

a periodical produced and distributed by students participating in ucsc student media



clockwise from top: UC Regent Richard Blum, UCSC Chancellor George Blumenthal, UC President Mark Yudof, Governor Schwarzenegger

THE PAPER

The Project is



Join The Project!

We are an open collective of rad folks who work together to write, edit, and lay out articles and distribute this sweet-ass paper. We want YOU to work with us.

Meetings: Fridays at 5:00 p.m. at SubRosa (next to the Bike Church at Pacific and Spruce).

If you want to submit an article, work of art, poem, or comic, or to get in touch with us, email:

theproject@riseup.net

people.ucsc.edu/~rcaldero/theproject/#

The purpose of this newspaper collective is to document and inspire strategic radical actions that are relevant to local, regional, and global socioeconomic justice. We believe independent media plays a crucial role in facilitating dialogue, organizing mass mobilizations, and encouraging daily acts of resistance.

Through The Project we hope to raise awareness regarding pertinent issues by presenting alternative views to what is presented by the corporate media, and through this, work to change commonly held beliefs. We feel that it is not only our right, but our duty as conscientious, active participants in our communities to educate others in an effort to improve our collective lives.

We want you to be critical of this paper, to mark it up in a red sharpie and fire off emails critiquing us and our points. We want to hear your voices and know what you think and feel about what we have to say; and then we want you to join us in an effort to create a space for the news and dialogue you want to read about.

Not all of us agree on all of these issues, but we all feel that the views represented in this paper are worth hearing and discussing, and do not receive enough time and attention.

--The Project Staff

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UC executives claim that we are in a state of crisis, a crisis that will force us to “tighten our belts.” But whose belts, and on whose terms? Not the executives themselves, but the families, workers, and students, the vast majority of those tied to the UC system. “Tightening our belts” is a threat to increase class sizes, eliminate jobs, perpetuate poverty wages, and hike up student fees. This climate of fear presents us with stark choices: affordable, quality education versus dignity for UC workers; research versus teaching; manageable class sizes versus access to education. If we view education as a commodity, then we will succumb to these false choices. But if we are able to advance an alternative vision of a truly public university, then we can build the foundation to challenge the UC’s logic of scarcity.

Take A Stand, Prepare for Action
newUC Community Forum

Wednesday April 15, 5pm - 7pm

Baytree Conference Room D

Dear UC,
your Crisis
is our
Last Straw

*sincerely,
us, the stakeholders*

We will not accept your logic of scarcity, including:
-9.3% Tuition Increase (\$663 a year per student)
-10% cuts to every department on campus
-elimination of Community Studies department
-7.5% rent hikes for residents of Family Student Housing
-cuts to graduate and undergraduate health insurance
-elimination of classes in departments such as Music, Environmental Studies, American Studies and others
-Threatening workers with shift cuts



<http://thenewUC.wordpress.com>

Also check out...

Engaging Education presents

BLOWN' UP THE BUDGET

WEDNESDAY 4.15.09 FROM 7-9PM
AT OAKES LEARNING CENTER

Come learn about budget cuts,
the legacy of student struggles
from e² alumni, Justin Resuello and Amanda Wake,
how the budget will affect students of color and
student initiated outreach programs

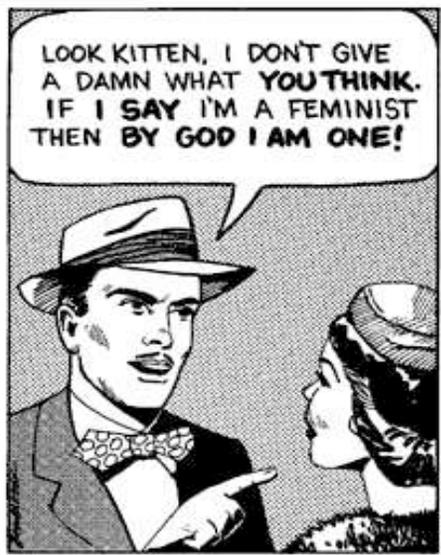
+ Special Performance by

climbing poe tree

Engaging Education wishes to
make this event accessible to
people with disabilities.
If you need accommodation,
please call SOAR at 459-2934.

GIRL TALK REVISITED

Amanda Kessner and Satya Chima



This article is in response to “Girl Talk,” the article published in the latest issue of the Project. In our response we would like to be sensitive to the multiple definitions of feminism, and recognize the efforts and intentions of the author and her affiliation with Kick Ass Women Speaking Up, as a form of legitimate feminism. Our hope for this article is to further contextualize the concepts that were presented in “Girl Talk” as to demonstrate our interpretation of feminism. By sharing the following opinions we’re interested in opening up a dialogue concerning feminism, and invite other voices, experiences, and interpretations so as not to privilege our own. We understand the multidimensional nature of feminism, and know that we will inevitably fail to address certain issues, and provide extensive context to all of the topics we plan to discuss. It is crucial to continue a dialogue about what is left out and what can be expanded on within our own feminist politics as to not ignore crucial issues. That being said, we feel that our discussion is necessary, valuable, and meant to encourage critical thought.

We recognize that “girl power” is one of many types of declared feminist projects and that it has a history in the Riot Grrrl movement however, we would have liked the author to expand on her use of the term “girl” and the importance of reclaiming it. In our own analysis we are deliberate in our decision to use the term woman rather than girl. Although the woman identity certainly does not speak to everyone that this article concerns, in using the word woman we imply adulthood, and avoid the poor connotations of girl that invoke immaturity and illegitimacy. We would like to recognize that the terms we are using are limited in their accessibility. They are provided by academia, and demonstrate the privilege of the higher education system and of Euro-centric language. In writing this article we express our own privilege in choosing to speak within the system. We recognize that our background within the Feminist Studies program has offered this academic language and that it is not accessible to all however, useful to projects of social justice. We’d also like to address how academic, feminist language presents a feminist issue because it is not available to many outside of the education system.

We believe this to be product of an anti-feminist agenda that works to keep feminist theories inaccessible.

We acknowledge the social constructions of the terms sex and gender, and of the categories of male/female and man/woman. The social understandings of these terms contribute to how sex and gender are received through a framework of heteronormativity. When considering our terms, we acknowledge that a focus within a heteronormative framework lacks recognition of the multiple identities of the queer community, which further denies legitimacy to the queer identified. Our analysis is focused on the broad category of women, which may leave out communities of gender fluid, gender-non-conforming and transgendered individuals. To begin, we would like to address a key area of concern in the article “Girl Talk.” This includes a critique of the process of universalizing women’s experiences. We found the author’s discussion disconcerting. Our frustrations stem from the pattern of universalizing women’s experiences in feminist discourse that goes unnoticed. Because of the various social and political specificities of identity and the intersections of race, class, sex and sexuality, the ability to speak to and for all women’s experience is impossible. Universalizing women’s experience further erases the importance of individual experience. Women’s experiences are shaped by current structures of society and by complicated histories of colonialism, racism, economic and political exploitation, homophobia, patriarchy and capitalism to name a few. The assumption of the experience of oppression in all women, namely women of color and women from the Global South, facilitates the essentializing of women. When we discuss feminism as solely concerning the oppression of women we reduce women to a state of victimhood.

The author’s attempt to speak for other women’s experience concerns a position of privilege that requires recognition. The perceived ability to see, or look into a system of oppression removes one from the system itself, further denying one’s personal involvement with such power structures. As was mentioned in “Girl Talk,” acknowledging one’s own subjectivity and social location is crucial. However, recognizing the privilege that comes with the decision to speak for other women’s experiences is necessary before seeking a global coalition of women. It is necessary for all writers on feminist discourse to address their privilege. By engaging with what our writings and activism do not include will allow us to move forward in dismantling the very systems of power which allow us ignore such issues in the first place.

The author’s use of the term “solidarity” brings up our concerns with efforts in organizing spaces around coalition building. When assuming that coalitions can be achieved without recognizing the variation of issues being addressed and their historical contexts, one over-simplifies conceptions of solidarity. Our previous discussion of universalizing feminist projects can be applied to the assumptions of community within social justice circles. The imagined community fails to recognize experiences that are unique to specific social locations. It is important to differentiate between the participants of the social movement. Some have the privilege to participate in such spaces based on their personal interests, which does not belittle their integrity however their location is contrasted by those who may be more intimately effected by the injustices being addressed. As mentioned in the article, recog-

nizing where we are socially located within activist circles can allow us to find points of connection.

Another key area of concern in the article was the limited perspective of whiteness, and the experience of gender oppression. Although this perspective is valid, when speaking on behalf of all women, the normative view of feminism as a white experience with the later consideration of women of color as an after thought is not sufficient. For women of color, oppression is not solely gender based. When discussing feminist projects and systems of oppression, it is imperative that an analysis of social-class, economic, and race be included. The prejudices associated with socio-economic status are deeply pervasive in society. Job security, adequate wages and matters of safety concerning all forms of violence often go unrecognized. In addition, institutionalized racism and economic injustice further the struggle of many women of color to achieve equity. Lastly, the history of colonialism still affects the daily, lived experience of women of color and queer communities, which is why feminist projects can also be viewed as anti-colonial. The position of shock in response to racism is one of privilege considering how colonialism has shaped the lives and histories of communities of color, and normalized pervasive racist treatment.

In “Girl Talk” the discussion of power structures often referenced a “liberation struggle” for women. In this context liberation is not defined but assumed as a personal choice. This idea further supports the assumption that all women need to be liberated, and have the means to “liberate” themselves. As the author connects the freedom of women to “security” and “safety” she again, fails to define her terms, or address how those terms have different meanings for different people. Safety and security can mean extremely different things when considering women’s experiences and identities across intersecting categories of race, class, gender, sexuality, immigration status and religion. Forms of heightened security such as strict policy, increased police surveillance, and legalized criminalization of communities of color have played a prominent role for indigenous nation states, undocumented residents, and residents of the inner city. These forms of security have also been enacted upon queer communities. The criminalization of non pro-creative sex and the ban on same sex marriage, as well as the previous examples of security, have historically assumed safety for heterosexual, white communities. When we consider the responsibility of the state to supposedly provide protection, one can recognize how various forms of social control have hidden behind the euphemisms of safety and security.

Attempting to achieve this idea of a “new world” through choosing personal liberation, rejecting dominant systems of oppression, and universalizing women’s experiences as mentioned in the article, comes dangerously close to erasing the importance of histories, struggles, and personal identity. When considering any feminist project, one must ask what the term feminism even means; within the U.S. and throughout the globe. Our idea of feminism here in the U.S. is already a combination of mixed ideas and theories. We must accept that our definitions will differ based on our various intersectional identities rather than attempt to place women into a sub category that is defined by the common experience of gender oppression. The goal of our feminist project is to learn how to engage in a different way with systems of oppression rather than ignore them completely.

Admin. Fails To Adequately Inform Students About Budget Cuts

(Jean, *The Project Collective*)

On Thursday 3-12-2009 a forum on the campus budget cuts was held at the University Center, UCSC. The event was held by Student Affairs and Student Union Assembly (SUA). According to SUA Officer A*, the administration wanted to hold a forum where they could create a list of services that UCSC students were prepared to have cut from their academia and student services. SUA, however, wanted a forum that concentrated more on educating students about the budget cuts so students can understand how the cuts actually affect them. SUA wanted to provide students with the knowledge to demand transparency and accountability from the administration with the interests of student needs.

Prior to the Budget Forum, SUA had vocalized to Student Affairs that the administration had not adequately informed



students about the budget cuts, thus it was unfair to ask students to give input on decision-making without receiving any information about the cuts. In preparation for the forum, SUA Officer B* specifically asked Student Affairs for an outlined version of where the budgets is currently allocated. Instead, B* received a bunch of irrelevant pie charts with inaccurate figures.

Not only did the administration fail to provide accurate information about the budget cuts for SUA to present to UCSC students, but they also chose to hold the forum in a tiny room, which limited the number of students who could come, and conducted very little outreach to UCSC students for the event itself. Associate Vice Chancellor & Dean of Students Alma Sifuentes had told SUA prior to the forum that the administration would be responsible for publicity. Obviously that did not happen. Though Sifuentes was absent for health problems during the week of the forum, it did not excuse the fact that two days before the event, UCSC students had still not seen a single flier or received an email about the Budget Forum. SUA Officer A* said,

"Even though the administration wanted to have a forum to gauge "student input", clearly they were not seriously invested in reaching a lot of students or having a representative group of students there. So we were skeptical; maybe they wanted more of a symbolic forum that they could point to prove they had student input in the (budget cut) process." SUA felt Sifuentes' poor health could not be accounted for the administrations failure to advertise the Budget Forum, and they were forced to take publicity into their own hands at the last minute.

The Budget Forum opened with a helpful PowerPoint presented by SUA, designed to explain and expose students to the current miserable state of the Budget and the harsh truths about how the rising cost of higher education has far reaching implications for both students and the future of California. Students are now paying for this crisis in fee increases along with a lower quality of education and student services.

SUA explained that fees have doubled in the last five years, which means Undergrads now pay \$8,100 a year. Including fees for books, housing, student services, etc. UC students now pay over \$25,300 a year, leaving the average Undergrad with \$20,000 in debt after graduation! Governor Schwarzenegger is still forcing the UC to make cuts to higher education even

with the rising costs in student fees. SUA found that should the State continue funding at its current rate, California will be the first state where prison funding will be higher than funding education by 2012!

In January 2009, Schwarzenegger proposed a 10% budget cut, which denies tens of thousands of qualified students to higher education. He proposes a 9.3% tuition increase and \$209.9 million cut to the UC with

no funding for enrollment growth. UCSC alone is expected to make \$13 million in cuts. These cutbacks will lead to reductions in financial aid, fewer classes and faculty (like we are experiencing with Community Studies) and a decrease in student services (be prepared to say good-bye to EOP, the Women's Center, Mental Health and Health Services, Learning Support Services, Ethnic Resource Centers and many others).

SUA showed how these cuts will also endanger current outreach services for undocumented students who continue to be denied from the financial aid system, even though they legally qualify for in-state tuition. Students of color will also be harmed since less are expected to be admitted into the UC. African-American enrollment alone is expected to drop 5.4-8%.

One of the underlying issues with the budget cuts is that our Educational Fees - that used to support the UC's budget - have been raised disproportionately higher than Registration Fees, which support student services. Students are literally being forced to pay for the poor decision making of those who created the budget

crisis through misuse of money and general greed. Another underlining issue that SUA and many other concerned UCSC students have recognized is that the administration thinks a tiny student forum, where fewer than sixty students out of 16,000 attend, is enough to effectively educate the student body about the cuts.

Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, Felicia McGinty, and Sifuentes were among the few administrators to attend the event. The floor was opened to Q&A after SUA's informative presentation. The few students who managed to find out about the Budget Forum criticized the administration for attempting to take funding away without informing students. The common consensus among the students who attended the forum was "we don't want to cut anything". Students were outraged that the proposed budget cuts mentioned nothing about saving money for education by reducing the offensively high salaries of UC President Mark Yudof, UC Chancellors, and other top staffers who allocate themselves millions of dollars a year with additional bonuses. A great concern among the students who attended the Budget Forum was that if academia and student services are to be cut, why are the outrageous salaries of the people who should be struggling along side students - instead of cheating them and shutting them out of the decision making processes. Students were angry that budget cuts are coming directly from academics and student services and not from the ever-increasing salaries of the administration. They were also upset and highly critical that the administration had not publicized the forum and expecting the few of them to represent the entire UCSC student body.

According to Matthew Palm, SUA Commissioner of Academic Affairs, students are not allowed to vote or have a direct say on where they want to see the \$13 million cut from at UCSC. This comment was one of the many turned towards the administration, particularly McGinty who defensively stated that her boss had made her responsible for deciding what to remove and that the cuts had not been her personal decision. Unfortunately, her boss, Executive Chancellor David Kliger, was not available to comment since he had better things to do than listen to "student input".

The Budget Forum concluded with SUA's encouragement to the few students able to attend to get more involved in impacting the budget process through BEING INCLUSIVE AND ORGANIZING IN NUMBERS. SUA Officer A* said the most important advice to offer UCSC students is to begin mobilizing and creating demands for the services and level of academic students have to defend. A* said, "As students, it is not our job to tell them (the administration) what to cut. We can only tell them what our priorities are and it is up to the administration to find the funds for those services."

Visit: <http://thenewuc.wordpress.com> to view the SUA's PowerPoint from the Budget Forum under Reportback: UC Budget Meeting - Student Affairs

* SUA Officers did not want their names disclosed

UC Profits

By Gazuedro and J Willi

- *9.3% increase in tuition¹
- *\$663 Average increase per student per year at 9.3% 220,000 UC students
- *\$291,720,000 Total Revenue from tuition increase over next 2 years at 9.3%
- *\$3.1 million per year cost of new low income student tuition program (Blue and Gold)
- *\$115.5 million new CA budget cut to UC over 2 years
- *Net UC Profit from tuition increase: \$170,020,000

\$13 MILLION PLANNED CUTS FOR UCSC NEXT YEAR

The UC stands to make 292 million dollars from the 9.3% increase in our tuition over the next two years. The administration really feels the pain and suffering students are going through right now, you can see it by their super generous 3.1 million dollar program for low income students². Keep in mind that with this program, the UC will only collect 285 million dollars over the next two years!

You've probably heard the Regents and President Yudof throwing around a budget shortfall of 450 million dollars. You've also probably heard the bullshit that we need to pay for it. However, this 450 million dollars includes the budget deficit from non-CA budget cuts³. Specifically, \$122 million and \$213 million in under-funded enrollments and mandatory cost increases respectively. This combined deficit of 335 million dollars is due to mismanagement and stupid planning, not budget cuts. We already had tuition increases to cover this kind of stuff last year. When is this going to stop? What happened, shouldn't the expensive executives we hired have foreseen this? What are they doing with the massive amounts of money they collect from these tuition increases? (coke lines?)

At UCSC, Chancellor Blumenthal et al. are going along for the financial exploitation ride too. Family Student Housing residents should expect to see a 7.5% increase in rent next year⁴ (see page...10). UCSC Student Affairs is looking at a 3 million dollar financial cut⁵ (see page...6). Departments are being forced to shrink beyond healthy levels for proper education. Some departments are on the slaughterhouse floor as it is; Community Studies students should feel privileged to be the last students to receive a Comm. Studies degree, perhaps indefinitely. Kiss your favorite lecturers, TA's, small classroom sizes and overall quality of education goodbye!

What does this economic turmoil and budget cut really mean? For wealthy executives in the UC it means comfortable and lucrative salaries. UC medical executives received massive benefits last November in a shocking display of excess while facing the AFSCME contract struggle for an end to poverty wages⁶. As of the 2006-

2007 fiscal year the UC employs over 17,000 employees with wages higher than \$100,000⁷. The top 100 employees from this list all make more than \$450,000 –the bulk of which are medical executives. According to the SF Chronicle the number of UC executives receiving wage increases continue despite UC President Yudof's most honorable commitment to freeze the top 285 administrators' wages⁸. All in all, it's 'good times' to be at the top in the UC.

overwhelming target of the cuts aren't executives or administrators and that's the point. We're seeing a trend in educational institutions right now where the same people that run our economic world are seen as naturally suited to run our educational world. The UC is just another corporation to the regents, the administrators, and the other people at the top. This is why it's failing budget-wise and, more importantly, this is why the real goal – education – is failing in the UC. By putting money into the right areas – such as multi-million dollar privately funded fuel research – and corrupting the ethics of the researcher, the UC continues to score high points in university rankings. These fabulous rankings are poor attempts to cover the "capitalist-run non-profit educational institution's" disgraceful job at actually educating people, especially those that come from low to middle income families and people of color.

When you run a public educational institution you're supposed to be worried about educating as many people as possible, about lifting people out of poverty, destroying the walls of inequality, and providing opportunities. Instead, they fuck over grad students, undergrads, workers, lecturers and all the other people dependent on the UC system to meet basic survival needs. In other words, the stakeholders, the people that actually make up the university, are being targeted with these budget cuts. We aren't a corporation, and we shouldn't act like one.

Honor your peers, create opportunities, demand an end to corporatization. We can return our university to the roots: free public education.

a newUC project –
<http://thenewUC.wordpress.com>

Sources:

- 1 Doyle, Jim. "UC to raise tuition nearly 10% by July." SF Chronicle 11 March 2009
- 2 UC: The Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan <<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/blueandgold/>>
- 3 Klinger, David. "Budget Message to UCSC's Academic Senate". 18 February 2009
- 4 Howenstine, Katie. "Rent Hikes and Unrest at UCSC's Family Student Housing." Indybay. 28 March 2009 <<http://www.indybay.org/news-items/2009/03/28/18584108.php>>
- 5 "Reportback: UC Budget Meeting – Student Affairs." 12 March 2009 <<http://thenewuc.wordpress.com/2009/03/13/reportback-uc-budget-meeting-student-affairs/>>
- 6 "New Executive Raises & Bonuses Approved, While Still Refusing to End Poverty Wages". AFSCME 3299
- 7 "UC's over 100,000 Earners." SF Chronicle <<http://www.sfgate.com/webdb/ucpay/>>
- 8 Doyle, Jim. "Even in recession, UC spends big on top brass." SF Chronicle. 25 March 2009

Which means for the UC that we're hiring new executives at fantastic costs, seeking "smarter" students to boost the average GPA, getting controversial private research funds, and, finally, cutting the students that are not "productive" (or in other words, students not in the sciences).

Obviously this is a simplified argument and even students in the sciences are feeling the pain of budget cuts, but the



Budget Cuts Attack Underrepresented Communities on Campus

By Student of Color Coalition

For over a decade the cost of higher education in California has skyrocketed and today education is increasingly becoming a privilege rather than a right. Here at the University of California, the student tax on education has amounted to fees increasing 107% for Undergraduates, 121% for Graduate students and 160% for Professional students since the 2001 academic year. As students continue to carry the burden of the UC budget's shortfall, affordability of this "public" University system is becoming a major concern to California residents and those who struggle day in and day out to remain at this institution. This year alone, students are looking at a possible 9.3% increase in fees, and clearly the burden of funding this University is falling on the backs of students. As students, now more than ever, we are now questioning the very quality and affordability of our education here at UC Santa Cruz and across the state.

In the midst of these budget cuts and rising fees, those that are affected most are those of us who come from low-income communities and historically marginalized groups. When the cost keeps rising, it affects our families who already struggle to fight poverty, racism, sexism, immigration, language barriers and little job security. Due to the recently enacted 6% cuts in enrollment growth, less students of color are expected to be admitted to the UC. African-American/Black student enrollment alone is expected to decrease by 5.4 - 8% when African American/Black students on our campus currently make up only 3.1% of incoming new freshman and 2.8% of already existing undergraduates (as of 2007). UC Santa Cruz itself has the second lowest graduation rate—just above UC Riverside—for students from historically underrepresented communities. We must ask ourselves, what are the university and state doing to ensure us a spot at this University and retain us?

At the current rate, California will become the first state where prison funding will *outspend* all higher education funding by the year 2012. It has become evident that the state's priority is no longer with the students.

Here at UC Santa Cruz, the services that students of color on this campus so readily depend on are in danger of being cut. Financial accountability on our campus is abysmally lacking and it is time we are included in the financial administrative decisions and demand we are getting what we deserve. We must take a stand to defend what keeps us here, our student services, and what we define as our quality of education. Approximately \$13 million in cuts are to be levied onto our backs. The UC is getting cut \$115.5 million over the next two years, however the 9.3% student tuition increase will accumulate an extra \$291 million, which more than accounts for revenue lost. However, each division has still been ordered to make cuts; \$3 million dollars will be cut from the Division of Student Affairs—the department that oversees the resources most used to retain first generation students of color. It is for all these reasons that as the UCSC Student of Color Collective, we demand that our priorities be met to protect the student services students of color use most.

Ethnic Resource Centers, The UCSC Women's Center and Lionel Cantu Queer Center

The Ethnic Resource Center serves as one of the primary avenues that students of color utilize for student transition, retention, graduation and academic advancement. Together

with the African American Resource and Cultural Center, Asian American Pacific Islander Resource Center, American Indian Resource Center and "El Centro" the Chicano/Latino Resource Center serve approximately 5,800 students who identify as students of color. Each of these centers encourage student intellectual growth, leadership development, and preparation for graduate/professional school and career options—all of which students of color need in order to excel beyond their university years and combat the institutionalized racism that has existed for centuries, historically preventing exposure to these opportunities. It is essential that we conserve these centers as they are a vital piece in the retention of students.



UCSC Women's Center



Lionel Cantu Center

The Cantu Center serves the LGBTQI community by providing a safe space, support, resources and events to outreach to queer students who feel marginalized on campus. The UCSC Women's Center serves women and allies by creating a safe space for critical programming, support networks, and outreach to heal and empower women to better sustain themselves in campus. These centers also provide a physical space for events, internships and volunteer opportunities. The centers' affiliation with other progressive centers on campus must be sustained or else the efforts of



these coalitions and centers individually will not only affect the students on campus who are allies, but more importantly the students who depend on these resources and support services to feel connected, inspired, supported, and retained at this university.

Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP)

The Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP) seek to promote the retention, academic success, and graduation rates of first generation college students—who represent one third of the UCSC population. EOP provides an array of services including orientation, academic and personal advising, peer advising, tutorial assistance in specific subject and writing areas, and preparation for graduate and professional schools. Collectively, these programs serve approximately 3,600 UCSC students per year—roughly 25% of the undergraduate population. Low-income students depend on these services for academic success and it is essential we keep EOP to continue to serve such a large and vital part of our student population.

Engaging Education (e2)

Engaging education is a center for Outreach and Retention programs created by grassroots student organizing to increase access and graduation rates for under resourced communities in higher education while promoting social justice and fostering student power through encouraging student voice. Student initiated Outreach programs seek to empower high school youth to promote access to higher education, increasing diversity on campus. This year, 134 new students from under represented communities are enrolled at UCSC as a direct result of e2 Outreach. Student Initiated Retention programs foster mentorship, build a sense of community, and provide academic and social support. In addition to Outreach and Retention programs, e2—located centrally in the Quarry Plaza across from the bookstore—provides other services that help support and engage students. These include the e2 library, test materials, study space, computers, and academic credit through the e2 class. This student-directed seminar practices progressive models of education in non-traditional classroom settings. The class focuses on the importance of student voice, student movement, and student empowerment.

The center depends on an annual Chancellor Match that supports 3 yield programs known as SIO Weekend (Student Initiated Outreach) including, Destination Higher Education (DHE), A Step Forward (ASF) and Oportunidades Rumbo a La Education (ORALE). This year due to the impact of the budget cuts the Chancellor Match can possibly be at stake. The Chancellor match must be made this year to retain the center.

SOAR

Student Organization and Activities Resources (SOAR) is essential to ensure organizational work experience, leadership development, community-building, retention for underrepresented groups, and vital safety and legal advising for students on campus. SOAR administers all Campus-wide Registered Students Organizations, Student Programs Fund Sources, the Student Union, and Campus-wide Student Government including the Student Union Assembly, Engaging Education and the Campus Sustainability Council. With just five professional staff, four student staff, and 4 student interns, they oversee operational costs, financial requests, legal and safety advising, leadership training, program planning and approval, and many more tasks to ensure safe and community-oriented student activities. In 2008, SOAR sponsored 134 large-scale events, 112 medium-scale events, and 144 small-scale events.

Currently, SOAR is under-funded and understaffed for the scope and demand of the unit. Over the past 10 years, SOAR has been delegated more responsibilities (a signifier of their success and efficiency) while vital staff positions have been cut, leaving more work on the shoulders of fewer advisors. Financial tasks, administrative tasks, and oversight for new programs such as the Student Union Assembly and Student Union were added without compensation for these extra tasks that these programs entail. At the same time, in the past ten years SOAR has underwent a cut in one career administrator staff position, both career financial staff, and an Assistant Director position. To meet increasing demands, the staff has been full-time temporarily, and many of the dedicated advisors who students look up to for guidance and mentoring, work nights and weekends to meet students' needs. A budget cut for SOAR would mean straining an already over-impacted and over-worked unit, forcing staff to cut their hours of operation, increase the wait time for advising appointments (which is already 2-3 weeks,) and

diversity, retention and success. The UCSC administration must continue to increase efforts in supporting programs such as SOAR, EOP, Learning Support Services (LSS) and e². We call for secure funding to ensure that staff in these vital programs remain intact and that the level of service provided to students be increased. These programs serve to enrich the student experience at UCSC by fostering community among students from diverse backgrounds; which has been notably successful. SOAR contributes by offering advising and resources to students on hosting events of political and cultural awareness, and also

by assisting students to carry out campaigns with goals of positive social change that benefits the larger UCSC community. EOP targets first-generation and low-income students, which often are students of color, to reduce the rate of attrition and to ignite interest in pursuing graduate studies. LSS provides academic support beyond the classroom and e² engages education in the practical realm and provides students a space to apply their skills and knowledge.

If these programs are not maintained, the impact will mostly be revealed in the reduction of success rates among students

of color. These rates are already dismally low, and as mentioned earlier, UCSC ranks 9th out of 10 among the other UC campuses in graduation statistics for students of color .

Given the current circumstances of the University, without these services UC Santa Cruz will, without a doubt, quickly become the lowest ranking UC. We call on the UCSC administration to take action to protect these programs and ensure that resources are provided to those who need it most. Students deserve these demands and will not accept any less.

Cocoon Fuck by *Bryan G and Rose E Markowitz*

i want to put my dick inside of you
i want you inside of me

ladyboy stud muffin
mistress of fireflies
you miss androgynous goddess with short hair
you, pixie stick, bicycle riding, sparkle princess

you and me got cumming cunts beating with blood
brittle fingers
and squirmy hearts
your kisses hickey wrote words on my body like
double
orgasm
top bottom
tongue
titties
nipples
naughty

you
and your grape vine lips never tasted so sweet as that
time you climbed
into the lemon tree growing in my bedroom
you hung there arms extended
wrapped your legs around my face and whispered
“mr. executioner - rig your tongue like a guillotine and
decapitate me between my thighs”

when I did you screamed so loud
that sleepwalking children who haven't been born yet
woke up bug eyed and scared

You
fuck me real awkward like a teenage ugly duck
i want you to soil my cock.
my body's broke.
my panties are blood soaked
when you woke me up from my nap in math class
my nipples and dick both had a hard on
and my eternal wound between my belly button
and asshole was still tingly and I couldn't tell why

you are a cherry blossom sunrise
and i will inject your sanity into the summer
we'll felate the daylight
and call our sunspots cum shots

you miss daddy momma sex queen
I'll spread my legs if you spread your love
and our intimate connection won't be wholly and broken
like an old sox that my toe pokes through
we'll darn each others cunt
because it's time to mend

can you cocoon fuck me back into a butterfly?
so when I emerge

from the golden silk roads of your bone marrow
i know who's arms to call home

because girl - i want you to kiss me already
and boy - i could kiss you right now
and boy - i could kiss you right now
and girl - i want you to kiss me already

because boys and girls
we are not free
they choked us with pink and blue bottles
before we learned to say me

this is us and we are vulnerable
we are libertine lovers
and we want
more than this heteronormative bullshit
more than four letter words
'cause love can have as many letters as you want
and i want to love, fuck, suck, kiss, hold, hug, breathe
and breathe whoever the hell i want
and do not call us beautiful
because there's nothing hotter than two ugly ducklings
fucking like swans on a sunday afternoon.
if we could hold each other just for tonight
and nurture the rock hard swamps of our sex bones
my finger prints could nuzzle into the warm wet insides
of a lover like you
and our butterfly bodies and genderfucked souls could,
finally feel whole.

*May 1st, 2009:
Don't Go To Work, Don't Go To School,
Take to the Streets with Your Compañeros and..*

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WORKERS' DAY!**

www.studentsinformingnow.org

MAYDAY!

If the government
doesn't stop the war,
we will stop the government.



UC INCOMPETENCE OR UC GREED?

Rent hikes at Family Student Housing threaten the livelihoods of valuable students, cute little kids

by Tim Muldoon

“There’s something special going on here at UCSC,” said one student at a public meeting with administration at Family Student Housing on March 30th. “Other Family Student Housing’s haven’t gone up 65%!” UCSC has managed to raise the rent of this “affordable” housing by 58% over 8 years, giving our Family Student Housing the distinction of highest rent among UCs. And they’re threatening to raise it another 7.5% for next year, while in the meantime ceilings spring leaks, appliances don’t work, and mold grows everywhere.

Another student living at FSH, Emily Brissette, says rent has increased over \$200 in the 4 and a half years that she’s been there. Despite this, she says, “I don’t feel like we’re being cared for.” Uncontrollable mold in her apartment – ignored by the folks from Environmental Health she called over – was causing her baby to get respiratory infections and ear infections every week. When she was finally able to move to a new unit, she found that the heater didn’t work, the stove didn’t work, and the roof leaked. And she (like all the tenants) is paying \$1,210/month this year.

This while the average TA makes \$1,550/month. It doesn’t take a PhD to figure out there’s a problem here.

Perhaps some will say that most TAs have other sources of income or support from parents. True enough, but is it enough that most TAs are okay? Aren’t the people who aren’t lucky enough to have other funds the ones we should be concerned with? Isn’t the UC elitist enough without limiting the grad student population to those with trust funds?

Rent has more than doubled since Family Student Housing was built – in 1974 it was \$573 adjusted for inflation – but TAs’ salaries have not increased accordingly. Furthermore, TAs’ salaries are constant across the UCs, while FSH rents vary considerably,

with UCSC’s being the highest by a good margin. When asked about the justice of this, Vice-Chancellor of Student Affairs Felicia McGinty replied that rent depends on all sorts of factors, such as quality of facilities and housing market. At this, a chorus of objections rang out from the crowd, with comments like, “We have some of the oldest!” “UCSD is in La Jolla!” and “UCSB is \$700 for a 2 bedroom!” All Felicia could do was to wave her hand in a condescending, “shut up, kids” kind of way, and repeat



IT’S NEVER TOO EARLY to start telling the UC what’s up. Family student housing tenants and their kids held what might have been the cutest protest ever at UCSC on April 6th.

that lots of factors explain housing costs.

For the majority living at FSH, 7.5% is a big deal – which is why a whopping 98% of tenants have signed the petition for affordable housing so far. The public meeting was emotional because of the very real consequences of rent increases for many of these students. The tenants emphasize that many of them are living below the poverty line. While the administration uses the state of the economy to justify raising rents at this time, to the tenants it seems like a slap in the face. Many students mentioned being maxed out on credit cards, maxed out on student

loans – maxed out across the board.

“I’m really frightened,” cried one woman holding a baby, “that I’ll have to drop out of my PhD program. It’s really frustrating that after all this work I’ll have to give it up because I can’t afford to live here.”

But these emotional stories of personal hardship and frustration – made all the more real by all the cute babies and kids running around – essentially fell on deaf ears. The admins pretended to listen, but as Dave Keller, the acting executive director of Residential, Family & Program Support Services, explained to me afterward, “We get a lot of people telling their personal stories, real emotional stuff, but the response is basically, ‘This is how it is. With the budget there’s no fluff.’” The implication is that the administrators must suppress their compassion with sober rationality – they must be “realistic.” Again they express the logic of neoliberalism: we’re supposed to assume that these bureaucrats are doing their best to work with some inherent scarcity, and they’re looking out for our best interest. Just like austerity capitalism, there’s no room for fluff (read: justice).

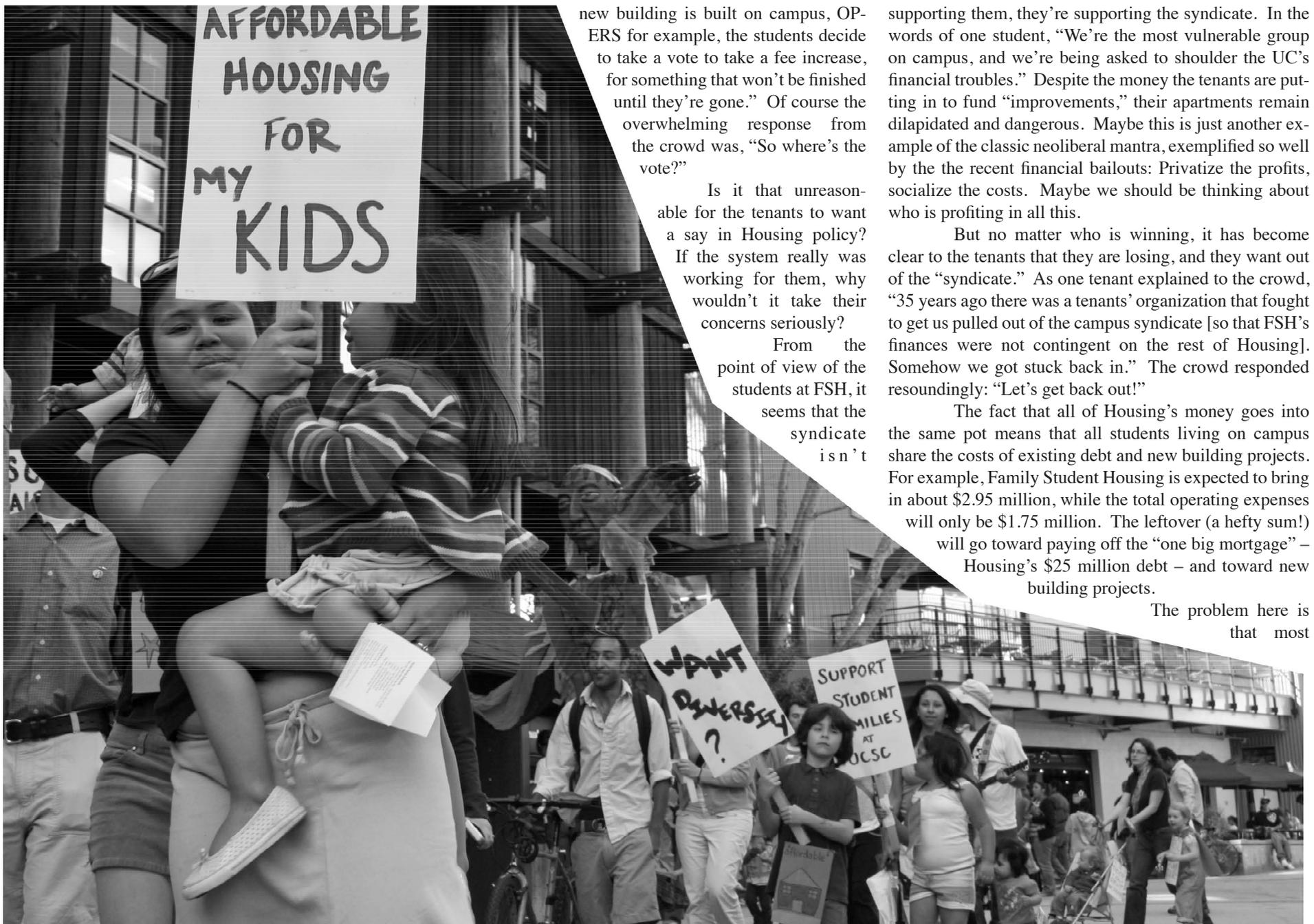
Dave went on to explain that just as Housing works for everyone, their debt belongs to everyone: “The syndicate is not a new thing. This place [FSH] was built by the syndicate.” This justification brings to mind M&M Enterprises in *Catch 22*, where “it all goes to the syndicate. And everybody has a share.” The catch, of course, is that nobody ever sees the benefits of their “share,” though they certainly put in their fair share of work and sacrifice. Similarly, the Housing administration is only trying to do what is best for the “syndicate,” and we are supposed to assume that what is best for the syndicate is best for the tenants.

The tenants, however, know that something is seriously wrong with the system. Said one student, “I know *this is how it works*. . . . But it doesn’t work.”

The administrators trying to take this position seem to have trouble answering the simple questions, Why don’t students have any say? Why don’t the decision-makers want to know what we think is best for us? Exactly where are benefits of this system?

As one student put it, “You’re essentially asking us to invest in the future of university housing. So where are our dividends?”

The tenants are resentful because their fee increases are going toward some hypothetical future improvements and/or an entirely new FSH, which they will never see. Felicia justified this, saying, “Typically when a



new building is built on campus, OP-ERS for example, the students decide to take a vote to take a fee increase, for something that won't be finished until they're gone." Of course the overwhelming response from the crowd was, "So where's the vote?"

Is it that unreasonable for the tenants to want a say in Housing policy? If the system really was working for them, why wouldn't it take their concerns seriously?

From the point of view of the students at FSH, it seems that the syndicate isn't

supporting them, they're supporting the syndicate. In the words of one student, "We're the most vulnerable group on campus, and we're being asked to shoulder the UC's financial troubles." Despite the money the tenants are putting in to fund "improvements," their apartments remain dilapidated and dangerous. Maybe this is just another example of the classic neoliberal mantra, exemplified so well by the the recent financial bailouts: Privatize the profits, socialize the costs. Maybe we should be thinking about who is profiting in all this.

But no matter who is winning, it has become clear to the tenants that they are losing, and they want out of the "syndicate." As one tenant explained to the crowd, "35 years ago there was a tenants' organization that fought to get us pulled out of the campus syndicate [so that FSH's finances were not contingent on the rest of Housing]. Somehow we got stuck back in." The crowd responded resoundingly: "Let's get back out!"

The fact that all of Housing's money goes into the same pot means that all students living on campus share the costs of existing debt and new building projects. For example, Family Student Housing is expected to bring in about \$2.95 million, while the total operating expenses will only be \$1.75 million. The leftover (a hefty sum!) will go toward paying off the "one big mortgage" – Housing's \$25 million debt – and toward new building projects.

The problem here is that most

of that debt didn't come from FSH, and few if any of the improvement projects have taken place there – hence the decaying, moldy buildings. When asked why rents have increased so dramatically since FSH opened, Sue Matthews, Director of University Housing Services, explained that Housing has much more debt now due to the costs of building Colleges 8, 9, and 10. Since it's one big mortgage, FSH residents are sharing these expenses, though they share none of the benefits (try comparing a Family Student Housing unit with a bourgeois College 8 Orange County-esque apartment). Thus families living below the poverty line are funding fancy dorms and apartments for undergrads, the majority which are much more privileged. As explains one outraged tenant, "I'm subsidizing people better off than me . . . This logic of regressive taxation – of making the poor shoulder the costs that benefit the wealthy – is neoliberalism."

However, these rent hikes are not really an issue of privileged undergrads vs. poor grad students, of UCSC vs. other UCs, or of those who have to endure high rents and shitty living conditions now vs. future FSH residents who will enjoy the hypothetical new Family Student Housing. One of the oldest trick's in the ruling class's book (and it is well known to the UC administration) is to pit two exploited groups against each other, and to frame the discourse around scarcity: there is not enough for both of you – go ahead fight over what there is. For example, when service workers were fighting for a contract that included decent(ish) pay, the UC's public response always included the scarcity of funds and the implication that paying workers more money would require raising student fees. Those who look closely at the UC's finances know that this is absolute bullshit (see page...7): student fees make only a small contribution to workers' salaries, and in reality high fees and low salaries are two sides of the same coin – we're all being screwed by the same people. But they try their best to portray the issue in a way that makes us compete rather than work in solidarity.

With campus housing it's similar. Undergrads living in dorms are being screwed



by the same system as Family Student Housing residents. Future tenants will be screwed in new and different ways. Realizing this allows us to step back and question the system that's actually behind all this. Is it really working in everyone's best interests? If not, why did it develop this way and who **FSH Rent Hikes continued on Page - 19**

Environmentalism as Globalized Consumerism

(By: Olive Oil, *The Project Collective*)



Although environmentalists continually moralize about society's hypocrisy and irresponsibility toward the planet, the fact is that environmentalism dominates consumer culture, directly shapes contemporary lifestyle, and has emerged as a powerful moralizing project. To be green is to be virtuous, responsible, if not holy. Public discourse is underpinned by green values, and for politicians 'helping to save the planet' has become a hot-button issue. Most importantly, capitalist society appears to be restructuring according to an environmentalist imperative. I will address the question: Why has capitalism come to embrace the ethos of sustainability, when as an economic system it has always been characterized by its commitment to raise productivity and expand production? Finally, I will address the consequences of green capitalism including the depoliticization and privatization of the environment. I will argue that green capitalism undermines the realization of concrete solutions to current environmental problems.

In an attempt to make sense of what drives the ascendancy of Green Capitalism, James Heartfield argues in his essay titled *Green Capitalism* that the outward expression of anti-consumerism tends to coexist with a new obsessive fixation on that act of consumption. So although green consumerism appears to represent a rejection of materialism, in practice it is no less preoccupied with buying things than are those brand junkies chasing the latest fashionable product. Arguably, as Heartfield implies, shopping means more to green consumers than it does to the shallow brand-fixated consumers they so despise¹. For a start, green consumers imagine that their purchases are meaningful ethical acts. Ethical shopping flatters us into believing that our everyday buying is actually doing good. Such ethical transactions represent a form of status affirmation. And as is the case with all forms of status affirmation, these green shopping habits are acts of social demarcation. "Through adopting the identity of an ethical shopper, someone who cares and who reflects on what they purchase, green consumers are self-consciously marking themselves off from their moral, and incidentally their social, inferiors" argues Heartfield. Their denunciation of their fellow human beings who wear cheap polyester clothes and eat fat ridden fast food is a modern-day version of the paternalistic lectures made by the Victorian do-gooders and by elite members of the aristocracy for centuries. Purchasing green has essentially become an indicator of wealth, shrouded under a grand morality package.

Ironically, green protest against consumerism doesn't represent the rejection of consumption, but rather its moralization. From a sociological perspective, green consumption can be seen as a new form of conspicuous consumption. This is consumption for effect. Consump-

tion apparently must no longer be an impulsive act of buying – rather it has become a massively over-analyzed experience, and both a moral statement and an affirmation of status and identity. Heartfield argues that in the nineteenth century, theories of commodity fetishism noted the growing tendency for people to live through things – commodities appeared to acquire a life of their own through the working of the market. In the world of green consumerism, the fetishism of commodities acquires an unprecedented significance. Things are assigned human and ethical significance. Thus we have the stigmatization of certain products as 'evil' and the rendering of other products as 'ethical'².

The capitalist imperative for growth calls for the exploitation of everything and anything potentially profitable for the sake of business. The environment is simply another avenue for capitalist profiteering.

In addition to moralizing the act of consumption, twenty-first century Western culture has grown especially adept at manufacturing scarcity. We live in an 'economy of wasting time', where resources are devoted to initiatives that make little sense except as rituals of ethical intent, such as recycling. It appears that the canner capitalists figured out that scarcity increases price and manufacturing scarcity can increase returns. As a result, capitalists have reaped the benefits of manufacturing scarcity, turning the impending environmental crisis into a profitable economic opportunity.

What is most striking today is not simply the rise of the celebration of scarcity, but the growing tendency to commodify every aspect of life. Under the banner of green capitalism, more and more features of economic life are being reorganized and restructured. Everything from the emission of carbon to the air we breathe to the water we drink has been transformed into a commodity. Arguments for protecting nature are really a demand for the gradual securitization of the environment. Powerful forces insist on transforming every object of possible use into a value, in an attempt to subject them all to the influence of market transactions. The capitalist imperative for growth calls for the exploitation of everything and anything potentially profitable for the sake of business. The environment is simply another avenue for capitalist profiteering.

As a result of this capitalist restructuring, the environment becomes a question of lifestyle, it is depoliticized; it becomes a private matter, something that people feel they are helping in their daily lives, even though their daily lives have changed little, and even though social and economic relations destructive to the environment remain fundamentally intact. This capitalist restructuring allows for the greatest majority of people to participate in the decision-making process by way of voting with their credit cards. But purchasing power is a trifling, inconsequential means of participating in decision-making process. It accomplishes nothing in the grand scheme of things and instills in the consumer a false sense of personal righteousness.

In her examination of environmental privatization and family values, On "Green" Consumerism, Catriona Sandilands argues that green consumerism is, actually, an oxymoron. "If the adjective "green" has any meaning at all, it includes reference to the systemic problems of over-production and over-consumption; the point of a "green" politics should be to show how consumerism is, itself, part of the problem"³. The implications of this stance are po-

tentially wide-ranging; at the very least, however, "green" means consuming less for the affluent, not just consuming differently. Ironically, perhaps, the creation of these new green commodities may even exacerbate the problem; they represent an expanding market in a depressed economy, a space for the development of new products to keep overproduction and overconsumption alive.

Environmentalism is not simply a question of personal change; reducing, reusing, recycling, and buying green products are not, in our current context, political activities. At best, Sandilands rightly asserts, such isolated actions forestall the inevitability of radical change to socio-environmental relations; at worst, these actions, however well-intentioned, are part of the problem. The privatization of environmental change shifts the burden of responsibility onto individuals and households, and away from states, corporations, and global political arrangements. The privatization of environmental change undermines both collective and individual resistance; it turns politics into actions such as squashing cans, morality into not buying over-packaged food items, and environmentalism into taking your own canvas bags to the grocery store. None of these actions challenge the capitalist imperative for continued growth; none of these actions makes public or co-operative the process of ecological restoration; none of these actions provoke serious examination of the social relations and structures that have brought about our current crisis. Rather, the idea that these actions are part of "saving the earth" would seem to turn attention away from subversive, collective, or public solutions. Indeed, the imagined effect of green consumer purchases masks real environmental solutions under the false pretense that consumer choices will ultimately save us from environmental disaster.

Environmental politics are not, and cannot be, simply a question of lifestyle. Yet they are fast becoming entrenched in the private sphere; indeed, they are taking the shape of a progressively more intrusive moral code at the expense of sustained political critique.

Green products sell a lifestyle that is described by such words as "responsibility", and that includes such activities as reducing, reusing and recycling. Although these latter actions might at least make people think about the legacy of overconsumption, they are individual changes that tend to be incorporated almost seamlessly into daily household routines without other significant changes, and without planting the seeds of broader social or environmental transformation. Thomas Princen in "Confronting Consumption" calls this response "the individualization of responsibility." He argues that the prevailing American response to environmental ills "half-consciously understands environmental degradation as the product of individual shortcomings, best countered by action that is staunchly individual and typically consumer based (buy a tree and plant it!)"⁴.

Mainstream American environmentalists have embraced the notion that complex issues of consumption, consumerism, power, and responsibility can be resolved through conscious, uncoordinated consumer decisions. But individualizing responsibility does not work-you cannot plant a tree to save the world!

When responsibility for environmental problems is individualized, there is little room to think institutionally. Instead the serious work of confronting the mismanagement of the environment falls to individuals acting as consumers⁵. As a result, institutional responsibility is altogether forgotten and individuals mistakenly believe it is ultimately their responsibility to save the earth from environmental disaster. Government institutions and policy

1 Ferudi: 2

2 Ferudi: 2

3 Sandilands: 45

4 Princen: 45

5 Princen: 45

makers-the people that should take responsibility in implementing stricter environmental regulations and policies-are essentially let off the hook. The structural imperatives of capitalism calling for constant economic growth and increasing production and consumption, and the dynamic ability of capitalism to commodify dissent are to blame for the individualization of responsibility in America.

Americans are most comfortable with the idea of consuming our way to a better world. Princen argues that "Americans seem capable of understanding themselves solely as consumers who must buy "environmentally sound" products (and then recycle them), rather than as citizens who might come together and develop political clout sufficient to alter institutional arrangements that drive a pervasive consumerism"⁶. One explanation for the elevation of the consumer over the citizen is the unceasing ability of capitalism to commodify dissent and sell it back to consumers. Corporate business has capitalized on America's growing environmental awareness by manufacturing popular belief that individuals are personally responsible for the present day condition of the environ-

6 Princen: 43

ment because they consume the wrong stuff. But the problem isn't consuming the wrong product, it's consuming!

The individualization of responsibility in the United States is undermining our capacity to react effectively to socio-economic and environmental threats to human well-being. "Individualization, by implying that any action beyond the private and consumptive is irrelevant, insulates people from the empowering experiences and political lessons of collective struggle for social change and reinforces corrosive myths about the difficulties of public life"⁷. Confronting the consumption problem demands that individuals begin to understand themselves as citizens in a participatory democracy first, working for positive institutional and social change, and as consumers second. By putting so much emphasis on consumer choice, we divert attention away from the institutions and political arenas that matter and sever the possibility for energies directed towards positive change. If consumption is to be confronted, the forces and systems that work to individualize responsibility must be challenged.

7 Princen: 59

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Communities Studies proposed to be cut

the forgotten department prepares for action

by E.C. Miller, Psycho - Engineering and Interspecies Communications Major



Oakes classroom 222, classroom for Community Studies

University Budget be published immediatly. Students should be encouraged to join any of this coalitions and organize all the students to create a bigger movement.

The social sciences dean at the University of California Santa Cruz, Sheldon Kamieniecki arrived at the faculty meeting of the community studies department and explained the plans to let go the staff of the Community Studies department. The reasons mentioned by the social sciences dean include the state budget reduction for the UC-system by \$115 million. The executive Vice-Chancellor David Krieger had mentioned in early March that UCSC will have to reduce its budget by \$13 million in the next year. Krieger explained that this deficit will be covered by an increase in system-wide fees and also an increase in academic merits and utilities. The reductions are divided into two broad categories: Administrative Divisions which will be reduced by \$8.5 million and Academic Divisions reduced by \$4.5 million. On April 7, Kamieniecki explained his intent to reduce the division's budget by \$1.3 million. According to the administration the reduction will take place by July 1, 2009. In January, Krieger asked principal officers to provide a summary to implement the first 10 percent reduction of the budget. This summary was mainly based on areas of research and opportunity. Krieger claims that these reductions will be based on expected enrollment, will consider the areas of health and energy independence, and will support programs that attract private funding.

Kamieniecki's announcement goes far beyond cutting the staff for the Community Studies department. The Community Studies faculty is concerned that the University has been reducing its support for the program. There is a shortage in faculty; teachers who were let go were not replaced, therefore the staff has filled the gap and has become essential for the program. Without the staff, there is no way the Community Studies undergraduate department will be able to survive. However, the 2008-2009 budget states that Community Studies is the 14th most popular out of 50 undergraduate degrees. The University has to reallocate the faculty in other departments, therefore affecting other social science divisions that will have to open spaces for freshmen Community Studies students. The forty year old department is very inexpensive compared to all the other Social Science departments. The University has proposed to eliminate a department that provides the community with interns that benefit many organizations economically. The University should cut on deans high salaries, redistribute the state income and private grants, and stop construction plans, so that education and not profit becomes the priority of the University.

Meanwhile community studies students are working on unifying with other departments and student services on campus that are threatened, such as E², Feminist Studies, spanish for spanish speakers, American Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies and other science, engineering, and humanities departments. It is essential at this time that students work together as taxpayers to demand the University more transparency on its decisions and to demand that details of the



UCSC prioritizes towards new facilities while can not even keep up with the old structures

MISOGYNISTS ARE OBNOXIOUS, AND THAT'S NOT THE ONLY REASON TO STAY AWAY FROM THE UCSC SKI AND SNOWBOARD CLUB

By Andrew (Project Staff)

In the middle of last quarter, City on a Hill Press (CHP) did something uncharacteristic -- it printed something that was actually somewhat informative. In its February 12 issue, CHP printed an article on rape awareness that brought up two important issues. The first issue was that UCSC's Rape Prevention Education program (RPE) is not only under-funded, but now reaches fewer students than ever before. If you spent your first year in one of the five colleges that still participates in RPE and sat through the hour-long lecture that was somehow supposed to provide students with enough information to avoid and prevent rape, this bit of news should come as no surprise. If, on the other hand, you spent your first year in any of the other colleges, or transferred, this might be the first time you have heard that UCSC even offers rape prevention education (located in Kresge). Either way, the fact that RPE is lacking should again come as no surprise.

The second issue brought up by CHP's article should also come as no surprise to anyone aware that the well-being of students is not nearly as important to UCSC's administration as balancing their budget. So when Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Felicia McGinty disregarded the near nonexistence of rape prevention and support because rape is "not a large-scale issue"² on campus, it revealed two things—both of them troubling, but not all too surprising. Either the pressure from Executive Vice Chancellor David Klinger to cut \$3 million from the student affairs budget has left concerns about sexual violence a low priority, or McGinty is under the impression that because there are not many reported rapes, it means they aren't happening. Regardless, McGinty's words are not only flippant and ill-informed, they are also extremely dangerous.

However, the position that McGinty (and the rest of UCSC's administration and the Santa Cruz police department) has taken does not depart from dominant discourses that relegate sexual violence to dark alleys where masked men prowl on suggestively dressed women. From this position, rape can be conflated with other types of violent crime, that while easier for police to deal with, do not begin to address the realities of sexual violence. Though these acts of violence do happen, and it's tragic when they do, the vast majority of sexual violence occurs between people who are acquainted. Furthermore, the probability that over 75% of college students will experience some form of sexual violence between their freshmen and senior year³ shows that even when it goes unreported, rape is in fact a "large-scale issue" and should be a primary concern for students' wellbeing.

The problem is that notions of sexual violence are largely confined to assumptions made about other types of violent crime. The "types" that are perpetrated only by social deviants that we supposedly need police to catch, charge and punish. We encounter the same narratives about rape in what we hear from legal authorities, movies and television, and what we are told in the news that both sexualize rape and demonize the people who inflict it. This does not mean that rape is sexual and not about power, or that rape is not specifically a violent act in which the person who survives is forced to deal with emotional and physical scars that last for rest of their lives. Instead, the narratives that conflate the violence in rape with other types of violent crime create a myth around rape that ignores the environments where it happens the most. Though situations where rape is inflicted by a total stranger do happen, the overwhelming majority

of rapes are committed by people the survivor knows, is friends with, or even has an intimate relationship with. Not surprisingly, only 2% of people who commit rape ever see the inside of a jail cell. This is partly because the process for taking legal action is invasive, humiliating and painful, and turns the body of someone who has just been through a horrible and shattering experience into a crime scene. Moreover, in most cases, going to the authorities requires taking actions that become extremely daunting when the person being accused is not a masked assailant, but a friend or lover. While any form of forced sexual activity is specifically a violent act, looking at rape like something that pepper spray and police officers can effectively prevent takes attention from something that is happening far more often and in silence.

CHP may have been effective in informing its readers that UCSC has an extremely lacking rape prevention program and the administration are content blowing it off, but it didn't explain why, and it didn't provide any alternatives for students. Perhaps this can be written off as objective journalism, but any use in informing students about something they pretty much already know is further wasted by failing to provide any analysis or insight. Whether or not it is being reported to authorities, sexual violence is something that affects over a quarter of the school's population. And that CHP couldn't attempt to ask 'why?' negated any informative value from what little news it had to offer. Just saying "Gnome"⁴ isn't good enough, rape alerts are useful only in specific situations, and cops terrorize far more people than they help. What is all too troubling and clear is that almost all the available resources for sexual violence fail to address a most crucial aspect, prevention!

That said, support systems are invaluable to folks who have experienced sexual violence. For survivors and their loved ones, finding support can help ease the pain and play a crucial role in the healing process. But support only deals with the problem's aftermath, we need to prevent rape, and if anything is clear, it is that cops and the school are clueless.

What we need is a new way to look at rape that focuses on the environments where it happens. Since 84% of men who have committed rape are convinced that what they did was not an act of sexual violence, we need to look at circumstances as well as individuals in pointing blame. Looking at rape as an isolated act of violence is ineffective in that it oversimplifies larger contributing factors. In the same way that smoking results in cancer, the way we think of and act towards each other sets in motion dehumanizing and detached conceptions of people that create social relations in which possibilities for rape become more and more likely. Rape is not just a crime it is a result of a process. Like a social cancer, the potential for rape festers in silence and isolation and grows in the objectification of other people. If it is already chilling to hear that one out of every fifteen college men admits to



Ski and Snowboard Club objectifying women at their annual "porno party."

committing or thinking about committing rapes, it's just as shaking to realize that people inflict it without always intending to. This means that intention is in many ways disconnected from action. And while one person may have the intention of having consensual sex, it doesn't mean this intention is shared, even if the impression is there. Thus addressing rape becomes a lot more complicated when it is not as explicit as an attacker with a knife.

Despite how it may be depicted, rape is not exclusive to any culture or society, it exists everywhere and cannot be reduced to any group of people. It exists in hetero and LGBTQ communities, amongst radicals and conservatives, old, and young, men and women. It could be anyone. Though statistically, 52% of people who commit rape are white males and over 50% of people who experience rape are women between the ages of 15 and 21. This does not mean that rape has a biological disposition. It is something that is socially conditioned in people. Men aren't naturally predisposed to rape, but ideals of masculinity enforce aggressive views of sex as impersonal and competitive in a way that exploits other people, creating social relations that foster sexual violence.

To prevent rape, the social conditions that foster it must be deconstructed. This includes: parties where people go in order to find sex, group dynamics that degrade and sexualize specific people along lines of gender and sexual orientation, situations where sex becomes an expectation, or a game, and whenever drugs or alcohol impair people's judgment about whether or not to engage in sexual activity. What this calls for is reevaluating things that are often taken for granted. Because the same patriarchal assertions that women should be seen and not heard are reflected the uncomfortable feelings around talking during sex (i.e. can I touch/kiss/lick?), we must be critical of the very structures we take to be inherent in sexual relations. Making sure sex is consensual depends on respect and communication—and any environment that hinders it should be recognized as a serious danger.

Misogyny Sucks continued on Page -- 19

Poetry

[noname] by Rose E Markowitz

There are towers all around me, dwarfing my existence. They make the color of my life burnt sienna, the most unused, unknown crayon in the bunch. Everything is wrong in the city. Zephyr wind whips my cheek, but it's just a speeding car, headed for a yellow light. I heard that from space, you can look at the earth and see tiny veins in the land. The veins are freeways, not water bodies. I believe it.

An old man sells me a late crowned with heart shaped foam. From behind the counter, today, yesterday, tomorrow — they are all the same. He tucks in chairs and smiles for tips, trying hard not to dream or regret. Years have lost their cohesion and formed a muddy puddle of memories; surely he feels burnt sienna. I sit outside so I can smoke a cigarette. I stare at the page of a book with black words layered in formal rows waiting for my eyes adapt to the concentrated white background. The white on the page seeps into the pores in my eyes, making everything look a little different, I'll have to furrow my eyebrows when I look up again. When I do, the people look distorted, but not because of my adapted vision. City people. I wonder how long it took them to get gussied up with hair and make up and muted clothes. Hunting for a mate, armed with lip gloss and flat hair. I think of the pictures in the back of my mind to escape from the city gloom.

I'm lying on my back in a kelly green filed. The horizon is out of eyes reach. It's the sort of light where you can see pollen in the air and all that I can see is the dust mingling amongst the blue sky. Glowing specks, air glitter. I search for you. I search for the particles of your body circulating in the air. Your ashes that I blew in to the wind mixed with glitter. You are air glitter.

When i open my eyes it seems the sun had set more times than i can remember. My face is becoming gentle and bent downward, my back is becoming marred and bend downward. I need a sunrise when I look at a strangers eyes. I'm sitting alone and it's cold in this city.

Resist by Anonymous

A molotov cocktail should be composed of three parts gasoline to one part motor oil adding styrofoam will help it stick to its target don't use a rag for a wick, though it's idyllic, it's dangerous, use a tampon soaked in gasoline attached with a rubber band

struggle is composed of one part theory and one part action adding metaphors will help it stick to its target we cannot resort to ideology, though it's idyllic, it's dangerous instead, use a tongue soaked in blasphemy

wear gloves, be safe, be strong

once I saw two hundred people rise from the dead and they had the nerve to call it a riot when it was actually a benediction and every rock and flaming bottle thrown against the police line was a prayer bead with its story being sung

the invisible hand and the golden baton it beats us with

we did not create you it is no secret who you actually protect the prisons the church the borders the rivers run with lead the mountains you have hollowed out like a loaf of bread to fill with toxic waste

this is for those denied their bread to border bandits and refugees reclaiming their homes with a knife cut from their ancestor's bones

for the anonymous letters from our underground lovers or for the most inspiring story that you can never tell because it will be used as evidence against you

this is the sound of steel striking flint

the crumbling of brick this is a hymn in the key of collapse for the tired creatures who refuse to be baptized who refuse to be clothed But like a cute cornered puppy that's bites back when they're touched we are vegans who eats politicians for lunch

I promise the next time a 22 year old unarmed father like Oscar Grant, or a mother like Annete Garcia is forced to make snow angels in red concrete i will be there in the front seat of the bullet to drive it home through the chest of the cop who pulled the trigger solidarity until the last prison burns

this is for the time that I fought with god and lost so now I just kick him in the shins when he's not looking

so now we bash back against their churches and city halls commit hot sodomy with their steeples like the twelve apostle in a circle jerk because Jesus was gay and beards are cute

this is the sound of steel striking flint the crumbling of brick this is a hymn in the key of collapse the orange glow of a gas can as sick as the sunset in Los Angeles

You call us cynics for not believing in the system But we are optimists we believe in you we believe in us

Poetry by Kelsey Bryan-Zwick

parsnip teacher

twalks home to sack lemons steals bar of dark chocolate

in coat pocket, hands full of almonds and raspberry leaf

clips rosemary, spills nettle tea and thumbs wheat-paste cut-outs

to first sentences, drawings of leopards & tiger-sharks

listens to free radio or the night, as she slices spaghetti

squash, light through the spatula for a good winter stew

open

in the rest-wake mornings after you tug on your jeans

you walk socks on

through the prickle yard to the back fence

the heavy tree

arms that held for my cower reach way up

pile darkest plums into my t-shirt

sound of no bark

from the rustle neighbor dogs

orange hunting

we saddle the bikes

streets parted like dragonflies

(only is once and dog-eared)

pick in the dark to make juice

mildew and the drop

pulp, rind and splatter

all over, that good night

ZIP YOUR LIPS!— BY DAVID

(the AETA's in town)

or you'll be brandished as a "terrorist" just like anyone else who is effective at public dissent can be. At least that's what the current establishment would like us to understand—that forms of protest which manage to "damage or interfere" with American industries are the number one domestic terrorist threat. Specifically the reference alludes to the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act of 2006 (AETA) which at first glance attempts to add a terrorist enhancement to violent crimes against businesses that profit from their use of animals or animal-exploited products. But under further scrutiny it is clear that this act exceeds the bounds of ending violent actions and proceeds to limit non-violent dissent as well. We've seen non-violence land activists in prison for running a website that shared news on animal liberation and information about who is involved in business ventures based in exploitation—namely members who ran the website "Stop Huntingdon Life Sciences" and probably more well known as the SHAC7. And most recently, the AETA has been used to target non-violent sidewalk demonstrations and leafleting here in Santa Cruz, hardly the idea of massive property damage that the idea of eco-terrorism places in people's minds when initially hearing about this legislation. In fact, no physical violence has been used as a tactic by animal enterprise resistance to date; the "violence" described by the legislation is purely monetary.

The language of the AETA aims at eliminating actions which places others in a "reasonable fear," but this needs to be checked against the recent US political climate, where the idea of freedom has been whittled down to mere economic freedom. Since the entire goal of corporate power is economic, the only way people have power over corporations is through economic limitations and restrictions. There is no social ethic underlying a corporation's sole mission of profit the way there is in human interactions. An important question is how "reasonable fear" is possible when the structure of business plays only on the fear of falling out of competition with others. By claiming a "terrorist" is the cause of economic instability, businesses can effectively denounce all forms of protest as "terrorist" activity, since the goal of protest is to support new ways of living and distance society from the old. Will Potter of Green is the New Red mentions that "terrorist" is the most powerful word we have in our language. The abuse of sensual language in defining or redefining "terrorism" allows for people in power to manipulate everyone without power, factionalizing the public and weakening the power that people could have in or over their own government. The overly broad use of "terrorism" places our political society in a condition where "extremism" is redefined as characteristic of anyone holding an oppositional view to those few people with

power. The aim behind the AETA is to split social movements and to force the more moderate wing to condemn the more radical as "terrorists" at the risk of being labeled terrorists themselves if they do not. Potter compares the similarities between elements of patriotism and "freedom" of today's Green Scare with the oaths, public condemnations of communism, and naming names of yesterday's Red Scare. Though many of these hoops were jumped through, none ever protected anyone from their government and instead served to factionalize the public and breed distrust and fear. Potter envisions the AETA as a solution looking for problem; already activists face fear simply discussing issues surrounding their lives now that they can be marked as "terrorists" for their lifestyles and personal choices.

On Nov 13, 2006, the AETA passed in the middle of the night in similarly to how the USA PATRIOT Act was passed. Representatives had been absent from the house celebrating a Martin Luther King jr. memorial for his own non-violent civil disobedience, when the AETA was signed in—by only six house representatives. How could only six have the power to pass such a powerful act? The AETA had been placed on a suspension calendar, used to pass non-controversial bills such as naming bridges or highways, and slipped by unnoticed. Ironically, the language of the AETA which attributes terrorism to "damaging or interfering" with industries and businesses would label Martin Luther King jr. as one of America's most high profile and highly celebrated domestic terrorists. It might be important to note the use of government repression during such human rights campaigns; agencies like COINTELPRO monitored and infiltrated radical organization structures, implementing divide and conquer tactics to allow movements to collapse on themselves. Even today, if the strength of coalitions, such as those to end war or exploitation, dissolve and reform as internal enemies, the entire movement will suffer. (It's worked with the political structures of the countries the US intervened and to which it has introduced "freedom")

It is already embarrassing that the state has been targeting civil disobedient and non-violent protestors as terrorists, but where the shame will really come is if the AETA is not destroyed immediately. At that point we can have the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act alongside the Defense Enterprise Terrorism Act, the Educational Enterprise Terrorism Act, the X Enterprise Terrorism Act... The legislation is highly reproducible and has the potential to infect the nation, perhaps only amounting to relieving terror from those few in power who terrorize. With the current economic failure, where the common people have been hit the hardest, the people again will be stuck with the bill to cover state spending on silencing dissent and pursuing imagined "terrorists" rather than assuring the real health and safety of our communities. Hope and Change isn't going to bring us out of the structure of funding our own self-surveillance and self-persecution on behalf of the nation's elite industry owners.



D.I.Y Uterus Care and Herbal Abortions By: Mackenzie and Mara

For the female-bodied folks among us, self-uterine care can be an empowering way to learn about our insides and heal those inevitable uterus woes. With a little research you will soon discover that you don't always have to resort to over-the-counter drugs or expensive visits to the gynecologist. Natural herbal remedies are often just as effective and can be a considerably healthier way to solve your uterine issues.

I've toyed around with herbs after going for about six months without having my period. I had no bleeding, spotting, cramps, breast tenderness, or any other signals of uterine dumpage. Although I didn't know it at the time, there are many reasons female-bodied people can stop bleeding other than pregnancy: stress, not eating, exercise, change in diet, etc. I knew that I wasn't pregnant, so I just began to think that my body was pretty fucking weird. I wanted my period. After doing some research and consulting some friends, I learned that there are natural ways to push out the menses build-up that are pretty immediate, and I began to gather some uterine-stimulating herbs. (Side note: if your period stops due to stress or not eating it may be time to reevaluate your lifestyle and forge some healthier patterns.)

But when a period is what you're after: Red raspberry leaf, mugwort, rose hips, motherwort, and yarrow are all excellent uterine stimulants. Also, pennyroyal is a pretty intense herb that creates contractions, but at low doses, it will help expel your menses.

Directions:

- Put a little of each herb (about a quarter of a hand full) in a jar for tea and drink it down. It doesn't necessarily taste that great, but it is good for your body and it will help you start menstruating.
- Drink about 2 jars (or 4 cups) a day, or what you deem necessary. Personally, I started with the tea drink on the full moon and planned on drinking it until the new moon (since our lovely uterus runs on the lunar cycle). I drank about two big jars a day, one in the morning and one in the evening. Luckily, I did not have to drink it for that long because I started bleeding 4 DAYS into the tea drinking routine ... after six months of not menstruating at all! If you have my same issue, I highly suggest drinking this herbal blend.

So, the herbal blend described above works great for stubborn periods of the non-pregnancy-related kind, but what about when you are indeed pregnant and you don't want to be? A self-administered herbal abortion is another way to avoid over-the-counter drugs and the anxiety of sitting in the waiting room at the clinic. There are lots of resources out there, but the one that follows comes from a well-respected pamphlet called DIY Guide II. Please note: I have not tried this myself, so I am not speaking from experience. In addition, please be aware that all bodies are different, and some herbal remedies may work for some and not others. Many of the female-bodied people who have experimented with



herbal abortions have had mixed results. When trying an herbal abortion, make sure to have a back-up plan and consult an herbalist or doctor if you are not sure. Remember, herbal abortion is an alternative to clinical abortions, and may not work all the time. This article is mere starting point; please consult as many sources as possible before undergoing a D.I.Y. herbal abortion.

Disclaimers aside, here is the herbal abortion method described in by the author of DIY Guide II. The remedy, she suggested, works best either 10 days after your missed period or as soon as you suspect you are pregnant before your missed period. For most female bodies, this is when your belly is swollen, tits sensitive, you pee more than usual, have food cravings and spotting, or may feel fatigued or nauseous or euphoric. So be wary of your sexy body, take a deep breath, and keep reading.

Here is the Secret Weapon Recipe she recommended and tried herself (with success):

Ingredients:

- Try getting motherwort, pennyroyal, goldenseal root capsules, blue cohosh root, and fresh ginger root.

Directions:

- Boil a pot of water.
- Put ½ ounce (medium handful) of motherwort and ½ ounce of pennyroyal in 2-3 cups of boiling water. Cover and steep in pot for about 20 minutes, then strain the leaves.
- Simmer 1 ounce of blue cohosh root in 2 cups cold water for 20 minutes, covered, then strain.
- Mix the pennyroyal-motherwort and the cohosh root mixtures together.
- drink piping hot, about ¼ cup of the secret weapon 4 or 5 times a day, or 1 ½ cups a day, a little every hour.
- Take 2 goldenseal root capsules 3 times a day and chew fresh ginger and make fresh ginger tea all the time.

Caution:

- Do not take this remedy for more than a week. If it doesn't work right away, try waiting another day or two, but then consult other methods.

If this remedy is anything like the period inducer blend that I experienced, then it will taste like death. Pour some honey in it, hold a friend's hand, and dance when you bleed!

There are many other herbs that could be used and, for different reasons, and at different times in your cycle. If you want to consistently inhibit the egg from attaching to the uterus, use herbs like Rutin (Ruta graveolens), Cotton Root Bark (Gossypium hirsutum), or Queen Anne's Lace Seed (Daucus carota). For further blocking after the egg attaches, you could use Angelica (Angelica atropurpurea) or Pennyroyal. For uterine contracting herbs, you could use Black Cohosh or Wild Yam. Again, there is a wealth of amazing instructional information out there about herbal abortions and contraception, so consult these sources and check in with your strong and sexy body before experimenting.

Here are a few awesome sources to get you started:

Books and Pamphlets: "D.I.Y. Guide II", "Herbal Abortion: a Woman's DIY guide", "Hot Pants Do It Yourself Gynecology Herbal Remedies", "Regaining Control: Taking Health Care into Our Own Hands", and Rina Nissim's Natural Healing in Gynecology: A Manual for Women.

Websites: www.sisterzeus.com, www.orgonelab.org/contracep.htm, and www.4exhale.org

Dear Peanut!

Spring is finally here and it is refreshing to say the least. The air is warm, wildflowers are thriving in the meadows of lower campus, the sun is shining and damn-it we should celebrate the heavy weight of brutal California winters being lifted from our shoulders by appreciating the loved ones in our lives. On that note, I am pleased to present another batch of amazing questions on sex and intimate relationships. Each one of these questions are from folks who are truly trying to improve their intimate relationships and create spaces for open communication and healthy sexual expression—kudos to the questioners! I can only hope that my thoughts on these questions can allow for the transition into the loving days of spring even more pleasant. Cheers!

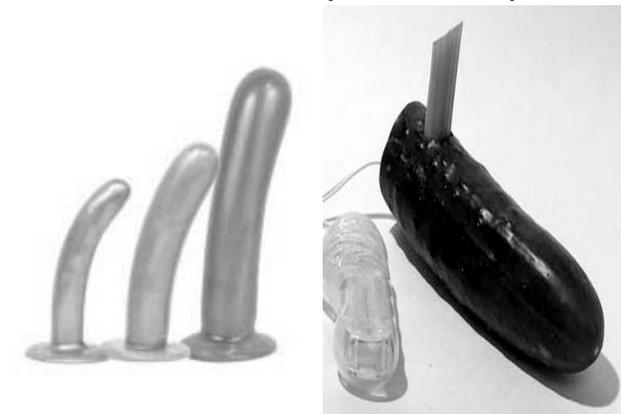
Dear Peanut,

My girlfriend and I want to experiment with sex toys but dildos with penile details make her a bit uncomfortable. What are some alternatives that we can use?

-F

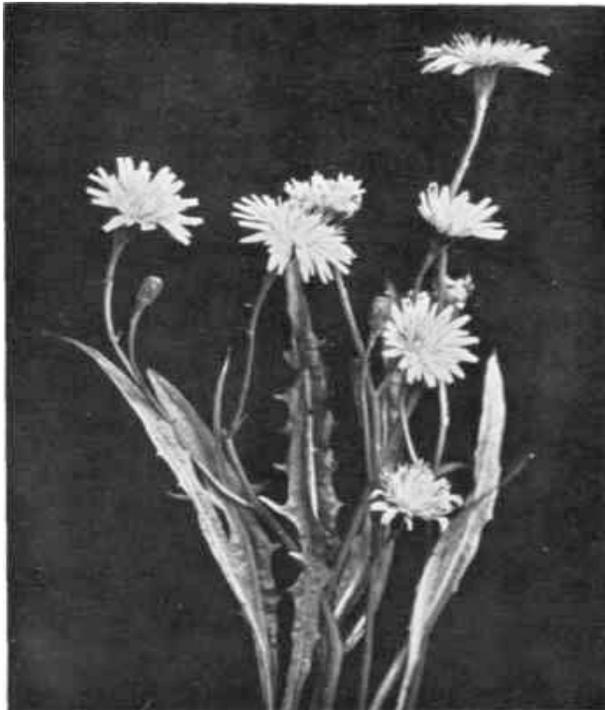
Dear F,

I agree that the majority of the dildos I have seen in the [numerous] sex shops I've patronized have been detailed to look circumcised and have obscenely large penile veins—as if the feeling of veins on my dildo will give me more pleasure. However, though there are situations where a more authentic penis look and feel is desired in a dildo, it can also cause individuals—who are seeking the pleasures of dildo penetration without penises—to be uncomfortable with the resemblance. I recommend checking out the Silk line of dildos. They are specifically designed for “fans of nonrealistic dildos,” are made from smooth silicone, are harness-compatible, and come in three sizes all in lovely shades of lavender. I have seen these dildos available at Pure Pleasure, the sex shop downtown (on Church and Cedar) and also on the website of my all-time favorite sex shop, Good Vibrations, at www.goodvibes.com. The prices run from \$28-\$44, depending on your size preference. If you're looking for cheaper alternative, there is no shame in using a clean zucchini or cucumber. Look for a shape and size that you like, wash it thoroughly with warm water and antibacterial soap, and slap a condom on it if you're feeling especially cautious. Do NOT use anything that is pointy or sharp edges as this can be very dangerous. Also, do not insert anything into your anus, like vegetables or fruits, that can get lodged in there—this results in an extremely uncomfortable experience and an embarrassing trip to the Emergency Room. Dildo play should be a time of pleasure and should not be uncomfortable physically or emotionally. Make sure that there is verbal consent between all partners and that they are comfortable with the dildo play before its taking place. If the acts are consensual, remember to consistently check-in with your lover



Silk Dildo

DIY Cucumber Dildo



about their comfort levels and where they are emotionally and physically. In the end, sex should be healthy and fun, so relax and enjoy!

Dear Peanut,

My partner and I are adamant about condom use, but we both hate the way they feel—what can we do to make condom-use a more pleasurable experience?

-D

Dear D,

It's the truth, many people find that condoms decrease sensitivity during sexual acts, but this should never be a deterrent from condom use as it is so essential to keeping ourselves safe from sexually transmitted diseases and infections. The good news is that there are a few simple tips on how improve your over all condom-using experience. The first step I suggest is to apply lube to the shaft of the penis before rolling the condom on. This alleviates a lot of the friction between the condom and the penis and ultimately helps to reduce the numbness many experience due to condom use. “Linus Tanzarian once said, “Putting lube inside the condom makes your penis feel better,” essentially, when in doubt, apply lube. However, in addition to lubricating the shaft of the penis before putting the condom on, I strongly recommend that you make sure you have found a good condom that fits your needs—figure out what textures you like. Crown condoms from Japan have been called “the best condom in the world” by numerous “experts,” and I must admit they are pretty fantastic. Crowns are ultra thin yet durable which gives a barely-there feel to them. Another thin and durable condom is Beyond Seven, another brand from Japan. The only warning I have about these two condoms is that the lubrication on both is scarce so be sure to provide your own. If you are vegan, there is a really great vegan condom out there that I highly recommend, called Glyde. Also, when using condoms, make sure that all parties do not have a latex allergy. If a latex allergy exists, there are polyurethane condoms as an alternative (though they are more expensive than the latex ones—but if you're having an allergic reaction to latex on your genitals I feel like prices are the least of your problems). There are a bunch of online resources you can turn to for cheap condom prices and the Condom Co-op on campus has some of the cheapest prices I have seen.

(Radical Sex Column)

Dear Peanut,

How can I negotiate my emotions of jealousy and possessiveness when trying to have a non-monogamous relationship?

-G

Though there is no true model to follow when negotiating non-monogamy, I feel that one of the most important tools to having any healthy relationship is honesty and communication; this is especially true with non-monogamous relationships. Seeing how the majority of us were raised without many good examples of non-monogamous relationships, it can be incredibly difficult to shake off conventional ideas of romance and couplings while trying to re-imagine ways of having relationships with your lovers. Whereas monogamy has created a climate of dishonesty due to the pedestal fidelity is put on, non-monogamy seeks to build relationships on the foundation of open-communication, honesty and trust. So you're thinking, “that's all well and good, but I'm still battling with feelings of jealousy with one or more of my lovers!” The most prevalent cause of jealousy is often insecurity—feeling that our lover is more interested in their other lovers (or vice versa), feeling that you are not getting the attention that you desire from your lover, feeling that you are not worth enough to your lover—regardless, it is important to recognize that you grew up in this society and that there will be occurrences where one or all of you will feel jealousy. If you are able to separate your feelings of jealousy as a result of personal insecurities, try to address those insecurities. It is so essential to love yourself and know your self worth before you attempt to seek the love of others—loving yourself will make it a lot easier to believe other people's reassurances. Feelings of jealousy can also stem from competitiveness—this isn't

unlikely since capitalist culture seems to pop up everywhere in our personal lives. It may be helpful to re-imagine your lovers' lovers as friends or allies in this struggle for alternative ways of loving. Do

not hesitate to take these insecurities to your lover, let her/him know the emotions that you are battling with; communicating throughout your relationships is the key to keeping them healthy and honest. I highly recommend setting up an agreement with all of your lovers before diving into non-monogamous relationship. Make sure that everyone involved has consented and is comfortable and feels safe; regular emotional check-ins are essential. In the end, it is important to remember that no two relationships are the same and the only one who can determine what will and will not work is you. For more advice I recommend checking out a book written about negotiating sex-positive and non-monogamous relationships, *The Ethical Slut: A Guide to Infinite Sexual Possibilities*, by Dossie Easton and Catherine A. Liszt.



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Misogyny Sucks continued from Page --14

This brings us to the Santa Cruz Ski and Snowboard Club, UCSC's solution for bros and frat boys who are worried about missing the misogynistic fuckfests promised to them in college. The Ski and Snowboard Club supposedly exists to provide students with a cheap way to go to the mountains and ski and snowboard or whatever. It requires a \$30 membership that covers "beverages" and guarantees entrance to the various parties that occur more frequently than actual ski trips. These parties have consistent heteronormative and sexist themes like "secretary hos and professional pros," "professional athletes and cheerleaders," "G.I. Joes and pinup girls" etc. and their infamous "porno party." All these unimaginatively themed parties do little more than attempt to orchestrate hierarchical gender roles where women wear suggestive clothing, men expect sex and everyone gets really drunk. They're normally pretty successful at this. And though rape may not be anyone's intention, the social conditions that make it more and more likely are established again and again at every party with every new face they bring in.

When Ski and Snowboard Club "staff" members try to recruit specific women walking through quarry plaza or drive carloads of women off campus for their annual party to welcome incoming freshmen, they are putting people in danger whether they know it or not. This is not to say that there aren't other scenarios where people are exploited, sex is seen as a goal and alcohol is used for social lubrication. And though the same dangers for sexual violence can be seen in bars, clubs, parties etc, the Ski and Snowboard Club consistently organizes and creates the very environments where rape becomes a serious possibility. To put it simply, whether or not they meant to do it, the Santa Cruz Ski and Snowboard Club is essentially a structure of organized date-rape, and should be openly recognized as such.

The point is that effectively preventing rape takes a serious reevaluation of social norms as a necessary first step. Because college students are at the ages most likely to experience rape, we must be critical of the norms present in college social life. We must confront views that objectify and exploit people as sexual objects, we must be conscious of ourselves and the situations we enter, and we must not allow organizations like the Ski and Snowboard Club that nurture environments conducive to rape to go unchallenged. Looking at rape as an individual problem does not recognize its causes, nor does it provide methods for prevention. Responsibility does not only lie with the people who commit rape, it also lies with the environments that encourage it. Though many aspects of these environments are produced by larger hegemonic social forces, a good start is telling the Santa Cruz Ski and Snowboard Club to fuck off!

Notes:

- 1 Only College 9, College 10, Cowell, Crown and Stevenson still offer RPE. Merrill was the most recent to drop out.
- 2 Arianna Puopolo's article from the 2/12/2009 issue in City on a Hill Press.
- 3 Statistic from US Bureau of Justice
- 4 Gnome is the ridiculous acronym given to a campus initiative that thinks it can somehow convince college students to stop getting drunk at parties. Good fucking luck.
- 5 Statistic from Rape, Abuse and Incest International Network.
- 6 Statistic from the Consensual Liberation through Intimate Tactics (CLIT) Collective.

'FSH Rent Hikes continued from Page -- 10

be screwed in new and different ways. Realizing this allows us to step back and question the system that's actually behind all this. Is it really working in everyone's best interests? If not, why did it develop this way and who is benefitting? Most importantly, how can we change it/fight it? Like gladiators thrown into the ring together, let's stop fighting each other and go after that fucker Caesar (...Yudof?).

But perhaps the most enlightening (and depressing) moment of the meeting came when students were calling out the admins for justifying the rent increases by the fact that housing costs in town are so high. A student was asserting the well-known fact, "[FSH rent] is supposed to be kept low [compared to the market rate] so that low income students who wouldn't otherwise be able to come here . . ." but he was cut off by Jean Marie Scott, Associate Vice Chancellor for Colleges and University Housing Services: "NO. No, I think we need to debunk this. Family Student Housing is *not* low income housing, none of the university housing is. The UC has no commitment to provide low income housing. If this was supposed to be low income housing, we would approach this problem very differently economically."

This surprising admission brings up a few questions. First, why *isn't* there low income housing at UCSC? Second, if Jean Marie acknowledges that there should be low income housing – and she does – then why can't they approach the problem as if it were? And third, why does the university sell it as "affordable housing?" The very first "benefit" listed on FSH's website is "rent that is significantly below the average for the Santa Cruz area," clearly implying that affordability is an essential part of Family Student Housing and the central reason for its existence.

But exactly what does "affordability" mean to UCSC? After all, said one student, "An 'affordable' BMW costs less than a luxury BMW."

When asked what the university means when it says "affordable," Felicia could not give any real answer. It seems that "affordability" serves as a myth, and as such it must be kept cloudy. Jean Marie wasn't supposed to debunk that myth – it was a functional myth for the UC. In any case, her admission shows that the students who live at Family Student Housing are in a pretty bad spot – the prospects look gloomy in terms of the administration giving them what they want. That's why they're organizing. That's why they held their "kiddie picket" on April 6th. And that's why it's essential for us to stand in solidarity with them, not just for them but for all of us.

The Project Asked You

Why Does FISH RAP LIVE! Suck?



"I've always found FISH RAP LIVE! to be really homophobic and transphobic in what it writes. Its hella racist as

Kas!
Supa-gay Santa Cruz pirate

"FISHRAP is very disrespectful and hurtful to communities of color, and many other marginalized communities for that matter."



Petah
Supa-gay Santa Cruz pirate #2



"Obnoxious lit nerds who think they aren't racist if they're only 'joking' suck to begin with. I have no idea why someone decided they had anything worthwhile to say."

Andrew
Community member/College student?

"Dave Chappelle is funny, FISH RAP LIVE! is not."

Emma J.
Recently documented immigrant



"The stuff I read in FISH RAP LIVE! is always insulting. They are offensive and don't know how to write satire, and I am saying this as a womyn of color, a writer and someone who actually understands

Marilla
SINista/Teatrlista

"I think it's kind of funny."

Mike Rotkin
FISHRAP faculty sponsor/Apologist



If you're kinda pissed off about this, one thing you can do is send your thoughts to our friend Felicia McGinty at mcginty@ucsc.edu. For more info, contact pigeon@riseup.net.

"Eternal Vigilance is the Price of Liberty!"

Men who love our free institutions; Men who value your own liberties; Men who
are ready to

DEFEND THE RIGHT!

Men who are ready to fight for FREEDOM,

COME FORTH NOW!

WHEN THE COUNTRY IS

IN PERIL!

And enlist to fight for the cause which is your own.

Volunteers are Wanted

TO FILL UP THE COMPANY NOW FORMING FOR THE

THE PROJECT

FRIDAYS, 5:00 P.M. AT SUBROSA INFOSHOP, PACIFIC & SPRUCE

theproject@riseup.net

Where Volunteers are received. The State Bounty, paid before starting, is \$15.00.
The regular pay for Soldiers is \$13.00 a month, with a plenty to eat and to wear.
A Bounty of

One Hundred Dollars

Will be given after services honorably performed. Term of enlistment, three years.

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