



## Mrak Hall speakers call for improved food worker status

### Progressive Faculty Group works for 'economic and social justice'

By ANNA OPALKA  
Aggie News Writer

The Progressive Faculty Group met in front of Mrak Hall on Thursday to speak out against the university's practice of contracting out food workers to the food service management company Sodexho.

According to their website, PFG is a group of UC Davis faculty members that works to "advance economic and social justice on the campus, in the United States and globally."

The gathering took place shortly after the group released its report "From the Shadows: How the University of California Davis Contracting-Out Fosters Workers Poverty." The report profiles a worker, for example, who said he has a heart condition and can't afford his medications.

"In solidarity with the workers, we wrote a report to highlight the inequalities and injustices of working at UC Davis but not being a UC Davis worker," explained Natalia Deeb-Sossa, assistant sociology professor and member of PFG, before the event.

"All workers have the right to a fair wage, to organize themselves and to work in good conditions," said Lourdes Sadanaga, a Davis resident. "This is not happening on campus for the Sodexho food service workers."

Employees of Sodexho receive "inferior benefits" and less pay than UC employees, said Fred Block, sociology professor and member of PFG.

"\$11 an hour is not a lot of money — nowhere near enough to survive," said speaker Albert Parnell, an ASUCD senator. "I'm here in solidarity with these workers."

Christopher Cabaldon, the mayor of West Sacramento, was also one of several speakers.

"I'm here to show support for what the workers are trying to accomplish," he said after the event. "A lot of the workers live in my community. The ability to make ends meet affects the community they live in."

Cabaldon said the issue "stretches beyond the [UC Davis] campus."

"Kids [of these food workers] are coming to school without health insurance or a square meal. The consequences impact whole communities," he said.

UC Davis is currently reviewing its contract with Sodexho.

"The current agreement between Sodexho and the university has produced substantive improvements in wages, medical insurance benefits and other workplace conditions," said Julia Ann Easley of the UC Davis news service. "However,



Assistant Professor Natalia Deeb-Sossa speaks out during the Progressive Faculty Group meeting in front of Mrak Hall.

Joey Kunin / Aggie

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## Unitrans to modernize double-deck fleet

### New traffic signal system being considered

By JEREMY OGUL  
Aggie News Writer

Things are getting pretty futuristic at Unitrans.

In addition to the purchase of new standard buses and modern double-deck buses, Unitrans officials have announced the implementation of a traffic signal control system.

In an effort to improve on-time performance, new technology has been installed on all buses that will allow drivers to lengthen the time of green lights, allowing buses to get through busy intersections more quickly, said Unitrans general manager Geoff Straw.

Known as "transit signal priority," buses are equipped with a device that beams high-intensity light to video detectors located on the traffic signal pole. A computerized signal controller determines whether to extend the green signal depending on the conditions. The green time can be extended up to 15 seconds and the extra time is taken from the other sides of the intersection.

"We are currently working with UCD Facilities staff to complete training on how to program the detectors and intersection controllers," Straw said. "We hope to have the system fully operational by the end of March."

He said the transit signal priority system would allow bus drivers to extend green light signals at three on-campus intersections: southbound La Rue Road turning left onto Hutchison Drive (next to Hutchison IM field), La Rue Road through Orchard Park Drive (next to the ARC) and Hutchison Drive through Dairy Road (by the West Entry Parking Structure).

"We're also working with the city of Davis to study potential intersections throughout the city in which we could expand this system," Straw said. The city uses compatible detectors and controllers, so it would not be difficult to expand the system, he added.

Currently, Unitrans is beginning the purchasing process for two modern double-deck buses. Made by British bus manufacturer Alexander Dennis, the new buses are 12 feet longer and 1.5 feet wider than the vintage double-decks and will allow for increased capacity.

The new double-decks will also be powered by diesel engines.

"The tailpipe emissions of those modern diesel engines will be even cleaner than the natural gas single-deck buses we have been purchasing since 1995," he said. "We are also committing to using biodiesel for these buses to ensure that we operate as 'green' as possible."

The new double-deck bus was tested in Davis in 2006

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## Students encouraged to 'Speak Up!'

### Campus organizations host week-long campaign against hate speech

By WENDY WANG  
Aggie News Writer

This week, the ASUCD Ethnic and Cultural Affairs Commission and the Gender and Sexuality Commission will introduce Speak Up! 2008, a campaign against hate speech and hate crime.

The campaign will kick off today with a pledge-taking event on the quad from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. and end with a rally and march in the Quad on Friday. There will be workshops and programs raising awareness about different areas of hate and prejudice throughout the week, and a movie showing of *American History X* will take place in Griffin Lounge on Wednesday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

"The point of [these] events this week is to educate people about the power of words, so most of our events are about [words], so people are more aware about their words and the impact of their words," said Angelique Tarazi, senior biological science major and chair of ASUCD GASC commission.

"[Events] like 'That's so Gay' on Wednesday

points out how people say things like 'that's so gay' or 'that's so retarded' and don't realize that what they use as slang or from pop culture can escalate."

To show students the extremes of hateful words, an art display titled *The Evolution of Hate* will be put in the Griffin Lounge showing eight steps from how name-calling can evolve into genocide.

Senior political science major and ASUCD senator Chad Roberts explained, "Genocide seems extreme, but when people use hateful words, it becomes ingrained in them and leads to hate crimes, and it emphasizes that words do have power."

Just as important as verbal words have in making an impact, Poonam Dayalji, junior political science major and chair of ECAC commission, stresses that silence can make just as much of an impact on hate-related issues.

"This week is to really speak up against hate and discrimination, ... but what is also really important is that we want to stress that silence can also perpetuate [hate crimes]. When people see

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## CSI: Davis to showcase over 70 campus organizations

### Free food, music, prizes



## CSI: DAVIS

By THUY TRAN  
Aggie Staff Writer

The Student Programs and Activities Center is hosting the first Campus Student Involvement at UC Davis (CSI: Davis) showcase Wednesday at Freeborn Hall from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The CSI: Davis student organization showcase was designed to complement the annual Activities Faire held each fall as another opportunity for students to get involved on campus, said Darrell Peterson, director of SPAC.

"Our goal is to showcase the numerous opportunities for involvement and to connect students with organizations that meet their personal, spiritual, political or academic interests," he said.

CSI: Davis will provide an excellent opportunity, especially for new and transfer students, to learn more about involvement opportunities on campus, Peterson said.

"We wanted to connect with students who may have just transferred to UC Davis this quarter and who may be seeking opportunities to get involved," he said. "This event is also targeting first-year students who may not have been ready to participate in campus activities during the fall quarter."

Over 70 campus groups and organizations have registered to participate in the event Wednesday. Among those registered include Na Keiki O'Hawaii, the Cooking Club, Alpha Phi Omega, the Cal Aggie Marching Band-uh!

Danzantes Del Alma folklórico dance troupe, the Student Recruitment and Retention Center (SRRC), the Spokes and pre-medical fraternity Sigma Mu Delta.

Organizations will have the opportunity to host a table where they can share information with their fellow students, Peterson said.

CSI: Davis is a good way to get an organization's name out to the public, said Sanjeev Tyagi, a senior biological sciences major and president of Sigma Mu Delta.

"I first heard about CSI: Davis through the SPAC weekly letter, and it sounded like a public relations event for any organization that was willing to show up," he said.

Tyagi said he expects it to be different than tabling or approaching people at the ASUCD Coffee House.

"What I'm expecting is an event where interested people come to you, whereas usually we have to come up to them," he said.

Since Sigma Mu Delta is currently not publicizing itself, Tyagi believes CSI: Davis will be a good prelude for their spring rush to take place in April.

The Student Recruitment and Retention Center is also looking to reach students through CSI: Davis, said Marlon Tingzon, senior biochemistry major and holistic peer mentorship coordinator at the SRRC.

"[The SRRC] is a resource center under the SPAC department that provides outreach and retention efforts to underprivileged communities," Tingzon said.

The SRRC will be giving out informational brochures at CSI: Davis about their services such as internship/volunteer opportunities, high school visits and campus tours.

"We want students to be aware that these services exist and are necessary," he said.

All students are encouraged to come to CSI: Davis, as they will benefit from being more involved in campus activities and organizations, Peterson said.

"Studies have shown that college students who are involved in campus life through activities and organizations feel more connected to the institution, tend to perform better academically and are more likely to graduate than non-involved students," he said.

For more information on CSI: Davis, visit [spac.ucdavis.edu/programs/showcase](http://spac.ucdavis.edu/programs/showcase).

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## ASUCD hosts Housing Day

### Annual event to take place in Freeborn Hall

By CHARLES HINRIKSSON  
Aggie News Writer

The ASUCD Office of City and County Affairs will be hosting Housing Day on Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Freeborn Hall.

This is the fifth year for the event, which traditionally has taken place in the middle of February to help students arrange their living conditions for the succeeding fall quarter, said Steven Lee, director of the Office of City and County Affairs.

"There will be 45 complexes, ranging from big companies to smaller co-ops. We should have a large spectrum of rental companies represented here," said Rory Allen, housing coordinator of the ASUCD Office of City and County Affairs.

"We expect a lot of traffic this year, and we emphasize the event as being a convenient informational resource for freshmen and transfer students," said Lee.

All students are welcome to attend what Lee describes as "one convenient location for information about a variety of places, and is open and free to anyone who's interested."

Two iPods, a cruiser-style bike and a \$110 gift certificate will be raffled off by Sequoia Equities and Tandem Properties, two of the largest companies at the event, Allen said.

Sequoia Equities is the primary sponsor of the event,



courtesy

having paid for the majority of the advertising, and will be representing three apartment complexes, said Allen.

The event is an important fundraiser for ASUCD, as the 45 booths are sold to rental companies; during the 2005-2006 ASUCD Budget Hearings, the ASUCD Senate voted to raise the fee charged for each booth from \$65 to \$100.

Allen is optimistic about the event despite citing "a tight budget and no refreshments or snacks." This will be his first

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### Today's weather

Partly cloudy  
High 67  
Low 41



### Forecast

Expect this fantastic weather to continue. A well kept secret of mine is that I don't predict the weather as much as I control the weather. The more compliments I receive, the sunnier it is. So, you keep up your end of the bargain and I will follow through with mine.

Jon Gold  
Source: weather.com

### Tuesday

Sunny  
High 66  
Low 43

### Wednesday

Partly cloudy  
High 60  
Low 41

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