

Channel Islands View

Volume V Number 3

The Voice of the CSUCI Student Body

November 10, 2006 - December 9, 2006

Immigration

By Brendan Malloy

When T.C. Boyle addresses Cal State Channel Islands about his novel *The Tortilla Curtain*, he will be addressing topics that will certainly ring true to local students and Southern Californian residents.

Boyle's novel, which received criticism from a variety of sources when it was published in 1995, discusses one of the more pressing issues that the public faces everyday: illegal immigrants. Because of its proximity to the Mexican-American border and millions of acres of bountiful farmland, Ventura County has been greatly influenced by the historical waves of immigration, both legal and illegal, coming from the South. Just this past spring, millions of activists from Ventura, Los Angeles and Orange Counties declined from going to school and work to protest the United States' potential illegal immigration policies. Also, a bill has been passed in the Congress that would raise funding to build a ten-foot fence along the

Mexican-American border. President George W. Bush is expected to sign the bill barring the results of the Congressional and gubernatorial elections on Tuesday, November 7th. These issues and more have made illegal immigration a hot-button issue for politicians and college-aged students alike.

On top of that, many cities around Southern California have been trying to pass legislation that affect illegal immigrants because of the lackadaisical manner in which State and federal government have dealt with the issue. Burbank, for example, has a initiative on the November ballot that would prevent any immigrant without proper documentation from owning or renting property. Several cities in Orange County have similar measures that punish business owners who employ illegal immigrants. Just recently, Orange County Congressional candidate Tan Nguyen received an onslaught of criticism for an alleged pamphlet his

office sent out to voters claiming that any illegal immigrant who voted would be arrested. Nguyen denied that he had any knowledge of the pamphlet before it was sent out.

To combat this, immigrant rights groups have been busily finding ways to combat the legislature. In October, a private group advocating immigrant rights threatened to boycott several fast food and department store chains for adopting a strict policy on hiring illegal immigrants. With this and other protests on the way pending the results of November's elections, the issue is certain to increase exponentially as the months pass.

In the Santa Barbara native Boyle's *The Tortilla Curtain*, Boyle makes no attempt to dodge the difficult issue. In fact, he takes it head on.



Author, T.C. Boyle will visit the campus November 14th to give lectures and host discussions with the campus community

Author of Campus Reading Celebration to Visit Channel Islands

By Ben Gallagher

November 14th, noted author, T.C. Boyle is scheduled to visit the Cal State Channel Islands campus. His novel, *The Tortilla Curtain*, published in 1995 was chosen as the 2006-2007 school years' selection for the campus wide reading celebration.

His novel deals with issues of immigration, economics, and the environment, all of which are pertinent issues in Southern California today as they have been for a number of years. These issues repeatedly show up on voter ballots each November, as they did on our last election day.

"*The Tortilla Curtain*... was at the time my most controversial novel", says Boyle on his website, www.tcboyle.com. "Because it dealt with a hot-button socio-political issue-illegal immigration in Southern California-many of the reviewers came into my book with strong prejudices."

The university has been distributing free copies of Boyle's novel across campus since the onset of the school year. Students have been encouraged to read the novel and participate in discussions in class and out, in preparation for the author's visit.

The book has undoubtedly stirred the emotions of students across all disciplines. The issues addressed in the text of the novel are of interest to any student who chooses to engage with his or her reading.

Last years' campus reading celebration author, Terry

Tempest Williams, made a visit to the campus as well in which she gave lectures and held discussions which many students participated and engaged themselves in. Her novel, *The Open Space for Democracy*, dealt with other controversial issues and sparked conversations and discussions at every lecture session.

The year before, in 2004, Victor Villasenor's novel, *Rain of Gold*, was chosen as the campus reading celebration novel. Upon his visit, Villasenor held similar lectures and discussions involving the entire campus community. His novel dealt with similar issues handled in Boyle's novel regarding social issues and their effects on the environment.

This years' reading celebration hopes to bring about the same conversation and discussion as was present in last years'. If you would like to hear T.C. Boyle speak about his novel and discuss issues you feel are pertinent, he will make his debut on campus on November 14th, at 6:30 in Salon A.

You must acquire tickets ahead of time if you plan to attend. Tickets are free to students, and five dollars for the public. Tickets not sold ahead of time, assuming there are any left, will be sold at the door the night of the speech.

Full page ad by the Star



Channel Islands View

The Voice of the CSUCI Student Body

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Letter from the Editors

Hello again from the desk of your campus newspaper editors. We trust that all is going well as the semester creeps ever closer to its' end. However, there is still much work to be done and many decisions to be made. One of these decisions is the decision that you have on whether or not to vote. I have heard countless friends and foes alike over the years state that they are not voting because, "their vote doesn't matter". To this, I simply smile and say "poppycock", or some other ridiculous word to refute this claim. When I hear people say this or something like it, it reminds me of a similar situation I found myself in when I first moved out of my parents house.

Like many others, I found myself eating an obscene amount of fast food while I was living on my own. I knew I was spending too much money, but continued to tell myself, "It's only a couple dollars." Eventually, all those "couple dollar" transactions landed me in debt, with an overdrawn account and a month's rent that I couldn't pay. Those dollars added up, the way that votes add up in any election.

This month, you will be faced with yet another vote, on whether or not to allocate money from your student fees to construct a student union building.

While I will not tell you to vote yes or no, I urge you to get out to the polls and make your opinion known. The choice is yours to make. I hope to see you at the polls on November 28th and 29th of this month.



Monthly Music Review

By Scott DeLoach

It is often said what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas. Apparently this maxim carries no weight for The Killers. The nearly two-year worldwide frenzy that followed their debut release *Hot Fuss* found the boys from Sin City anywhere but home. Earlier this month The Killers, trying desperately to avoid the vaunted "sophomore slump", released their highly anticipated follow-up *Sam's Town*. A slight departure from the dance hall anthems found on their debut, *Sam's Town* showcases the musical growth the band has undertaken on the road, not to mention sweet new Fu Manchu's. On "Bones", the second single from the album, a trademark synth melody is coupled with a horn section, producing a mature, big band sound. The guitar driven "Uncle Jonny" delves into the obligatory rock staple addiction, as Flowers' voice precariously capers between frailty and strength. "Why Do I Keep Counting?" concludes the album with an homage to Queen with Flowers channeling Freddie Mercury. But this is not to say *Sam's Town* is without the infectious melodies and catchy hooks that propelled them to fame. The title track

opens the record like an embrace from an old friend; familiar rising synth melodies overlain with splashy drumming from Ronnie Vannucci. The first single "When You Were Young" could easily be a B-side to their first album, with Flowers at times resorting back to his faux British singing accent reminiscent of Hot Fuss. Although *Sam's Town* offers catchy radio friendly tracks, it also marks a definitive step forward for The Killers.

Also check out:

The Blood Brothers Young Machetes
"The bastard love child of Elvira, Mistress of the Night and Iggy Pop. The coloring book narrative that the little boy from The Omen created after too many pixie sticks."

The Rapture Pieces of the People We Love
"Diabolical dancing. Rambunctious rocking. Copious cow-belling."



The UWC provides one-on-one tutoring with peer writing consultants. Walk-ins and appointments are both welcome. Students from all disciplines are encouraged to seek help with writing assignments.

University Writing Center

Mon-Thurs 9am-7pm
Fri 9am-2pm

Located next to the Java Hut and Bookstore in the Bell Tower BT 1512

Please be prepared with assignment and materials. Don't procrastinate, come early, it's amazing!





My Thirst

By Kosta Grammatis

4

He has tasted the waters of education. His body has sipped from the stale bottled water of conformity. They've strapped him to a desk in a classroom. A bottle of education hangs above him as it does for most students. Tubes filled with information feed them intravenously. It trickles into their veins and slowly travels to their brains. They have had no say as to what goes in. A soup of ready made curriculum drains into their compliant bodies.

As he struggles to remain conscious during his three hour educational feeding session a professor goes about his business, talking to no one who is listening. His glazed eyes roam the room, resting on the time-piece; Mecca for the eyes.

He snaps to attention; it is time. A prescription of homework is given, some take home education. The professor demands: Write this paper! Do this project! Show us that you know how to obey, come back and we will abuse you again. The internet provides instant answers and he goes back to not thinking. Alcohol provides soothing relief from the monotony. The desire to create comfort-

ably stripped away with each long draw from the bottle.

Weeks of this; weeks of feedings and prescriptions for a semester. His brain, empty of experience, but full of information is bloated with facts. He knows not what they mean or what their use, context was never important in the classroom. Then it is time. He is bloated with information; it sits inside of him burning. He does not know where it came from or what it wants from him, but the final exams are here and with ease he pisses his education out. He pisses out his education and finally he can exhale knowing that his brain is free from that burden.

The professors—they've never asked him why he is here. They've never asked him what he has wanted to learn and what he plans on doing with his education afterward. He has asked for relevance, he has asked to trade out the bottle above him for one that suits his needs and goals better. He has suggested they ditch the intravenous education in exchange for a more independent line of study.

"Preposterous idea" they tell him as he stands quietly before his professors. "You are unable to learn without us. It takes a teacher to teach, it takes a student to learn. We have spent years in school ourselves and as you can see it has gotten us far in life. We have our well deserved tenure, great benefits, office space, and the power to mold your mind anyway we see fit. Independence does not promote learning; we have the PhD's to prove it." Anxiously they continue, "Go back to your desk and pay attention or we will lower your grade."

With great fear he runs and straps himself back into his desk, a grade is more important than any education will ever be, that's the way it has always been.

Casually he pretends to reconnect his IV. As he fumbles with the needle his bag of information jangles quietly against the others. The professor begins the lecture and as the classes' glazed eyes slowly make their way to the clock he secretly and silently reaches into his backpack and pulls out a book, a book of his own selection.

He is ready to learn.

Letters to Dr. Why

Dear Dr. Why,

I'm struggling to pull up my GPA. I've talked to my professors, my parents, even a counselor, and they all say the same thing: I should work harder. I can't, I'm maxed out. Can you help me?

—Feeling like a Failure

Dear Failure,

Get a better parking space. A recent study from the Institute for Irrelevant Inquiry shows an inverse correlation between final grades and the proximity of your parking space. A and B students typically park closest to their classes, while D and F students hike in from Ojai. Move in and move up in the class. (By the way, if you try to steal my secret spot, I'll rub you out.)

Dear Dr. Why,

I've heard a lot of talk about this new fangled thing called a "writing process." Do you have one? Where can I get one?

—Your Devoted Reader

Dear Devoted,

Yes, I have a writing process. I stole it from my colleague Mary Adler. She's been looking for it ever since. I find having a process — even a stolen one — very useful. This one's a bit clunky, I seem to have to rewrite everything over and over before I get it right. You want a process that's been broken in but not used up. I recommend doing a little research before you steal your own.

Dear Dr. Why,

The prof in my love class said that the odds were 50-50 that any marriage would end in divorce. That really depressed me, and my boyfriend said my professor was making it up. Is he? Should I believe him? —Hoping to Marry Someday

Dear Hoping,

Mark Twain said, "There are lies, damn lies, and statistics." Numbers can be manipulated to support

whatever point you want to make — just ask your math professor. If you divide the number of divorces in the U.S. by the number of marriages, you'll get a figure close to 50%, but if you only consider the number of FIRST MARRIAGES (ignoring those who marry twice or three times or more), you'll find that nearly two-thirds of those marriages end in divorce. So depending on which way you look at it, your odds of a successful marriage are either 1 in 2 or 1 in 3, in the U.S. of A. Move to Iran or the Ukraine (just to name two) and the odds improve dramatically. That's reason to remain hopeful, don't you think?

Dear Dr. Why,

What's it like to be a famous writer? Can I become one? What do I need to do?

—Great Aspirations

Dear Aspirations,

Fame is a fickle finger. Last year no one read my columns, no one wrote to me, no one seemed to know who I was. But already this year I've received three letters, an invitation to speak at a Conference for Famous Pseudonyms, and I'm being stalked. Every time I check my phone machine, I hear the same voice asking, "Why, oh why, why, why?" And yesterday, I snuck out of my office on my way to class only to hear a voice behind me muttering, "Why not?" I don't know why, but I felt threatened. So don't wish too fervently for fame. You might get what you ask for.

Hey Doc,

What's with the phony disguise? We know it's you. And why don't you return my calls? I keep leaving messages, but you never call back. Are you avoiding me? Why, Dr. Why? You can't hide from me forever. Don't you like me? Why not?

—Desperately Seeking You

Dear Desperate,

Why me?



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Veterans to Attend Book Signing to Share Experiences

The things you don't know about people. The docent who takes your museum admission could be a man who survived the infamous Bataan Death March and World War II prison camps. Two cute girls and their mother playing in an Ojai park might be relishing their time together after the mother's Seabee service in Iraq. Your favorite college language instructor may have been the person who tricked his way out of Dachau Concentration Camp, joined the US Army Air Corps, and later ferreted out Nazi war criminals. That nice great-grandfather standing next to you might have been awarded the Silver Star in 2003, 51 years after his actions in Korea.

These people and other war veterans will sign copies of a new book about their experiences, *Veterans' Stories of Ventura County*, when Veterans

of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 11461 celebrates Veterans' Day on Sunday, November 11, at the Ventura County Museum of History & Art. The event is free. The book signing will take place at 2:00 p.m., while several featured veterans will tell their stories at 3:00 p.m.

Authors Charles A. Bennett and David E. Pressey feel that every veteran will find an experience in the book's 26 stories that reflects their own. Pressey notes "Often veterans' families realize that they never asked their fathers or grandfathers about their experiences, and they find these stories bring them closer to understanding." *Veterans' Stories of Ventura County* is \$24.95. Visitors to the museum event can have books autographed by participating veterans and will also receive a free copy of the previously published *Ojai Valley*

Veterans' Stories. Both collections will be submitted as part of the Library of Congress' Veterans History Project.

The Ventura County Museum of History & Art is located at 100 East Main Street in downtown Ventura, across from the San Buenaventura Mission. For information, please call (805) 653-0323 or go to www.venturamuseum.org. For more information about the book, please contact VFW Post 11461 at (805) 646-0494, or go to www.vfwojaivalley.com. The book is also available through Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

pros

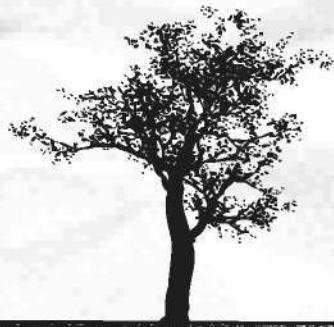
The Student Union Would:

- Be a comfortable place for students to gather before/between/after classes in a central campus location.
- House Multi-venue food options with longer hours.
- Have additional computer lab plans with printers and copy machines.
- Provide additional group study rooms and larger event space.
- House clubs and organizations with space for campus events.
- Be located at the CENTER of our campus (existing Library space).

cons

The Student Union:

- Would increase the current Student Center fee.
- Would be required by the state to be funded and supported through student fees.
- Could permit space to be used for University services or operations.
- Could result in potential class disturbance and noise due to location on campus.
- Will not open until Spring 2009.



vote. help us grow.

Q&A

What is a referendum?

The principle or practice of submitting to popular vote a measure passed on or proposed by a legislative body or by popular initiative. Basically, it is the process by which students vote on issues such as fees and student representatives.

Who supports the Student Union referendum?

The referendum is put forth by the students of Associated Students Inc., and supported by various student groups and members of the campus community.

Where is the funding coming from?

Funding will come from student fees, revenues from retail, fundraising, operations and possibly donor support.

What will my fees pay for?

Fees include construction, operation of the facility, limited programming, utilities, maintenance and upkeep.

Will staff and faculty have a chance to donate money toward the Student Union?

Yes.

Why should the students have to pay for the Student Union?

Student Unions do not receive funding in California from state tax dollars. If students want to have facilities such as the Student Union on campus, they must be paid for through student fees and/or private donations. All student unions in the CSU system are financed by student fees.

Will there be future renovations to the location of our Student Union?

Yes, to accommodate growth, students can choose to do so.

Will the total cost of the Student Union always stay the same?

Yes. However, students could decide to expand or add to the building, which would change the amount of the fee.



Several local athletes getting national attention

By Brendan Malloy

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With the arrival of brutal Santa Ana winds and Southern California's rendition of autumn leave transformation, Ventura County knows that high school football season is well underway. Since late August, Ventura County football fans have crowded under Friday night lights to be entertained by, in many cases, the future stars of some of NCAA Division I-A's top programs. Ventura County's 2007 recruiting class is one of the strongest in its history, and local high schools have been busy compiling highlight videos and organizing recruiting camps to showcase some of the best young talent in the country. Here is a look at some of the top standouts.

Oaks Christian (Westlake Village) – After a considerable amount of nation-wide buzz surrounding the Lions matchup with perennial powerhouse St. Bonaventure resulted in a 59-13 win on September 22nd, Oaks Christian stands near the top of many national rankings, including the likes of Sports Illustrated (2nd) and USA Today (7th). 6-3 208 lb. senior quarterback Jimmy Clausen, considered by many to be the nation's top prospect, has already committed to playing for Charlie Weis' Notre Dame Fighting Irish. Standout running back Marc Tyler (6-1, 215), also in many national publication's top ten recruits, and defensive back Marshall Jones (6-1, 188) have each committed to play at USC while receiver/defensive back Anthony Gildon and linebacker Casey Matthews are both playing at Oregon next fall. Lineman Mike Ebbitt (6-5, 258) has committed to Texas A&M.

St. Bonaventure (Ventura) – As the nearly-annual Channel League and Division IV CIF-SS champion, St. Bonaventure has always had its fair share of top prospects. This year, tight end/linebacker Blaine Irby leads the 2007 class with a commitment to defending national champion

Texas. The 6-3, 237 lb. senior has concentrated mostly on his defense this season, but Irby seems to be set on playing tight end in college. Although not committed to any school yet, 5-11 192 lb. defensive back Michael Williams will certainly get plenty of attention as a top recruit.

Look for him to play cornerback or return kicks at Michigan or Notre Dame next season. Defensive back Glen Wakam has received offers from schools like Cal, Stanford, Michigan and Northwestern.

Adolfo Camarillo (Camarillo) – In somewhat of a surprise story, USC believes it found its future quarterback in Camarillo. Sampson Szakacsy, whose father Doug spent countless hours preparing and sending highlight videos of his son across the country, has earned his way into a Division 1-A scholarship after somewhat of an anonymous junior season at ACHS. Despite missing six games to injury, Szakacsy has proven why he is a top prospect in limited action. Kicker Bryan Anger has received offers from schools like USC, Boise State and Northwestern.

Rio Mesa (Oxnard) – Although he has chosen to wait until after the season to commit to any university, star running back/linebacker Malachi Lewis will be making a big splash in Division 1-A in the next several years. Look for the 6-4, 215 lb. senior commit to a big-time program with rare combination of size and 4.31 second speed that can be used at the tailback, linebacker, safety or receiver position. In fact, CalHiSports.com ranks



Lewis as the third-ranked athletic, a high school player without a set position, in California. Also, defensive back Josh Harrison has received offers from schools like Cal, Oregon, Washington and Boise State.

Moorpark (Moorpark) – Although not technically eligible to commit to any school just yet, junior tailback Darrell Scott will certainly be a top recruit next season. Scott's county-leading 1837 rushing yards and 27 touchdowns, along with 6-1 205 lb. frame and a state-ranking in the 100 meter dash, are getting considerable attention from top programs. Scott's top blocker, 6-7 290 lb. George Halamandaris, has already committed to Stanford and may need to gain a little weight to be successful at the tackle position.

The following players have also received offers to Division 1-A schools: Royal's defensive tackle Tonio Celotto has committed to Oregon; Tyrone Duncan from Westlake has received offers from schools like Nebraska, Ole Miss, and UCLA; Santa Paula's outside linebacker Trevor Lyne has received an offer from Kansas State; Safety Logan Ketchum from Oak Park will decide between schools like UCLA, San Diego State, Colorado and Oregon.

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**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY CHANNEL ISLANDS
ALUMNI & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION**

Catch the Wave

Members of the CSUCI Alumni & Friends Association are a pioneering group of alumni, students, parents, faculty, staff and community leaders committed to connecting alumni to Cal State University Channel Islands. Alumni membership is a great way to show University pride and to be a vital part of CSUCI traditions.

Catch the Wave and join the Alumni & Friends Association today. You'll receive a number of great benefits and services while supporting future students and the continued success of CSUCI.

www.csuci.edu/alumni

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what is a

Main Entry:

student union

Function: noun

: a building on a college campus that is devoted to social and organizational activities of the student body. The area may sometimes contain lounges, auditoriums, multi-venue food options, offices, and game rooms.

STUDENT UNION?

Contact your student representatives for more information:
 student government president-
jessica.laroe@csuci.edu
 student programming board president-
chelsea.bente@csuci.edu



bigger, better.



As our campus continues to grow, we will need a Student Union to compliment that growth. The Student Union would help establish a stable center for student activities. We'll soon outgrow the University Hub, and then we'll need something **bigger** and **better** to accommodate the student body. Help us create that center. Help us plant that seed!



info. session dates:

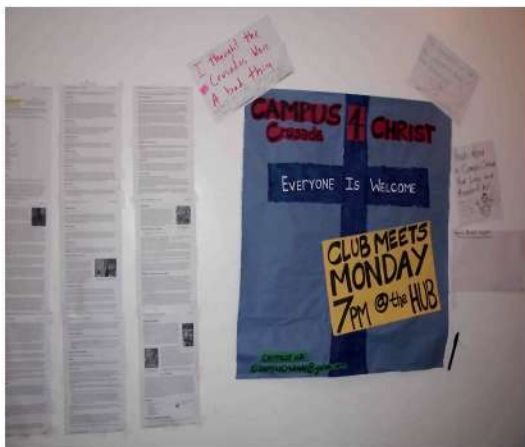
- Thursday, October 12th from 3pm-4pm
In the Colaboratory
- Tuesday, October 17th from 12pm-1pm
at Islands Cafe
- Wednesday, October 18th from 5pm-6pm
at The Hub
- Wednesday, October 25th, from 2pm-3pm
In the Bell Tower
- Monday, November 6th from 7pm-8pm
in the Library
- Thursday, November 9th from 12pm-1pm
at The Hub



November 13-17 is Campaign Week.
November 28th and 29th is VOTING DAY!
Vote in the Bell Tower

Campus Crusade for Christ Making Waves

By Sarah Phipps



The Campus Crusade for Christ's poster hangs to the right as student comments and printouts surround it.

Campus Crusade for Christ has made quite a splash this semester. Posters publicizing their weekly club meetings were posted on the walls of the Bell Tower, and after about a week of being in the CSUCI public eye, students began responding.

The responses varied. Nine pages from Wikipedia about the historical Crusades were printed out and taped onto the wall to the left of the poster (which was located near BT 1494); initial candid responses also included: "I thought the Crusades were a bad thing," "To convert or not to convert, that is the question?" and "How's about a Campus Crusade for Logic and Reason? No?" Each of these initial responses had responses of their own. As the days passed, the white spaces of the Wikipedia printout and the other sheets of paper got smaller.

Most of the reactions seemed to revolve around the word "crusade." This word has several definitions as well as negative connotations that have made it problematic. The image of people wearing chain mail armor and brandishing swords comes to mind, but this image is not what Campus Crusade for Christ is all about.

Campus Crusade for Christ is an international organization that was formed in 1951. According to the official website, "Crusade" was "used...to denote a 'movement or cause.'" The title was not meant to inspire violence, but it was meant to inspire spiritual change. The mission, or "cause," of Campus Crusade for Christ International is to "[help] take the gospel of

Jesus Christ to all nations." This is largely accomplished by interdenominational work with Christian churches and Campus Crusade for Christ chapters on school campuses.

At the beginning of every semester our CSUCI Campus Crusade for Christ hands out an informational sheet that informs members of the purpose and goals. The purpose is the same as the International mission statement, except it states that our chapter of Campus Crusade for Christ "[seeks] to be a resource to the student body by offering opportunities to discuss spiritual matters, provide materials and ultimately build college students up to be Christ-centered laborers and live a spirit driven life." In other words, despite the connotation of militancy—Campus Crusade for Christ is a peaceable organization that is open to discussing the sometimes taboo subject of religion. The tag line featured on their posters, "Everyone is Welcome," is actually true. The club wants people to ask questions about what the club stands and more importantly, who they believe in.

Club meetings are held at the Hub, Mondays at 7 pm. These meetings are open to the entire student body and faculty.



Date	Event	Where/When	Contact
Tuesday, November 14th	Campus Reading Celebration with author T.C. Boyle	Salon A 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm	Dr. Renny Christopher/ University Library
Tuesday, November 14th	Tuesday Movies at The Hub- The Da Vinci Code	University Hub 12, 5 and 8 pm	University Hub
Tuesday, November 14th	Native American Heritage Celebration	Univeristy Hub 2:00-3:30 pm	MWGSC
Thursday, November 16th	Coffeehouse	University Hub 7 -9 pm	Student Programming Board/ MWGSC
Friday, December 1st	World AIDS Day	Campus Wide All Day	MWGSC
Tuesday, December 5th	Web Accessibility 1 Workshop	TBA	Web Services

A Cliché Crasher for the 21st Century

By Ronnie Sullivan

Raine Maida, lead singer for the Canadian rock group Our Lady Peace, sang, "The 21st century is a mess," in their song "Love and Trust." Our Lady Peace also had many futuristic references in the 1999 album *Spiritual Machines*, including a one-on-one conversation with a human robot from 2099. The dialogue was taken verbatim from the book *Spiritual Machines* by Ray Kurzweil, which chronicles the author's unique view of the evolution of machines heading into the 21st century and beyond. However, Kurzweil also cites other authors and thinkers for their ideas, including George Orwell, the ominous writer of 1984.

Everybody's had their idea of what the future will be like. Yet, the future is usually set within the 21st century, as if to claim that visions of the future are not too distant from our present. The further back we go, the more likely they were to have been way off. Remember, *The Jetsons* were set in 2002. Four years after the cartoon was supposed to be set, I still lack in a flying car, a robot maid and a green hat with an antenna on it. Another key futuristic idea within the same decade as *The Jetsons* was *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* by Philip K. Dick, which was adapted into the film *Blade Runner* starring Harrison Ford in 1982. A story about how in the year 2019, Los Angeles is a complete wasteland and humans have created clones with a 2-year lifespan known as

replicants. *Blade Runners* are unofficial police officers meant to "retire" (i.e. kill) these replicants. They have also colonized areas off-planet. *Blade Runner* was one of the major influences in the music of *Sigue Sigue Sputnik*, formed in 1985 wondering what punk music would be like in the time of *Blade Runner*. While they weren't the first band in the 80s to use a synthesizer, they certainly used it to their futuristic image.

Some visions of the future are downright absurd. However, the absurd ones usually tend to ring true in due time. Remember that Orwell wrote 1984 in 1948. Televisions had yet to become a staple in modern society and Orwell was writing about computers and the advent that would eventually give us the webcam. Kurzweil touched on many of the ideas that eventually spurred the film *Bicentennial Man*, starring Robin Williams, which argues the rights of machines as they become more human-like and sophisticated. *Blade Runner*, as a film, more so than Dick's novel, shows the future as almost one giant advertisement. *Sigue Sigue Sputnik* took the advertisement/corporation ideology to a greater extreme, mixing in commercials mid-song. Their music also was a reflection to the Beginning-of-the-end-Cold War era constantly making reference to missiles and the dominance of the United States.

Welcome to the 21st century. An era complete

with grand technology; computers that function beyond simple calculations and scientific research, they actually have become a catalyst of human communication. Webcams can monitor our every move and entire archives of information are available via the internet... including what you did last summer. Presently, there are sides constantly debating the pros and cons of medical cloning. According to an article in *Maxim* magazine, science is in the process of creating synthetic body parts which could potentially make us more machine than human. Rockets, missiles and the dominance of the United States are still heavy in current affairs. Corporations and advertisements are the staple in our society, so much that sponsors are now sponsoring sponsors! (See: *The Vans Warped Tour* brought to you by Cingular Wireless.) And we look to the sky and know that space is still our final frontier, or at least the next great frontier.

This is when and where we live. Where do we go from here? I don't know. We'll never truly know... That's the point. The past is what we remember, the present is what we know right now and the future is the great beyond. That's the fascination! While people in the past have predicted the future, it takes several predictions to piece together our present society. So, go out and piece together your future... and bring me back a green hat with an antenna!