.

Ho’s masterful use of angular perspectives can best be seen as Tuck tries to get back on his bike. The film is composed mostly of wide and medium shots. During Tuck’s attempt to get back on the bike, we look upon the scene as if we are watching from the moon. Moreover, the moon is eclipsed in this scene as if the audience is being fooled.

Tien You Chui’s performance is understated, although at certain moments his inability to heighten his emotions seems detrimental. Tien manages some tears, but there are no close ups of his emotions. His lack of emotion can sometimes contribute to the film’s ambiguity.

The female characters are the strengths of this film. Meng Hui Ng is perfectly conniving as the youthful and opportunistic Ying. Meng does a perfect impression of a thief, showing no emotion. She puts on a dress in the store, looks at herself in the mirror, and walks away nonchalantly, as if she has done it a million times.

The best performance comes from Kara Hui, who plays Tuck’s alcoholic mother. Hui’s emotions are raw, but she also does a great job of showing the poverty the family endures.



Photo courtesy of Yellow Cinema

A must-see movie? You be the *Judge*

By Jiemin Zhou |
jzhou@media.ucla.edu

A cute puppy being petted during dinner will not save director Jie Liu’s 2009 Chinese thriller “Judge,” shown at the 2010 Anaheim Film Festival, from its confusing plot. “Judge” is a movie centered on the male character Tian (Dahong Ni). As the name of the film suggests, Tian is a senior Chinese judge.

The movie follows Tian’s struggles over convicting a criminal, Qiu Wu, to death or granting him mercy for his crime of stealing two cars. In addition, there are vested interests Tian must deal with, such as a rich businessman who would like Wu dead so that he may have his kidney for a transplant, and Qiu’s family who obviously wish to keep him alive.

Although it seems straight forward, the storyline digresses numerous times. For instance, subplots such as Tian’s relationship with his traumatized wife who has not fully recovered from their daughter’s recent death only serve to distract the audience from the main plot. These elements only seem to detract from the main story, as the audience never understands the purpose of these scenes.

In addition, more confusion results from the difficulty of understanding why certain characters act the way they do in various situations. For

instance, why does Wu refuse to eat and sleep in jail, or do anything for that matter? It is impossible to understand. Opening the characters’ minds to reveal what they were thinking when they performed certain actions would have helped make the plot more comprehensible and not make audience members wonder what they watched.

To present the scenes, a dark atmosphere was created with many instances of silence and characters awkwardly staring at each other. To the credit of the director, this was accomplished successfully. The suspense made it essentially impossible to tell until the very end whether Qiu Wu would actually be saved or forsaken. This appropriately added to the movie’s plot and made you at least wonder what would happen. In “Judge”, silence is truly golden, allowing the tension to continuously build up until the fateful climax.

If you want a film to contemplate for the next month—try to figure out the characters’ motivations for their actions—then “Judge” is an excellent film. For casual film-viewers, it can still be an enjoyable movie to watch. Just don’t expect to fully understand exactly what is going on without some serious time in the shower or the toilet or wherever you have your epiphanies.

The scene in which the mother cuts Tuck’s hair as he complains about his life is masterful, as the mother is shown to be infinitely compassionate, patient, and loving to her son. We understand why, at the end, Hui looks directly at the audience, laughs, and tells us that we’ve been fooled—she understands her son so well.

Yuhang Ho’s recreation of a murder mystery in “At the End of Daybreak” takes us from a family drama to a surrealist probe of the human psyche. As such, it is a genre-changing piece that should not be missed.

MONOLOGUE / DIALOGUE

SHARING OPINION, THOUGHTS, AND WHAT WE WANT TO SAY

UCLA loses beloved professor, John Delloro

By Allan Hu

Many students are unaware of why the flags rose to half-mast in the middle of summer session A, on what seemed like another sunny day at UCLA. As many students were partying the summer away, a group of Asian Pacific Islander students, activists, and friends were mourning John Delloro with a huge candlelight vigil at Royce Quad.

Who was John Delloro? If you weren't in the Asian American studies program, you wouldn't have the slightest hint of who he was. So who really was John Delloro?

John Delloro was an activist, a friend, a father, a husband, a leader, but he was mostly known as a professor. A professor that everyone loved, a professor that would walk in everyday with frozen yogurt and a smile even though he knew he had another job to do after his lecture, a professor that was constantly on his Blackberry while lecturing.

He was the professor of classes you knew you could get an A in without ever attending, but you wanted to because his lectures about social activism were so powerful and invigorating. During any day of the academic year, he was the professor constantly bombarded with letter of recommendation requests from students.

His mother was in the hands of the corrupt hotel service business, where workers were underpaid and overworked. He felt his duty as a hard working activist and diligent son was to bring these injustices to the public

light and provoke change within the system. In his days as an undergraduate and graduate student at UCLA, he was at the forefront of every march toward social equality, injustice, racism, etc.

As the president of Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALC), he gave hotel workers another chance to bridge economic barriers within the system that once oppressed them. APALC is the only organization that focuses on Asians and Pacific Islanders in labor issues.

Other notable organizations he ran were the SEIU of Southern California, which aims to improve the working conditions of around 90,000 people. Delving into his Asian Pacific Islander heritage, he was one of the co-founders of Pilipino Workers Center (PWC), based in Los Angeles, with the intent of helping Pilipino workers meet the needs of their families while planning for the future.

As Professor Hirabayashi recalled, "John was an amazing teacher who inspired many students to major and minor in Asian American Studies and become involved and active with the community." He was the voice for the voiceless. The Asian American community misses their professor, leader, activist, but most importantly, their friend. John Delloro's memory will survive with his wife, Dr. Susan Suh, UCLA Sociology Ph.D. Alumna and community activist, and their two children, Mina and Malcolm, as well as a slew of students and friends.



Illustrated by Keli Arslanacan | karslanacan@media.ucla.edu

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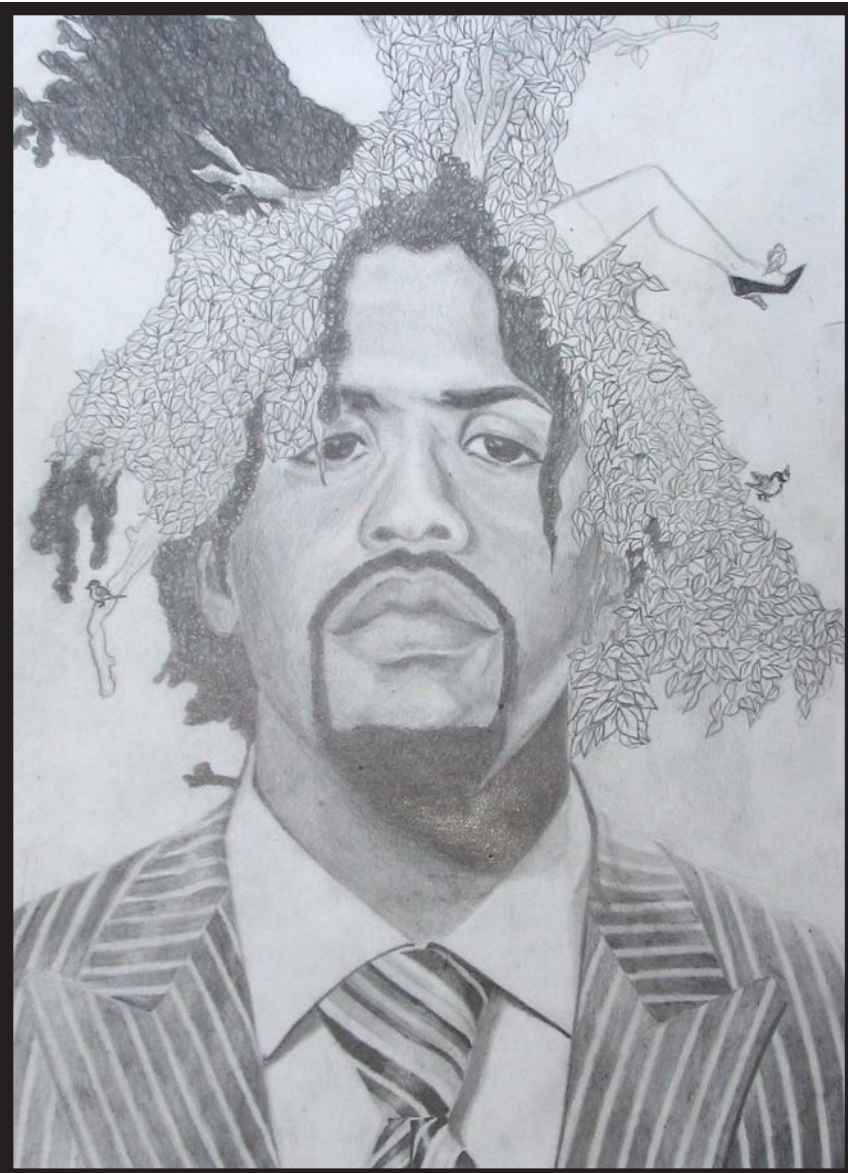
EXPRESS

ing your voice, yourself, and what you believe. Creating or shaping something to represent your thoughts.

Water Buffalo
By Michelle Vo



Tree (Murs) and Dreamers
By Michelle Vo



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AN INVISIBLE EXPERIENCE

By Sofia Campos



How to get through the Day,
When it starts at 6 AM on the first of 4 buses to get to UCLA.

How to get through the Week,
When it starts with rejection from the AMC
Because there is no California ID to verify an age older than 17.

How to get through the Month,
When it starts with dropping out of UCLA for a quarter or more
Because there is just not enough money to pay anymore.

And How to get through the Year,
When it starts with the weight of the world
On top of seemingly
 shrinking
 shoulders.

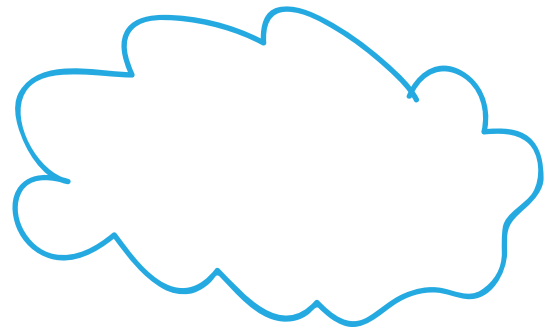
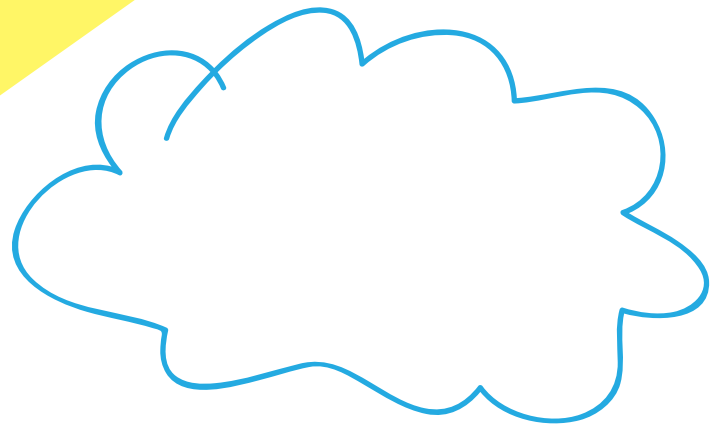
It is that invisible faith,
Coupled with that invisible hope
That gets me through this Invisible Experience.

Being undocumented takes the phrase
"Count your blessings" to a whole different level.
Every smile I receive, Every hug I embrace
Every act of kindness I glimpse
Radiates throughout this universe,
Into mind, soul, and place.

It is this faith
I do my best to nurture, to grip
Because that is how I get through my year,
 my month,
 my week,
 my DAY.

That is how I live

UNDOCUMENTED And UNAFRAID.



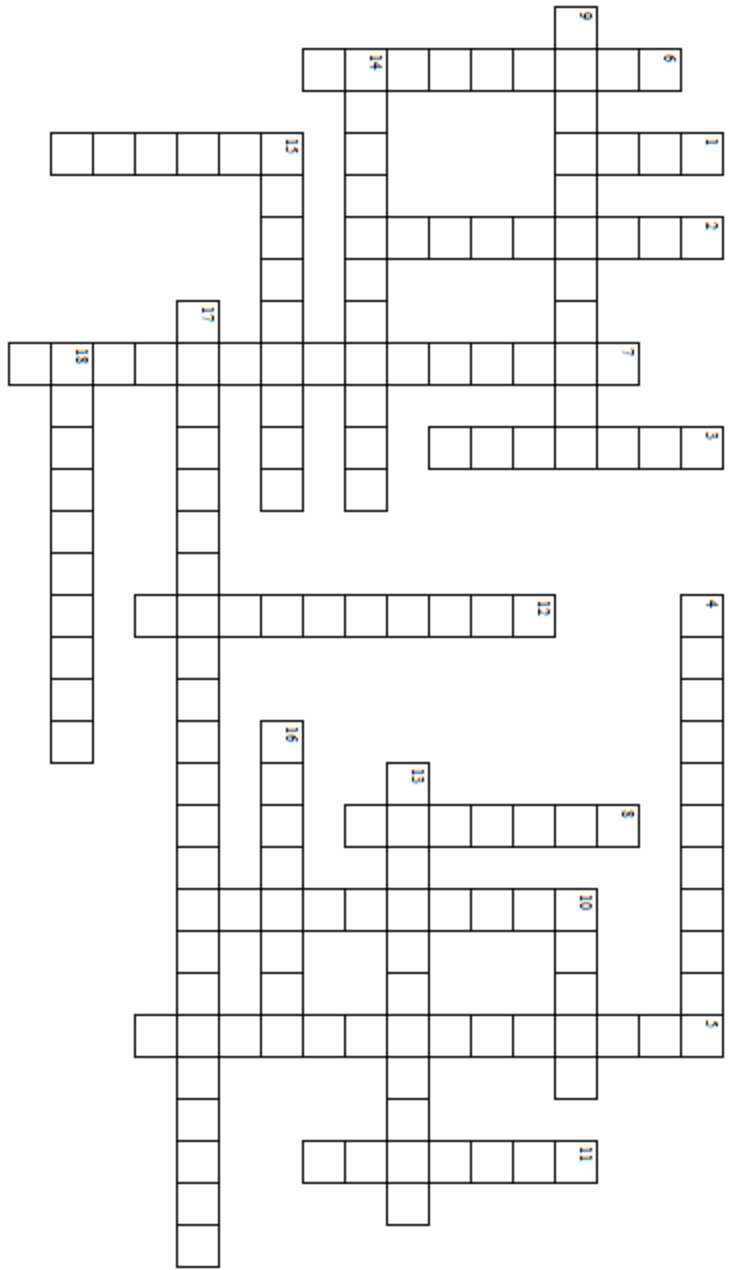
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a network of young people working for progressive change as well as supporting many alternative student-run news media across the nation

A Puzzle for You



ACROSS

- 4 The world's largest producer of coconuts
- 9 Home to thousands of huge stone jars, each large enough to hold a person
- 10 Country in which turtle is considered a delicacy
- 13 Asian-Pacific Islander newsmagazine at UCLA
- 14 Korean-American female comedian who uses stand-up routines to critique society
- 15 The most popular sport in Korea
- 16 Almost 95% of Cambodians practice this religion
- 17 University where the world's first cloned dog was created
- 18 Vietnamese woman ranked one of the most elegant women of the 20th century

DOWN

- 1 The last imperial ruler of China
- 2 Home to the largest lizard in the world
- 3 The southwest wind that brings the rainy season in summer
- 5 The largest cave chamber in the world
- 6 Buddhist leader of the Gelug branch of Tibetan Buddhism
- 7 The group that performs "Like a G6"
- 8 Burma's old name
- 10 Hong Kong actor known for his skill in martial arts
- 11 SF City College student who awaited deportation for being undocumented
- 12 Star of the popular brand, Sanrio
- 15 Island formerly called "Formosa" by the Portuguese

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