



# CASA ZIMBABWE: A house history, 1966 - 2009.



By Rachel Banning-Lover

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## GLOSSARY

Please note that the following terms are used interchangeably in this text:

**Casa Zimbabwe/CZ/Ridge.**  
**Project/the.**  
**Project/RP/Krackistan**

**USCA/BSC**

**Central Kitchen/CK**

**House.**  
**members/residents/czars**

**Unofficial members/fish**

**Central Office/CO**



Casa Zimbabwe, circa 1993.

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# First impressions.

Really

welcoming. Before I moved in, I visited my brother, I had just got in, and his friend said, "that's where I go to get my drugs..." I wanted an alternate place to live, somewhere I could be weird, and it seemed just about the right fit. Loved it - I moved in during winter break so it was empty - there were a group of people smoking and listening to the Velvet Underground, so I was like, ok, I'm home alright. Smelt funny - came upstairs and they showed me the beer fridge... I loved it. The environment looked industrial and it is industrial - this is not a wooden house, this is an industrial space. I remember being assigned this room with two other crazy guys from San Diego, who knew each other, were there already, they were crazy - it was fun... but I remember what the feeling was - scared shitless! When I first moved in, I walked into a council and people were snapping and it freaked me out - I was like God, did I just move into a cult? My first impression of CZ was on a tour I went on with friends... I just remember falling in love with the place when I went up to the 100s roof... I climbed up on to the Cheese Wedge, ... and I'm looking out at the bay, it's a clear night and I'm like man this is amazing - and then I look down at the courtyard and there are people spinning Fire Poi so I was just in love and wanted to live here. I felt a little out of place at first - woooo I'd had a fun time at college, but who are these crazy people, why are there so many bongs? I thought it was a lot like Chateau with the same colourful bunch of people, a lot of ideas and people just getting along - sort of a utopian feeling. There was only one open room... it was disgusting - beer and liquor bottles everywhere, mouldy food on old plates... And the mural next to the room was of a naked man in front of the library with real pubic hair attached to his genitals - I HATED it - I called my parents crying... after a few weeks I was sold though. One of my best friends from 8<sup>th</sup> grade was living in CZ, so I came round to a party they were having in the Red Room, showcasing a number of members' art and there was wine - it was delicious and wonderful... I was like - wow - this is an amazing place, I can't believe it actually exists. Really friendly - everywhere you walked in the building there would be tons of people. I remember it being a bit alienating the first couple of times I visited - for some reason there was a hypnotist visiting council and I was egged on by the crowd to go up.

# Introduction

Almost 45 years have passed since Casa Zimbabwe first came into being, known then simply as Ridge Project, and in that time, over 7,000 students will have called this place home.

Given the nature of student housing, it is not entirely surprising that both past and present 'czars' consider our house to have no institutional memory. However, today if you wander down CZ's many mural splattered hallways or strike up a conversation with an older member, it is soon evident that CZ has a rather rich history, at least of its recent past...

But what was the house like pre-retrofit? Or back during the rave culture of the '90s? And what would it have been like to move in here, the first year the house opened, being greeted not by a faint whiff of Marijuana but by that strong scent of new paint?

These were the basics I wanted to answer when I started researching the house's history. I hoped simply to find one person from each decade to get an account from, but my initial research snowballed into something a little bigger. And in retrospect, it would be unfair to construct a conclusive account from just a few interviews, especially as this houses changes semester to semester, thus I'd like to think of what I've uncovered as just a minor introduction to the CZ way of life...

However, more significant than the differences brought up by former members, were the similarities, and essentially, at the very core of all this madness – the most striking thing about the house, throughout the decades, is the sense of community within it that holds this place together, and considering the turbulent times CZ (and the wider BSC) have gone through and are still going through, this should be something we're immensely proud of.

WELCOME TO THE HOME  
OF UNWANTED CHILDREN

University of Berkeley

## A New Way to Live

# Boys and Girls Together

By KEN HALIBURTON

A novel experiment in student living will try to combine this fall some of the best features of apartments and dorms or co-ops.

Ridge Project, now under construction at a cost of \$1,500,000 on Ridge Road near Euclid on the Northside of campus, will have three main wings — the men's, the women's and the community facilities which will be open to both sexes 14 hours a day. It will house 57 men and 71 women students.

The student-owned and operated University Students' Co-operative Association (USCA) is constructing the new unit as an experiment in group living.

The concept behind a co-ed co-op is to provide students with the type of housing current trends show they want.

The present trend in housing — away from living groups and towards apartments—indicates increasing desires for freedom, privacy, and opportunities for self-regulation.

The co-ed co-op hopes to satisfy these desires while retaining the benefits of the "strength and guidance of the living group" for the student in transition between dependence and independence.

And the co-op solves one of the biggest problems of a student trying to make ends meet—housing expense.

Since its formation in 1933, the co-op  
(Continued on page 16)

Article from the Daily Californian,  
published 10<sup>th</sup> August 1966.

Page Sixteen

• THE DAILY CALIFORNIAN •

Wednesday, August 10, 1966

## New Concept in Student Cooperatives

(Continued from page 1)  
has provided the least expensive form of group living on campus.

Next Fall the cost will be less than \$200 per quarter for board and room in most houses. Boarders will pay proportionately less.

The unique nature of the co-ed co-op requires new rules. The Rules Committee of the USCA has proposed changes in the concept of University approval of living groups in order to better serve student needs.

The proposals cover such areas as University inspections, housemothers, University rules on alcohol, lockout regulations, and the question of visiting privileges between the men's and women's wings.

The Ridge Project will not be University approved housing.

The specific rules of the new house will be drawn up by the membership in the Fall, but it is anticipated that they will follow the Rules Committee suggestions closely.

Lockout for the unit will only be in effect for girls under 21 whose parents request it. This is seen as an invitation to "growth in responsibility" and a freedom that at present only apartments can provide.

Perhaps the most revolutionary aspect of the new house will be the visiting privileges. Although the outside doors will be locked at some reasonable hour, doors inside the building leading to the men's and women's wings will remain unlocked. This will make the community facilities—eating, reading, music — available at all

hours.

An honor system will be relied upon to prevent unescorted guests from taking advantage of the open doors. The women will have the option of voting to require that the door to the women's wing be locked at certain hours.

Specific "intervisitation hours" will be chosen by the members of each wing to allow members of the opposite sex to visit rooms. There will be no rules requiring "open doors."

The women's wing of Ridge Project will have a graduate resident, or Resident Counselor, instead of a housemother.

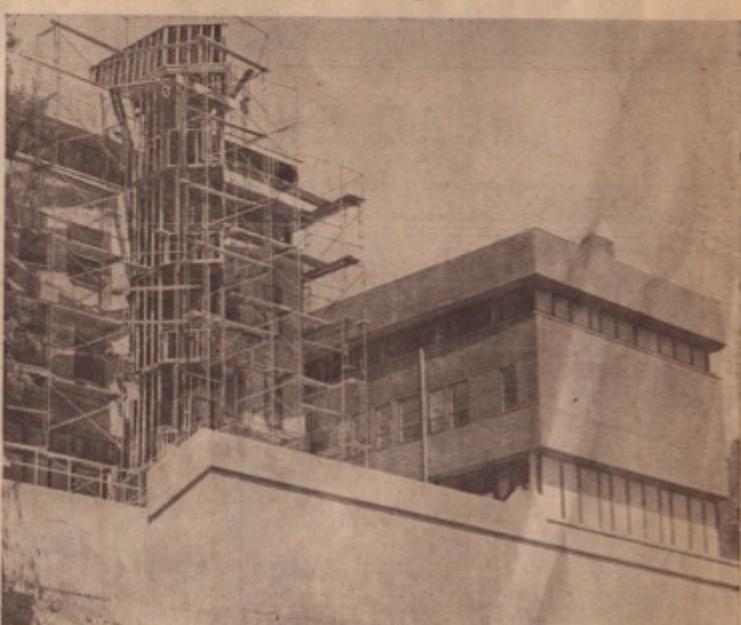
She will have no power to enforce rules; she will serve only as an advisor. Experience in co-ops has shown that the "primary function of the housemother is that of advisor, counselor, and moral guide (without being a bastion of conventional morality)" for which duties a grad resident would be more effective.

The grad resident would have three advantages over the present housemother:

- Being of nearly the same age as the women in the project, she will be better able to understand fully the problems and viewpoints of college students.

- Not being a representative of the University as the present housemother must be, she would allow the girls to be more candid about problems.

- Having no aura of artificial formality and stiffness associated with present housemothers, she could carry on a more informal and spontaneous relationship with



Ridge Road, the new co-op, nears completion.

—Photo by Tim Ingham

students.

The Rules Committee proposal concludes, "In establishing a co-educational house (the) ideal (of the USCA) is to create an atmosphere in which men and women can develop effective working relationships together.

In so doing they learn to adjust to each other in a manner which

encourages constructive social and personal development, and which provides the maturing student with experience in handling situations which demand the co-operation and participation of adult men and women."

Anyone interested in becoming Resident Counselor (single woman or married couple, 25 years or

older) should contact the USCA at 2175 Allston Way in Berkeley or phone TH 8-1936.

Those interested in the details of the proposals sketched here should see "A New Approach To Group Living" prepared by the Rules Committee of the USCA. A few copies may be available at the USCA office through Dick Palmer.

# How it all began.

Ridge Project first opened for students to move into in fall 1966. However, the planning for a building on that site by the USCA had begun prior to 1957.

Originally, though, the site had planned to serve more than 124 students with the University proposing to the USCA that the land could be developed in three stages, ultimately accommodating 1070 students.

Firstly, University owned land adjoining the Ridge land would be made available to the USCA for construction of several large buildings: a 500 student dining hall, a 310-student double-roomed dorm, a central office, warehouses and a central kitchen, according to USCA document, the Green Book. Believe it or not – the second phase involved the demolition of Ridge House to make way for a 230 bed dorm (i.e. us)! The third and most uncertain phase would have required the purchase of more land along Ridge-Scenic-Hearst for another large dormitory and dining hall. However, this adventurous plan eventually crumpled when it met with university bureaucracy and the UC went ahead and built a multi storey car park on part of the original land available.

Whilst fundraising would continue for the construction of Ridge Project through the fifties and sixties, plans for construction and the actual building of the property were not finalised until the early 1960s, and by the time of construction, sponsors had raised \$639,364 for its creation.

Money for Ridge Project came from many different outlets, as shown in a book of house sponsors, archived in Central Office. Of the money raised for the Project, \$31,499 came from UC Faculty, and \$35,287 came from students of the USCA. Keeping with the two co-op traditions of being both foodies and resourceful, an astonishing \$3,110 were raised from cookbook sales!

**“An astonishing \$3,110 was raised from cookbook sales.”**

Donor	Amount
Foundation and special gifts	\$397,530
Students of the USCA	\$35,287
Friends of the USCA*	\$46,218
Consumer Co-op of Berkeley	\$8,731
UC Faculty	\$31,499
Alumni of the USCA	\$101,313
Cook book sales	\$3,110
Old Building Fund	\$15,682

**Figure 1. Who paid for our house?**

\*Friends of the USCA included: California Financial Cultural Committee, California Paste Company, Consumers Co-operative of Berkeley, Golden Bridge Bottling Company and Golden Bear Coffee Company.

## *Ridge Project – the first Berkeley co-op designed to be a co-op...*

Not only was Ridge Project the first student co-ed housing west of the Mississippi, according to Louis, house resident 1966 – 1969, but it stood out for other reasons too – as well as providing a living space for over 120 students, it also incorporated parking, storage, kitchen, office, and recreational facilities into one, relatively small package.

The newest co-op building was also a blessing for the staff who worked at the USCA, especially those who worked in Central Kitchen (including the USCA dietician!) as it provided a new, much larger central kitchen as well as a central warehouse and central office.

The new central kitchen was perhaps one of the biggest incentives for having a purpose built cooperative building, as before Ridge Project's opening, kitchen staff prepared meals out of Oxford Hall, which did not have adequate facilities for food preparation, according to the Green Book. "Nobody had ever been satisfied with the cramped, unsanitary, hole in the wall at Oxford," it was "the bane of the city health department."

However, the most unique (and well known) element about Ridge Project was that it was designed specifically to embrace the philosophy of a cooperative – with two separate wings of bedrooms and all common space in the middle – the idea being you could not enter or exit the building without crossing common space.

### **Figure 2.**

*"The one abiding principle in the whole architectural design of Ridge Project has been to build a unit reflecting individuality and freedom, the antithesis of many dormitories. The disadvantages of other dorms, uniformity, regimentation of activities and general impersonality of buildings, have been avoided. The Ridge Project actively promotes diversity, freedom and a variety of activities, and a small-scale residential environment." Excerpt from an article by Walter Crawford (Cloyne), published in the California Engineer and distributed to USCA alumni in a final burst at fund raising.*

Then, finally, in October 1965, a dedication ceremony was held in which Ridge road was blocked off so approximately 300 people, many of those people whom had contributed to the construction of the building, could attend. Ridge Project would be christened with a bottle of champagne being smashed against the stucco, before those present enjoyed a buffet luncheon. Roy Heyns, the chancellor of UC Berkeley and Hal Norton, president of the USCA,

gave speeches. The dedication was an important moment for the USCA as it relieved them of pressure from city officials to build a better kitchen – the new Central Kitchen was four times as large as the one in Oxford Hall and could feed up to 2000 people. Ironically, according to the Greenbook, now the city would bring people to see Ridge Project's Central Kitchen as an example of one of the finest first class kitchens in the Bay Area.

## ***The first generation of Czars – Move In day, Fall '66.***

***"Co-ops tend to be run down and dirty but Ridge Project was brand new - everyone was gung ho..." - Louis ('66)***

Rami, Louis and Tim were three of the first students to move into the newly built Ridge Project in fall 1966. Having lived in either Barrington hall or Cloyne Court as freshmen, they were attracted to the Project as it offered competition to the more established, larger co-ops, Barrington and Cloyne. "It was pretty exciting, it was brand new and in competition to Barrington and Cloyne that were falling apart," Rami said, resident 1966-1967. "Everything was new including the furniture – it smelled very strong of paint for most of the semester."

Not only did the Project offer clean, affordable, modern accommodation but this

'fresh' attempt at co-op life also encouraged a new idealism to develop amongst the first batch of house members.

"People who lived there the first few years wanted to make it work in contrast to Barrington," Rami said.

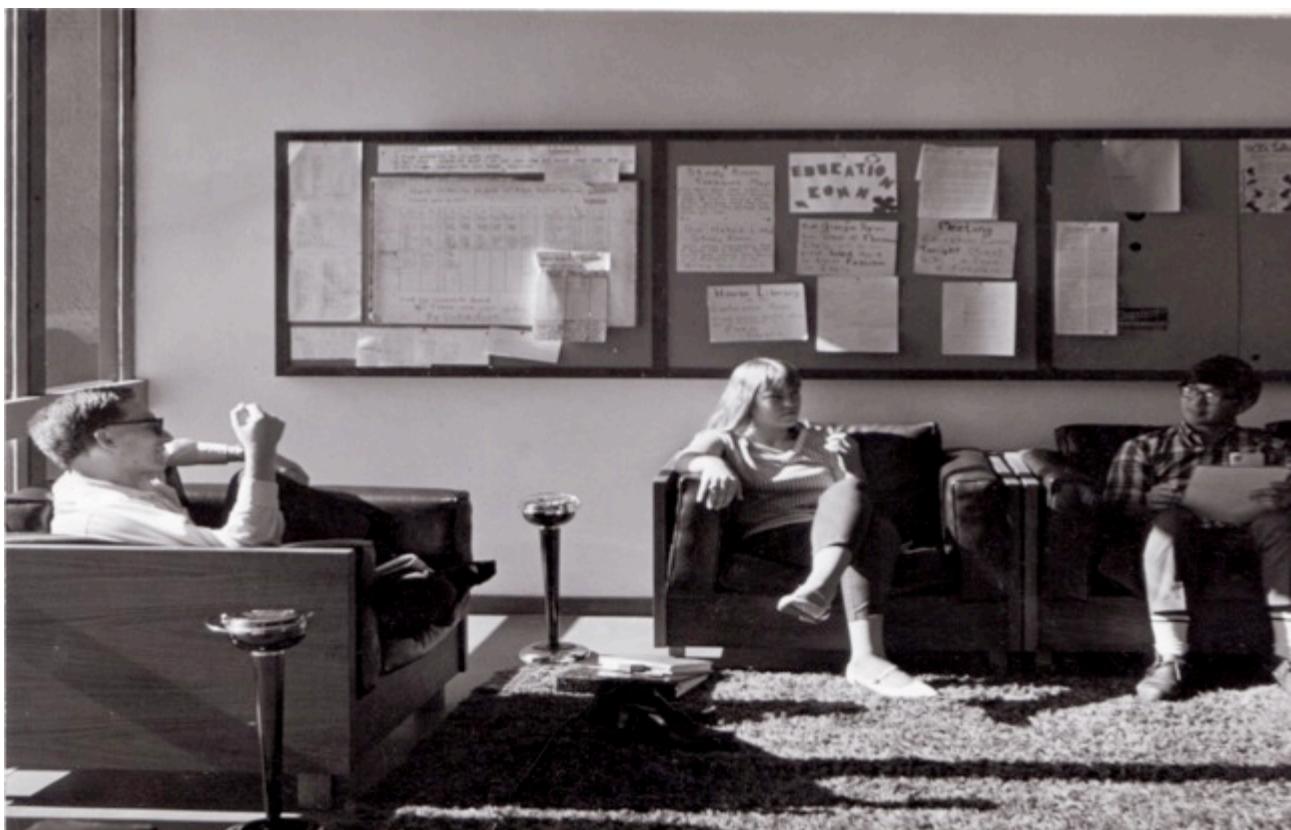
However, the students who moved into the Project were not totally new to the idea of cooperative living as, in order to get a place in the house the first year, students had to have a year's worth of seniority points, according to Louis.





Apparently, it was also not easy to get a place in the Project the first year because of how good quality the accommodation was, in comparison to other student housing in the area – “(When it opened) Ridge Project looked better than any dorm or any co-op – and it was fifty percent more to live in dorms,” Rami said, who found out about the new co-op in his 2<sup>nd</sup> semester at college. “Louis bought back a brochure – everything was new and co-ed, Louis said that’s the place we should sign up to so we did.”

Co-ed living was a big incentive to move into Ridge Project for many students who had never had the opportunity to live in mixed student housing before. However, despite the house opening in the mid 1960s, during a period of progressiveness, the cooperative system was still subtly based on a system of inequality with women in the house living on the wing with smaller rooms despite being a greater physical presence in the house. “The head count in those early days, if I remember correctly, was 71 women and 57 men – a shocking ratio at a campus that in those days had an almost 2 to 1 majority of men,” said Tim, resident 1966-1968, said, in an email. “The women that lived there in the first couple of years were those who really wanted their own apartments but had to settle for Daddy paying for space at a sexually liberated Co-op.”



# **Heide Wolgemuth.**

A  
*Housemother  
for one  
year only...*



**"The theory was that she'd sort of chaperone us but the reality was that she was wilder than most of us." - Louis ('66)**

The legend of 'Heidi' is one house legend the majority of present house members will have heard about – even if it is just in reference to Heidi's Room (room 99) and why it has its own balcony. Heide Wolgemuth was Ridge Project's first and only Housemother. Her room was situated on the women's wing (now known as the 100s side), and is why the rooms on the hundreds are on a straight corridor whereas the rooms on the 10s side (the former men's wing) curve round. Her role was to maintain a sense of respectability in the house, and no doubt counter any fears parents may have had about their children moving into a co-ed house. Her room used to be a small apartment (taking up the whole of 99 and 101) with a bathroom and a kitchenette.

While the reasons for Heide's disappearance, as Housemother, at the end of the academic year (and with no replacement) remain unclear, according to former residents, it was most likely because Heide, who was "a very attractive blonde German grad student in her mid-twenties" encouraged wild parties and promiscuity rather than prevented them.

Recalling memories of Heide and the notion of free love in the mid 1960s, Tim said, in an email:

*"There was a whole lot of hanky-panky goin' on. This included students as well as the so-called Housemother... who stunned and shocked a group of kids (that included me) at an informal session when she was asked by a young woman about her thoughts on sexual liberation for women. Without a hint of self-consciousness, she replied that she had traveled all over the world and had enjoyed more than 300 lovers. That put an end to that conversation."*

## *The start of a great democracy...*

Following their idealistic aspirations, in the Project's first year of existence, members exercised their right to democracy and brought up the issue of the women's inferior rooms. A meeting was called, according to Tim, and plans were made for one floor of the men's wing to be exchanged for one floor of the women's wing – whilst this would not straighten the room size issue out completely, it was a step in the right direction and was passed by the end of the academic year. Interestingly, though, Tim recalled, it was the men who were the most involved in the student movement on campus that were most opposed to the integration of the men's and women's wings.

To ensure the smooth operation of Ridge Project, as like today, there were regular house council meetings and a number of manager positions to oversee the running of the house. There was even a judicial council within the house, for when a member had a complaint against another member, according to Louis, who described its set up as being similar to that of a trial.

However, the house did not always run smoothly, especially when different factions of the house disagreed over how it should be run. One early house dispute, Rami, Louis and Tim remember, was over house security.

"The hippie element (of whom there were many) thought the house should be open to all, all the time," Tim said, in an email. "Others of us felt a house that was not locked for security was at best naive and at worst downright dangerous." Unfortunately, the hippies won and shortly afterwards the house was burgled.

Recalling the event, Tim said, in an email:

"One morning, Louis and I descended the stairs to the lobby to hit a few tennis balls out back before classes. He was the first to see an empty lobby. He cursed quite loudly as we both viewed an empty living room – no furniture, no rugs, no stereo. It was all gone. Someone had just backed up a truck, walked in and taken everything!"

## *Feeling that 60s vibe...*

**"It had been a renaissance and you can't help being swept up in something like that, people are changing..." - Ken ('68)**

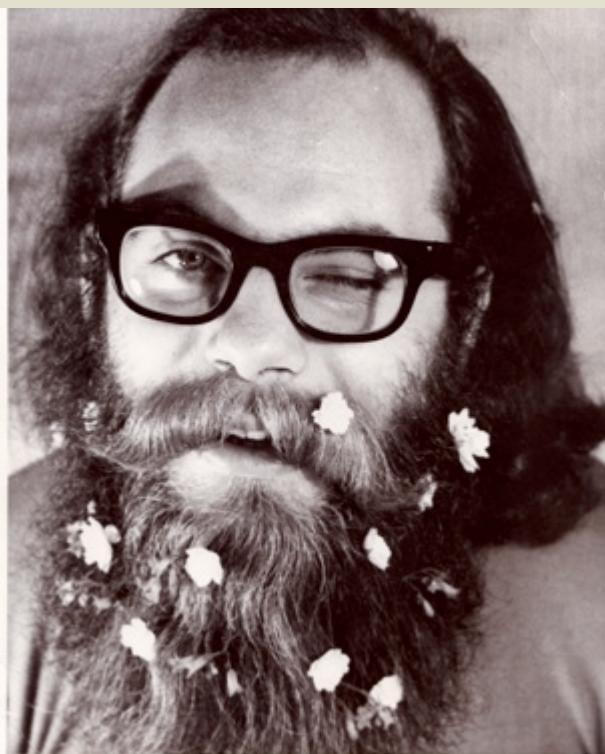
Living in Berkeley as a student, let alone in a brand new co-op, in the late 1960s, would have been both an interesting and a troubling time to be alive as the Vietnam war began to become a greater and greater national issue – it affected every aspect of people's lives and affected how they lived with each other in this building and what was going on, on campus, Ken, resident 1968 – 1969, said.

At the point of Ridge Project opening, the hippie culture was also just breaking out in the Bay Area and a number of house members were part of the hippie movement. The hippie movement, was the successor to the 'beat neck' movement in Berkeley, a movement popular at the time of the FSM movement on campus and which incorporated a group of all



**The National Guard on Shattuck Avenue, taken from the Daily Californian, 23<sup>rd</sup> May 1969.**

very literate, very artful, very smart people, who did all sorts of drugs (and poetry!).



**Ed Robey, House Guru**

Ken recalled an interesting house law in 1968, reflecting the large hippie component in the house, which dictated that if you wore colourful clothes, you had to say 'man' at least three times in a sentence – e.g. "Y'know man, I can get behind it man, how about you man?"

"We were all hippies so you had to have long hair and beads and pants that flared at the bottom and you had to say man three times," Ken said.

Furthermore, describing the intensity of protests on campus, Ken recalled:

"There was a lot of activism going on – in fact all over – we were... basically trying to bring attention to the Vietnam war taking brothers and sisters away... Sometimes my roommate would say we're

the  
in a  
there'd  
People  
groups,  
then  
it was a  
times  
there'd  
waiting  
of you

**"We'd be in an  
Italian class and  
there'd be tear  
gas coming  
through the  
ventilating system  
and everyone went  
crazy..."**

going to demonstrate against police today, and we would meet certain place, and suddenly be tear gas flying everywhere. would break up in different running all over the place, and we'd attack the police back so really crazy time. And other I'd try to get to campus and be a line of national guard with weapons straight in front so you had to walk around (campus), you couldn't go

straight through. And then the Governor of California, Ronald Reagan, decided the region had put up with too much and so started bombarding the campus with tear gas during classes so you'd have Dwinelle Hall and we'd be in an Italian class and there'd be tear gas coming through the ventilating system and everyone went crazy, running around trying to get out of the room."

Because of the nature of the Berkeley political scene, the majority of students who lived in Ridge Project held left wing views, although there were a small minority of more conservative people who supported the Vietnam War. However, because of the small size of the conservative group, it would have been hard for them to bring their issues up in the house, Ken said.

### ***To bring or not to bring activism into Ridge Project?***

Another divisive council debate that broke out in the late 1960s was over Jerry Rubin, a social activist who was one of the Chicago 7. Rubin, a former UC Berkeley student and former member of the USCA, wanted free use of Ridge Project over a quarter break for a political convention. Whilst many people in the house wanted to approve Rubin's plan because they said he had good intentions, Rami was among another group who were unsure on the matter, due to some of the violent protests Jerry Rubin had been involved in. Could Ridge Project risk a disturbance when so few members would be in the house over break?

To prove their point, a small group went round with a trumpet during one night in finals week. When brought up at council to be punished, they retorted that they had had good intentions (hoping to provide amusement). Whilst they still got fined – they had proved their point successfully, and in the end; Jerry Rubin was not allowed to use Ridge Project for a political convention.

However, while Jerry Rubin's request for accommodation was turned down, house members remained open minded and always interested in acquiring more knowledge. "We were proud of the diversity of thought," Rami said. "We had Max Rafferty, superintendant of Cal schools, come to talk to us and we had the 2<sup>nd</sup> in command of the Russian embassy give a talk."

*When culture and social managers intertwine... that one crazy party, recounted by Tim.*

"We had a wacky house Social Chairman one semester who invited Beat poet Allan Ginsberg to read poetry at the house. He accepted. On the appointed evening, Dick Johnson, the Social Chairman, greeted Ginsberg as he entered the front door: "Mr. Ginsberg, could I give you a foot bath?" Dick had a basin of soapy warm water right there. Ginsberg's eyes narrowed as he assessed Dick, the Social Chairman, and with a totally straight face answered, "No. I'm not a foot fetishist, but I would really appreciate a blowjob." I swear this is true. I was right there."

Dick, as an "unapologetic, flamboyant, eccentric, openly gay young man," was not only accepted in RP (which was already a house full of unusual characters) during a period where it was uncool to be gay, according to Tim, but was a great credit to the house, in his role as Social

Oct. 12, 1967

Max Rafferty

Speaks  
at  
the  
R.P.



Chairman, delivering a list of impressive speakers to the house, which included: the "super conservative" Republican State Superintendent of Instruction, Max Rafferty, and the esteemed Jazz and Pop Music Critic, Ralph Gleason.

However, when it came to promiscuity in the house, the philosophy of free love was not universal to all members.

"I think people maintained whatever values they brought into the house – relationships, some promiscuity... but a lot of very straight values," Louis said.

However, undoubtedly, Ridge Project made it easier, with its co-ed setting, for those students who wanted to meet potential partners.

Concluding the sixties:

"Sex was more open, people were experimenting, it was a great time to be alive." – Ken ('68)



Poet Alan Ginsberg, speaking at  
Ridge Project, with the  
Housemother, Heide.

**"Dorms were a place to occupy, to live. Co-ops were a place for living." - Julian ('74)**

As the 1970s came around, the new generation of czars that moved into Ridge Project believed they were a wilder bunch than their predecessors – describing the drug culture that existed in the house, Cathy, resident 1975-1977, said "(there was) a lot of acid, mushrooms, Marijuana." Cathy, who also visited the house recently, believes that current members take work a lot more seriously than her generation did.

However, despite the party atmosphere of the house, the community remained a tight knit family with many characters – "People were just there for me," Laura, resident 1979-1982, recalled.

Indeed, when horrible events occurred such as the shooting of a house member, who was mugged in Oakland, the Ridge Project family pulled together and visited him as he recovered in hospital, Julian, resident 1974 – 1976, said.

The demographic of Ridge Project in the 1970s was of a much younger house than it is today, with a larger proportion of freshmen living there, as many older members viewed the house as a "brutalist cement building" and aspired to earn enough seniority to move out into smaller co-ops with nicer architecture. In the summer, when the majority of residents returned home, other people would come from all over to live in the house. Unofficial residents, 'fish,' also increased in the Project at this time. "Yes, the fish bothered me – usually older, just there to eat meals – a good 10 years older than anyone else there," Cathy recalled.

Due to the location of Ridge Project, it appealed to many Engineering and Maths students as the campus buildings for Engineering, Maths and Computer Science were situated close by on Northside.

Jay, resident 1979–1983, was one house member who became a Maths major after moving into Ridge Project, and described, in an email, one of the benefits of the house's location was "if you played tennis, like I did all the time, you could just look out the window and get a court on the parking structure below." The house's location also had the benefit of being close by to everything without being as crazy as Southside.

Furthermore, the Project's height allowed for the co-op to have one of the best views of the bay. In 1976, when UC Berkeley set off its bicentennial fireworks, Julian recalled, that house members, who watched from the roof, had "a really tremendous view" of the celebrations.

### *The emergence of anorexia in Ridge Project...*

**"We played and worked a lot but there was always a load of drugs, a lot of sex, a lot of music, a lot of eating disorders."**

One house member recalls that whilst many of the girls in the house "didn't wear make up and didn't shave their legs," a significant proportion of the house became more body conscious as nudity and promiscuity became a greater feature of the house. "I was one of the girls with an eating disorder, and my best friend – my friend got so thin, she got into the 70 pound range."

Whilst not all members were equally promiscuous and everyone was accepted for who they were, there was a lot of free sex, nude sun bathing on the roof, and people jumping out of windows to avoid boyfriends, according to Cathy. Ridge Project provided a major dating place with things sometimes getting "very dramatic" as people traded boyfriends and girlfriends.

At the time Cathy lived there, there was even a girl there, who was studying to become a sex therapist, who would counsel a couple of couples who were having problems.

Nudity was also accepted and encouraged in the house during the 70s with Laura recalling members stripping at parties, and Cathy remembering how one could be walking down a hallway and "people would just leave their room open and a bunch of guys would be sitting naked on waterbeds." Waterbeds, along with thin cotton Indian rugs were both trendy items for people to have in their rooms, during this period, although Laura said the waterbeds soon became a nuisance, as they were so heavy to move.

Finally, by the 1970s, co-op participation in campus activism and other activities had died down, with many co-ops being anti-school spirit. Alongside the lack of school spirit, the incentive for going to games had died down, as the Cal football team were playing poorly at that point. However, some Cal athletes still lived in the house. Beyond Ridge Project, the co-ops were generally thriving in the student community, particularly, in contrast to the declining Greek system.



## The name change - How Casa Zimbabwe came into being...

**“Mario Savio house would have been great. But we couldn’t get it.” – Rodney ('82).**

Rodney, resident 1982 – 1985, was the first black House Manager of Ridge Project, and later went on to become President of the USCA. Yet, it was by chance he and his friends came up with the new house name, Casa Zimbabwe (in use from 1987 onwards). Frustrated by the name ‘Ridge Project’ which many felt referenced the poor housing projects in the United States, which were known for being ghettos, Rodney and his friend, Ruben Toyos, were sitting around one day, discussing how much the name “sucked”. Deciding they could do something about it, they started brainstorming new names for the house.

At first, most of the names were a bit goofy, like ‘Dirty house,’ Rodney recalled. However, the guys finally thought they had struck gold when they came up with the name, ‘Mario Savio’ house. The name seemed perfect for a time when the campus was having anti-apartheid sit ins, so there was a lot of house support for the name. Rodney, then House Manager, phoned Savio up to discuss the possibility. However, Savio was absolutely against the house being re-named in his honour, wanting no memorials to him at all.

Not allowing that to put an end to the re-naming, a small group of house members continued to discuss names, with a couple of beers to accompany them in true co-op style, and the name Casa Zimbabwe was brought up. Casa (meaning house) made sense, but Zimbabwe, came about following the fact that the country had been in the news a few days earlier when Rhodesia had become Zimbabwe. At the time, the country’s name change was meant to signal a hopeful new future for the people there, although it did not turn out that way. The name was hard to argue against as it was seen as very politically correct and a lot of very liberal black and Hispanic kids were involved, according to Rodney.

However, whilst Rodney and Ruben had finally come up with a name, the house were not so keen. “I couldn’t get it done while I was here – I tried to for three semesters and nothing changed, nothing changed,” Rodney said. Like with many motions of today, They were hindered by the ‘two thirds’ rule, where two thirds of the house was required to vote in favour for a motion to pass.

However, in 1987, over a year after Rodney moved out, there was finally a breakthrough.

Rodney described the phone call he received after moving back home:

"What happened is – a guy named Mark Kober, Joy Perez and a bunch of other people pushed it through the house and everyone was into it – once I left everyone was into it because it was too closely identified with me. They took it to CO, they took all the paper work that said Ridge Project and swapped it all out for CZ and then they went to the Board and said they wanted to change the name and then they had to fight the Board and the Board passed it, so when the Board passed it they called me up."

Whilst the house was renamed Casa Zimbabwe, Rodney recalled that no one had shortened it to CZ at that point.



## The 1980s and the power of Board.

As it is today, the number of representatives each house was allowed to send to the Board of Directors was based on house size. Rodney described Board as being dominated by the larger houses with CZ having two Board reps, and Cloyne and Barrington both having three. Recalling the power dynamics of managers in the house, he said, "the (Board) reps here were the most powerful as it was the fewest amount of people with the most power in the house."

In 1984, the year Rodney was President of the USCA, Czars held almost every office of Board with Paul Turley as Vice President and Robert "Bob" Bonneau as AdCom Chair to name just a few – "We ran as a slate, and we won as a slate," Rodney said.

In the 1980s, a minority affairs board also existed, separate from the Board of Directors. Its purpose was to act as an advocate for minority members with problems. Rodney was Chairman of this Board for a period whilst he lived in CZ.

## Race in the Project.

Again, the proximity of the house to Evans Hall affected the diversity of members in the Project. Many were engineers, who had come straight from Asia to study at Berkeley. Asian (mostly, male) students made up a third of the house, and alongside the black students, they were generally more serious studiers than the white population of the house who were a bit of a "mish mash."

Rodney mentioned that the house lacked black students though, with only three living there when he moved in. His reasoning for the lack of black students was that, "the problem was that for most black kids, for black women, the place was just too dirty." However, in his penultimate year, the number of black students had increased, and many took over house management positions with the aspiration of cleaning the house up.

Once again, idealism about what the house could be like had returned as a feature of house culture. "There ended up being like 15 of us and so we took over all the house positions, we decided to run everything – House Manager, Kitchen Manager, Social Manager, Workshift Manager... it was going to be cleaner and the food was going to be better and everything was just going to be better as the black folks were running it," Rodney said. "It wasn't quite that way but we tried."

## The creation of the 'co-op junkie.'

Coming into the 1980s, the house kept its laid back "hippie throwback" feel, attracting those who'd had enough of the dorms, did not understand the Greek system and could not afford their own apartments. The retention rate was about 60 percent with many new members still holding aspirations to move to co-op apartments and who would be gone once they had acquired two points.

Despite a more studious feel there were always a core group of were very into the social culture and less into school. "It was a and I was part of that group, I co-op that, co-op everything – Rodney said. "I don't know still call it that but that's it then and I was a total co-op

**"It was going to be cleaner and the food was going to be better... as the black folks were running it."**

to the house, partiers, who of the house nice sentiment was co-op this, co-op junkie," whether you what we called junkie."

The presence of 'fish' (unofficial members) were also a given in this period, although Rodney believes the actual term, 'fish,' did not come into regular use until the early 1990s. The presence of 'fish' was rarely, if ever controversial, as Central Office did not know about the extra residents, and during this period, the relationship between the house and CO was considered un-amicable by the students who lived in CZ, who considered CO staff old and out of touch.

In comparison to other houses such as Barrington, CZ was seen as a tamer house, despite several attempts by members to create a wilder reputation. "(One girl) rode through on a motorcycle, through a party, nude – people were just trying to do weird stuff, they're kids, everyone's trying to do weird stuff," Rodney recounted. Whilst it was acknowledged that, during this period, everyone did drugs to some degree, the house members, as Berkeley students, did care about school and were nerds.

As in earlier times, Ridge Project continued to provide a community full of support, both for members inside the house and members of the USCA at large. In 1984, when a tragic event shook the co-op community, with Lothlorien house member, Roberta 'Bee Bee' Lee, kidnapped and later killed, members of Ridge Project were up at Loth the first day, to help post missing person flyers.

Other issues that concerned the house were violence, whether marijuana should be grown on the roof, and how councils should be run. For example, should motions simply pass or fail by the number of votes or should there be a consensus? There was a fear that certain members of the house, particularly those who had Board experience, and understood how the system worked, were a little too good at manipulating councils and the passing of motions. The result of the creation of consensus (two thirds) rule was that it made council slower but more people got a vote. However, the system was not perfect, as members who wanted a motion passed would just pack a council with their friends in the house.

**"They're Berkeley students... we were nerds, I don't care how cool we tried to act or how co-opish people tried to be. They're nerds."**



Dedication Ceremony, 1956.



State Legislators visit RP, 1968.



Intramural team, late 60s.

## Drugs ‘n’ Raves: a dangerous culture and a deteriorating house.

The 1990s saw a period of decline in the upkeep of CZ as a rave culture began to storm the house. With a number of people into electronic music, moving into the house, the house got a reputation locally for holding all night raves three to four times a year. However, unlike out of house parties today, the house did not benefit financially from the raves as essentially, the house was rented off to outsiders who would throw the parties, complete with pill testing booths outside, with the money often being pocketed by a few lone house members, meanwhile much of the house got damaged as the parties got out of hand, according to Kyle, resident 1999-present.

During the late 90s, the retention rate was only about 20 percent, according to Greg, resident 1999-2003. The rave culture attracted a number of drug users as members, with Greg recalling a number of ‘tweakers’ (Speed addicts) living there at the time. Hallucinogenics were also popular, according to Sean, resident Spring 1996, with members on ‘shrooms likely to be sprawled across tables in common space.

However, whilst the houses did not seem to hold onto its members for very long, Sean, who lived in the house for only one semester in 1996 reckons that house members at that time shared an especially tight knit community, reflected by the fact that triples were the most popular rooms in the house. Indeed, in their first semester, Sean, and two other new members were all able to acquire single rooms.

As always, CZ harboured a few interesting characters, including one memorable student who would write to companies such as Skittles, for no particular reason, always claiming a non existent position that would somehow be linked into CZ, such as C.E.O of Casa Zimbabwe society. According to Sean, his fictitious titles often paid off as he would receive coupons back from the companies he wrote to!

Unfortunately, the house, was also shrouded by some darker events in this period, including several armed robberies, following a few months where the doors would not lock, and in 1995, there was the death of one house member from a fatal fall out of a house window.

The circumstances surrounding the girl’s death, were at first murky, as rumours swirled about how

She had come to have fallen out of her bedroom window, according to Sean, who moved in the semester following her death and experienced some eerie behaviour on his corridor. Sean's room was one of three singles in a row on the 200s, the floor on which the girl had lived. Her room was believed to be 204.

"I got put into the room overlooking the garage – the window was straight in the middle and would open out fully. An eccentric neighbour had turned his closet into a grow room. (One night) I heard tapping on the wall. I tapped back. Next day I asked him about it. He was like "I'm not your neighbour. That's the dead room." He showed me the room in between ours and there was black paint dripping off the wall. A mouldy pumpkin sculpture too."

The eccentric floor mate told Sean about what had happened in the room, and shocked and disbelieving, Sean felt he had to check the story out. However, people in the house were mostly unwilling to speak about the tragic event, as there was a belief that her parents might sue, because of the over large windows.

## BAY AREA REPORT -- EAST BAY / Police Say UC Student's Death Was Accidental

November 02, 1995

Berkeley -- The death of a student who apparently fell 30 feet from a second-floor window of a cooperative near the University of California at Berkeley appears to be an accident, police said yesterday.

The body of Erin Shufelt, 20, was found shortly before 7 p.m. Monday in a concrete loading dock at Casa Zimbabwe in the 2400 block of Ridge Road, authorities said. She was pronounced dead about a half-hour later.

Shufelt was a junior from Michigan, according to university and coroner's officials.

News brief  
taken from  
SF Gate,  
San  
Francisco  
Chronicle,  
1995.

# CZ 1966.- 1999

## Breaking it down:

# The evolution of workshift and the management.

## 1960s

Right from the beginning, all house members were expected to carry out five hours of workshift. Workshifts were listed under certain categories – such as kitchen, clean up, and bathroom, according to Ken, and workshifters would have to report to a specific manager to be signed off their shift.

Whilst most house members would complete their workshift, with some even willing to do more than they were allocated, Ken acknowledged that some did get lazy, particularly as “a student with a social life.”

Back then, manager meetings would only be held twice quarterly and manager positions that existed in 1968, according to Ken, included House Manager, Custodial Manager, Workshift Manager, Food/Kitchen manager, Social Manager, Communications Manager (in charge of the switchboard) and Mailroom Manager. It was also in this year that the house elected its first president.

During his time in the house, Louis was Garden Manager and he remembers planting the bushes on the sidewalk outside the house that still exist today. Having visited the house more recently, he describes the original garden/courtyard area as containing a larger stretch of grass. He was disappointed to see the garden was in decline when he visited.

Rami also held a manager position, as the house's Workshift manager in 1967, and said this was the first time he witnessed the break down of the co-op system.



Rami fined members who missed shifts but recalled that this did not deter all persistent offenders. "One guy's dad was a Hollywood director, so very wealthy, so he just skipped his shift," Rami said. "So I called his father and his son never missed a workshift after that."

Indeed, after their initial year in Ridge Project, many members' idealistic aspirations for how they wanted Ridge Project to be had come crashing down. "I think there was sort of a disappointment – we were going to be good and neat and clean – we were very idealistic and then reality stepped in," Louis said. "People got fined and didn't show interest – (but) there was a small number of people who wanted to make things better."

Furthermore, as the years progressed, 'graft and corruption' positions began to spring up, according to Rami, where a member would hold a five-hour position but had nothing to do.

## 1970s

In the 1970s, house councils were still not yet weekly. House members were also not required to complete a set of bathroom cleaning shifts per semester, a task that remained an assigned workshift.

One of the most important and 'workshifter consuming' shifts was the house switchboard. This was situated in a very small room (demolished in the retrofit) next to the front door. Being phone operator was a very fun shift, where operators would even write down messages and put them in the mailboxes of residents, who were out at the time of a call. However, it was also a position that could be abused! Sometimes operators would prank people by connecting phone calls to another room. "I was the operator and sometimes I'd eavesdrop or cut people off if I didn't like them," Cathy said.

Julian became Communications Manager in 1975 and oversaw the operation of the switchboard, an important house service, which allowed house members to make and receive phone calls. The hours of operation of the switchboard were from approximately 4pm – 11pm, hours, which were designed to fit in with when members were done with classes for the day. The switchboard would only be operated earlier by request. Local calls were paid for by the house but long distance calls were not, which is why having a house switchboard was required – to keep track of costs house members were running up on the phone.

"I remember it being a lot of detailed work – mainly reconciling the log sheets with the bills, but because they did the work well, it ended up being less work than for my predecessor," Julian said. "Local calls were put on monthly bills but long distance calls were itemised."

By 1979, at Ridge Project, the phone company had begun tracking all the billing, which was amazing technical progress, according to Julian. In comparison, at Cloyne, every call still had to be priced and bills were filled out for each person for every shift. It was a job that required timing each long distance call and calling the operator current price per minute!

Not all work shifts or positions required as in-knowledge as the switchboard, it was in this decade that management position directly related to alcohol was created. The Beer Manager was responsible for the beer fridge, possessing the key access it.

Furthermore, whilst a Custodian/Housekeeping Manager existed, there was not yet a Waste Reduction Manager, as the house did not yet recycle. However, good placement of garbage cans ensured that Ridge Project never got as filthy as some LA co-ops that Laura had experienced.

By now, rent subsidies had started being provided for a select few manager positions that were considered full time jobs. These positions were all elected and included the House Manager, the Workshift Manager, the Kitchen Manager and the Maintenance Manager. As a gesture of gratitude, the house usually voted to give these managers a bonus at the end of each semester, which was usually between \$75 – 150.

Laura was a Kitchen/Food Manager but recalled how back in the 1970s Ridge Project was not held up to as high health standards as it is today with no regular kitchen inspections or a health code to follow. "Once I had a grad student who saw a mouse – he caught it but caught it by whacking it against the wall. It was dead but stuck on the wall."

The positions still house's addition positions late a House kitchen assistants, a workshift assistant, maintenance assistants and a chef for each day of the week, each of which earned five hours of workshift a week.

**"The newly created Beer manager was responsible for the beer fridge..."**

manager depth for example, the first related to newly created for the beer needed to

**"As a gesture of gratitude, the house usually voted to give these managers a bonus at the end of each semester, which was usually between \$75 – 150."**

other manager were unpaid but fulfilled the weekly workshift requirement. In to the manager established in the 1960s, there was now Secretary, two



Jay was Workshift Manager for five quarters (UC Berkeley used the quarter system until 1982). Back in the pre-internet days, Jay would compile everyone's workshift, by hand, on a big blueprint master schedule that took about a day to produce. Each person would fill out a questionnaire that showed their schedule and listed three job preferences and shifts would be assigned based on seniority.

Some parts of Jay's job were unexpected. For example, he began to give voluntary demonstrations on how to clean the bathroom at the start of each semester after finding people frequently went overboard on cleaning the bathrooms. "I think I got elected repeatedly because people liked clean bathrooms – again, who knew?"

Punishment for a blown workshift was a \$7.50 fine per hour, but as Jay recalled, he rarely enforced this as it was not considered necessary. However, Julian recalled a harsher punishment system, as Communications Manager – recalling that one frequently absent workshifter was docked seniority points for blowing his shift off. Julian was also not a fan of how switchboard operators were traditionally picked – by seniority, so when he got the position; he decided to choose operators based on their ability instead.

## 1980s

The clearly, very important position of Beer Manager, would be re-invented as the Beverage Manager, come the 80s, whose sole responsibility was to keep the beer fridge stocked. The fridge operated on a trust based system – "(members) just took a beer and (you) put your name and put a little dash mark next to your name – I loved it," Rodney recalled. Whilst the beer fridge only lasted till 1985 due to concerns about underage drinking, it would return in various guises over the next two decades.

During the '80s, murals also began to appear around the house, with people's artwork spreading from just their doors to the neighbouring walls. Whilst, the house's first 'alleged' mural (the 'Dark Side of the Moon' Pink Floyd album cover, released 1973) cannot be traced back to an exact date, the walls were beginning to become more colourful towards the end of the 70s. However, back then (due to partly the lack of murals), there was no council approval needed for new murals nor was there a Home Improvement Manager.



The first mural, year painted unknown,  
Album cover by Pink Floyd

## 1990s

During the '90s, a couple of new 'easy' manager positions came into existence as following tradition, older members tired of workshift. For example, the newly established Vice President's sole responsibility was to maintain the speaker's list at Council, a position for which he or she would receive five hours a week.

The Beverage Manager of the '80s also evolved into the Keg manager, who would receive five hours a week for fetching and returning kegs. However, despite this position being supposedly easy to fulfill, Greg recalled, "the Keg Manager wasn't even that good – he wasn't reliable, he wouldn't return the kegs and we'd lose the security deposit."



The Dinner Line mural-painted by a resident for workshift in 1994. No longer in existence by the mid 2000s.

# CZ 1966.- 1999 Breaking it down:

## Structuring of house space-what CZ USED to look like.

1960s

A key feature of Ridge Project's architectural design was that there would be lots of centrally located common space available for the members. The 'dining room' of the 1960s house was little different in comparison to today's common room, as it remains the focal point of the house where members gather to eat, chat and relax. However, in the 60s, the room was mainly furnished with just circular tables and chairs – it was just as much a place to eat and study as to socialise. The room below the common room offered another space for czars to hang out with several couches and a fireplace, and in a room just off the red room (currently part of CO), a small alcove existed as the tv/stereo room.

Indeed, in the very beginning, no specific room was assigned for studying nor did Ito's Lounge exist. So what was the function of the rooms on the top floor of both wings? According to Louis, they were the 'Penthouses,' two rooms with floor to ceiling windows simply left for the house members to do with what they chose. At first, little furniture existed – there were simply pillows on the floor. In later years, a few lounge chairs were moved up there, allowing for another study area.

House entrance. Downstairs common space.





One of the Penthouse rooms.

The open plan downstairs common space.

Circa 1966.

And what of the current guest room, situated on the 40s floor? It appears that 'room' had as much a sketchy past as it did in the mid 2000s when it earned the nickname, the 'Fish Balcony'. Nicknamed the 'Love Room,' Louis recalled that members could sign up for the room, thus allowing for men and women to get past the otherwise segregated wings. The room was supposedly located in the men's wing, making the little alcove on the 40s the most likely spot for the room.





Like today, house members enjoyed constructing their own furniture – but their projects were designed to be more simple and functional – and according to Louis, some members were paid to put together plywood for the beds, wardrobes and bookshelves that furnished the bedrooms.

### ***A CZ with no colour???***

However, perhaps, the most shocking difference for today's house members is that no murals existed in the Project when it first opened, nor did any painting occur in the first few years. Instead of multi coloured, incredibly busy walls, czars of the 60s (and throughout the 70s) were greeted by plain white walls. "(There was) no artwork, I recall, on the walls, except for maybe the dining room and the downstairs part where there was a desk right behind the front door – there were flowers and stuff, it looked welcoming," Ken said.



# 1970s



Continuing into the 1970s, most of the house walls and ceilings remained bare with just a little bit of painting appearing in the hallways – most common, were people painting their doors, according to Laura.

"It was still very clean and new – yellow walls with a brown trim around," Julian said. "But in people's rooms it was a totally different story – lots of people painted their rooms, had stuff up and people brought in their own furniture." In his first room, 314, Julian and his roommates decorated their room by shingling the walls and putting up mirrored tiles.

More old furniture, often couches and chairs, also began to appear in the Penthouses, and these rooms became more multifunctional, as the addition of more furniture allowed for them to become alternate study areas as well as places for heavy partying. This is also believed to be the first time the house acquired a pool table – and this pool table would become the first of many in the 10s Penthouse, which soon became christened the 'Pool Room'.

The roofs, themselves, still had little furniture on them – with furniture only being carted up to the 100s roof for parties.

Marijuana was also grown on the roofs from time to time, and Cathy described the rooftops as a favourite location for overnight events. The roofs, the Penthouses and the common room remained popular spaces for socialising, although, according to Julian, no one went in the downstairs lounge (today's red room) or the courtyard.

While there was no confirmation about the continued existence of a 'love room' on the 40s floor – there was a new room people could sign up to use. This was Heidi's room. Still in the format of a private apartment, but with no resident Housemother, Heidi's room provided a comfortable space for guests and Julian remembers that there was always a special deal to get the room, for example, there would be a strange task to complete or a lottery would be held.

By the mid 1970s, the floors and bathrooms had become totally desegregated with the first co-ed room bid being placed in 1980 by Julian, who, in his second year in the house chose to split a room with a female friend, who he described as "one of the best roommates I ever had – she never borrowed money and was always considerate." At room bids, whilst the House Manager was a bit surprised by their choice, after initially questioning their decision, no fuss was caused by the assignment of the house's first co-ed room.

## 1980s

*"It wasn't because we were trying to be green... we wanted hot water." - Rodney ('82)*

During this decade, there were a couple of new house innovations – this included the upgrading of the kitchen (see the food section), the installation of the first solar panels in the USCA and most importantly, the arrival of CZ's first hot tub!

Today, one of the things the BSC is best known for is its commitment to sustainability, a value, which is very well physically demonstrated, with many large solar panels on top of several of their properties. However, when Ridge Project became the first Berkeley co-op to have solar panels installed (circa 1985), it had nothing to do with environmental concerns. It was simply because residents were fed up of having cold showers, according to Rodney, who was USCA President at the time of the installation. "What you can't imagine is that the showers used to be really cold here because you couldn't afford (warm water) so everyone took showers at the same time until we got (the panels)." Whilst the panels were very expensive, much of the

money needed for the panels was funded by the State. According to Rodney, the panels, which sit on the 100s roof today, are the same ones that were put up in the 80s.

The hot tub was also a major expenditure for the house, this time, one funded by house members fulfilling extra shifts down at CO and CK, which made it possible for the house to earn extra money. With around \$5000 now spare in the house account, the house members decided to purchase a hot tub. The hot tub purchased seated eight, more than CZ's current hot tub but the location of it was not so ideal. Having had it dropped off by truck in the front courtyard, the czars never got around to moving it, resulting in it being the first thing many new members and their parents saw on move-in day. Adding to the spectacle of a hot tub in the front yard, the house also enforced a strict 'no clothes allowed' policy in the tub, as clothing fibres would be bad for it, causing extra foam.

Recalling his first encounter as a manager with several sets of parents, Rodney said:

"I'm sitting there in the hot tub and all my friends are sitting in the hot tub and we're just nude and... these people would bring their little daughters from Iowa who got into Berkeley and they'd heard of the co-ops saving them money and here's your house manager getting out of the tub... I'm nude, I'm this big black guy and drunk, I'm surprised anyone showed up at the house, I'm surprised we didn't lose all the women in the house."

As well as providing a somewhat uncomfortable first impression for members' parents, the hot tub, put together by house members, was also a major safety hazard. The tub had been set up wrong, wired wrong, and frequently water would go sloshing over the side onto electrical items. "10 co-ops dead by hot tub, y'know?" Rodney said. "And we just didn't pay attention to (the wiring), we could all have died."

Whilst the house got a hot tub, members refused to purchase a foosball table, although Rodney made the argument they already had a Ping Pong table, which was larger, in the common room. The common room, itself, still had many of the round tables it opened with in the 60s, along with one or two rogue couches. In the centre of the room, there was also one long table with captains' chairs. Steam tables were also a feature of the outer kitchen, with the sinks placed further to the left, under the current dish cupboards (all changed in the retrofit).

Also, since the retrofit, many of the older murals were demolished. Back in the day, it was music themed murals that were a common feature in the house, in particular ones with a Grateful Dead or a Pink Floyd influence. "The most distinctive mural that's missing is a Grateful Dead mural – I mean there were a lot of Grateful Dead murals, motifs in the day because it was when Jerry Garcia was still alive and a lot of people were very

into the Grateful Dead, followed them around and all that stuff from when they first came to the Greek," Rodney said.

Upstairs, the room on the top of the 10s side still maintained a pool table, alongside a bar, although not the current one. The room was still, also, all windows.

**House solar panels, installed in the 1980s, still functioning today.**



## 1990s

By the late 90s, the number of murals being painted in the house was increasing, but it was estimated that between 30 – 50 percent of wall space in the house was still blank with room for more murals, according to David. The house also still had a hot tub, one that seated 4-6 people, in the back courtyard.

One memorable feature of the house was a soda machine, but like many things in CZ this wasn't your typical vending machine. As well as stocking soda, if you were to put in 35 cents and press the out of order button, a Muller beer would come out.

CZ 1966.-  
1999

Breaking  
it down:

# Food.

1960s

The year Ridge Project opened, meals were provided from the new Central Kitchen situated below the house, which catered for all the co-ops. Lunches and dinners were provided throughout the week with breakfast, sometimes, also being made available. Food options for breakfast included breakfast rolls and sometimes eggs made to order. House members were expected to queue for breakfast but dinner would be brought out to members sitting at individual tables in the dining room by other house members.



Rami described the food as lacking in nutrients following his development of a Vitamin A deficiency, in his freshman year, from co-op food at Barrington Hall.

Ken worked in CK while living in the house and reflected on how people complained a lot about the main kitchen (CK) and the temper of the Head Chef. "I had the personal experience of having to work for that chef – and he was insane – and people would complain about him and they thought he was potentially violent as he'd act crazy and we didn't know whether it was serious or not."

While house members generally did not need to prepare meals as CK provided the majority of them, members were still allowed to prepare snacks in the kitchen during the 'off hours' but had to provide their own ingredients bar leftovers.



## 1970s

**“You definitely had to order Cap’n Crunch for finals week.” - Laura ('79)**

Laura was the Food/Kitchen Manager for a quarter, which she enjoyed, especially, as she got to order an inventory for the house. Even then, jars, as an alternative-drinking vessel were being used!

By the 1970s, Ridge Project no longer received the majority of their meals from Central Kitchen although food still went to the other co-ops, according to Julian, who worked in CK. Both dinner and breakfast were prepared in Ridge Project and dinner was served every night.

Training was provided for everyone who cooked and there were seven ‘chefs.’ The chefs got to make their own menus for the quarter and had five people in various shifts to prepare dinner and clean up.

A food-boarding program was also in existence by the late 1970s where outside students could eat at the Project for a quarterly fee. Usually, there would be 30 – 35 boarders each quarter prompting chefs to have to cook enough food for a potential 150 people.



Over the 1970s, the quality of the food in the house also seemed to improve. Cathy, who moved into Ridge in 1974, described the food as unhealthy with a lot of hamburgers, pasta and no vegetarian options. However, by 1979, when Jay moved in – there was a vegetarian menu and he described the food as “pretty good.”

## 1980s

The year 1980 saw a total revamp and upgrade of Ridge Project's kitchen, according to Laura. The new, larger kitchen featured big ovens, big refrigerators, upgrades to the grill service, and a 32 quart Hobart mixer.

However, providing healthy food was not a big priority for house members back in the 80s, with much 'junk' still being purchased from CO, according to Rodney. The most popular food staple was chicken (little has changed...) with it being served at almost every meal. Indeed, one prospective Food Manager promised "chicken this, chicken that, chicken catch yo' momma," Rodney recalled. She won and on her first day, chicken was served as promised.

By the 80s, the Food Manager and the Kitchen Manager were now two clearly defined separate jobs with the kitchen manager, responsible for the upkeep of the kitchen, in particular IKCs, and the Food Manager responsible for food orders, menu planning and supervising cook crews.

Dinner was also a more civilised affair than it is today. Large steam tables lined the edge of the outer kitchen, which kept the pans hot, and house members would queue for food. "Everyone lined up in line and that was a big social thing... and people would just sit there waiting and they'd go one at a time – (whereas) a mad dash for food – that's a Barrington thing."

For Special Dinner, house members would cook their own food as we do today. Besides Special Dinner, regular meals would sometimes have themes such as Italian night, Godfather night, Mexican, Japanese etc.

# 1990s

By the late 90s the variety of food and quality of the food service had fallen further into decline. "CZ had the worst food service (out of all the houses)." Greg said. "Cooks would make mac and cheese and brownie mix from a box (for dinner)."

Dinner themes were still popular though although the ideas behind them were simple and repeated regularly – burrito night, spaghetti night, another burrito night etc according to David, resident 1998–1999, who was on a cook crew. There was a lot less variety than there is today in the food offered with apples, oranges, and bananas being the only fruit available. There were no head cooks by the late 90s. In '99, the Food Manager's policy was to hoard money for Special Dinner, for which outside staff would be bought into fully cater the event, although the catering was still of a low standard. Food could be a prickly issue in all the co-ops as it can still be today (banana gate, spring '11, anyone?) with, in Kingman, hours being spent in their house council discussing the merits of Chik Patties, according to David.



Residents queue  
up for dinner.  
Circa 1993.

CZ 1966.-  
1999  
Breaking  
it down:

# The Social Calendar.

1960s

"We were all really big Cal fans - there was a lot of school spirit. We were very into sports - we'd all go down to the stadium in a big mass and all be really disappointed when we lost." - Louis ('66)

Czars of the late 1960s enjoyed a variety of social activities in the house – some which would be more surprising than others to today's members. Whilst this was the era of free love, psychedelics and great music, house members enjoyed other more school spirited activities less associated with the co-ops today.

In the late 1960s, Ridge Project had both a house soccer team and a house football team, both of which competed in intramural competitions.

"When I was there we won the intramural cup... but we were then disqualified because our players weren't from Ridge Project," Louis said. "It was only me and the goalie!"

A year or so later, a Ridge Project team legitimately won the intramural basketball cup.

The other big events that made up the social scene at the Project included regular band nights, with rock and roll being very big at that time, and keg parties every couple of weeks. Whilst many members enjoyed the parties, there were also many studious students who were not so welcoming to the partying culture evolving in RP. "They were noisy, rock 'n' roll, people playing records loud and the parties were at night time," Ken said, recalling some members' complaints. However, 10.30pm/11pm was the witching hour so all music had to stop by then. That was a house rule – bands had to stop playing by 11.

Ridge Project hosted a number of bands that would come and play on Fridays and Saturdays, and specifically on Saturday nights, all the other coops would be notified.



**Keg Party**

**Spring  
Banquet**

**Valentine's  
Party 1968**

**Egyptian  
themed  
Party**

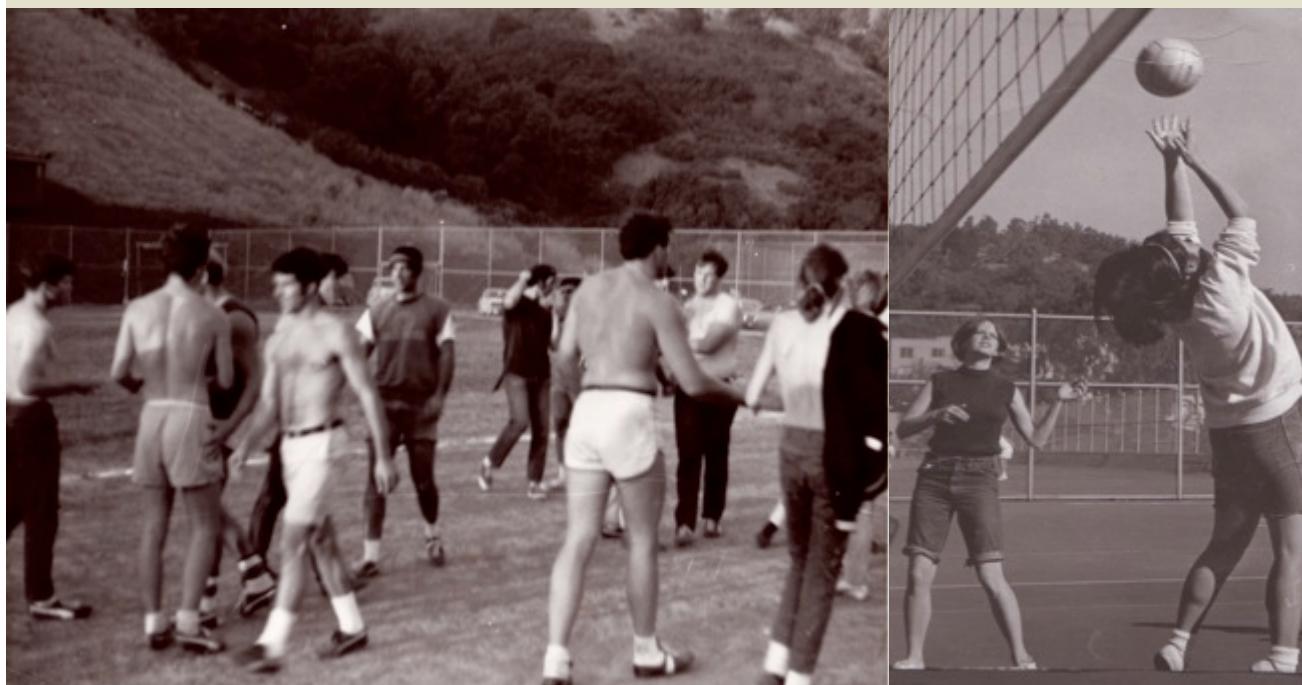
There was a particularly good Blues band, Charlie Musselewhite, that played frequently at the project. Tim, who played guitar, got 'in' on the band, when he could offer them the car they needed. Tim would later go onto play in the Robert Cray band that provided support for Cindy Lauper on her last album.

Band nights appear a precursor to out of house parties with Ken recalling how:

"All the girls would come, (it was) something crazy... but the thing was everything going on in the outside world was affecting everyone and I think at this time drugs were as common as coming over to my or your house and having a glass of wine. That's what it was like. Behind close doors but everyone was doing one thing or another... we were paying attention to school but sometimes it was really difficult at that time as you'd be walking across campus to go to class and the national guard were there firing tear gas at people."

LSD also became a popular past time in the house, that first year, after one girl started dating a guy, who was developing a huge reputation as a purveyor of top quality LSD. Free acid tablets were distributed around the house "like Tootsie Rolls at Halloween," according to Tim. "A common sight in those days before the furniture and stereo got stolen was a very, very high dozen or more house members dancing and crawling around the living room, stereo cranked up playing the

psychedelic ephemera of the moment – acid trips last a long time so these weekend soirees went on all night.”



## 1970s

**“Parties were spontaneous – no money charged. Kegs, drugs, brownies...” – Cathy ('75)**

The 1970s saw a move towards larger parties, some spontaneous and some organised. In an era where no Internet existed, house members needed less encouragement to interact, according to Laura, which meant it was hard for people to become isolated in their rooms. However, members still got their screen fix – Laura recalls that she never saw anything but soap operas on in the TV room.

By the 1970s, house members had lost interest in Cal Football, but would still gather in groups to go up to the Greek Theatre for concerts and other big events.

Due to Ridge Project's large size, the house had its own social manager whose role varied little from today – putting together parties. Events varied from the small and traditional such as ice cream socials, talent shows, and movie nights to parties where there would be five or six hundred people. “The location and the architecture were great for parties – great spectacle and great noise management,” Jay said, in an email. “We had bands and the entire kitchen was usually made into the bar – some parties were even profitable, depending on what was being offered.”



House photograph, year unknown.

The type of event most remembered by members from the 1970s was Special Occasion Dinners. There would be two fancy dinners each year on the roof, one in the Fall and one in the Spring, according to Murphy, where all the dining room furniture was dragged to the roof and dinner was served with wine. A house picture would be taken each spring with all the members piled up on the south end of the roof. Julian recalls that earlier on in the 1970s most events were not organised, however there would be dinners that would be tied into certain events such as MLK day, Civil Rights day and Veterans Day. By the late 1970s though, events would be organised roughly twice a month with themes such as western night. Halloween provided one of the biggest parties, which Jay recalled was "always so much fun."

## 1980s

1984 saw Ridge Project try a new style of house party – one that would evolve into the hugely popular Room 2 Room, which CZ now hosts at the start of each semester. Back then though; the ideal was a little simpler – with just a theme and drink per floor, rather than per room. One floor would often be the dedicated 'pot' floor too. "We started the Floor 2 Floor parties – so there'd be a different drink on every floor – we thought that was crazy, the first time we did it, everyone threw up," Rodney said.

Free movie nights, along with the introduction of a snack night also became popular after the Social Managers purchased the house's first VCR.

# 1990s

The dodgy financing of parties during the 90s would become such an issue, that by the early 2000s, it would provide a strong argument for a new manager position to be created – one who would be responsible for all house finances, Kyle said. Indeed, large amounts of money were spent on social events, so much so, that Sean, as a new member, was shocked at the scale of the spending in relation to the house's size. Very little money would go towards decorations, and as well as being loud and crowded with the common room and the kitchen overflowing, there was often an issue with security, especially as there was no large front gate as there is now. Indeed, Sean remembered one housemate losing his key early on in the semester and never replacing it.

Alongside 3 – 4 advertised raves a year, by the late 90s, a Special Dessert party was put on the social calendar as well as a 4/20 party. One year there was even a wedding involving two house members. Describing the 4/20 event, "They took all the money and rolled a joint for everyone – there were 127 joints," David recalled. "You came and checked your name off and picked up one."



Many bands would come and play at CZ over the years, including, allegedly, Green Day in the 1990s.

# CZ 1966.- 1999 Breaking it down:

## A co-op tradition: house rivalry

### 1960s

In the 1960s, while certain co-ops had rivalries, there was generally friendly feeling between houses. "On weekends with a lot of partying going on, people would come over and have dinner at each co-op – people tended to work together – (they) knew people from other houses," Ken said. "(However) Cloyne and Stebbins had something going on between the men and the women – (Cloyne) painted three green hands on Stebbins. It's supposed to be a giant, sort of looking in on the women – sort of a joke about invading their privacy. They laughed about it."

A friendly rivalry with Ridge Project's next-door neighbour, Ridge House, was also soon created with Louis remembering a giant water balloon fight they had with Ridge house. Ridge Project, undoubtedly, had the upper hand with the use of water hoses.

### 1970s

During the 1970s, rivalry between Ridge Project and other co-ops was relatively non-existent, according to Laura, who described each co-op as being very separate with distinct personalities. No one was interested in playing fraternity style pranks.

Meanwhile, Ridge Project's relationship with its neighbour, Ridge House, also dwindled with house members seeing Ridge, which was an all male house in the 1970s, as odd, thus members rarely talked with ridgelings.

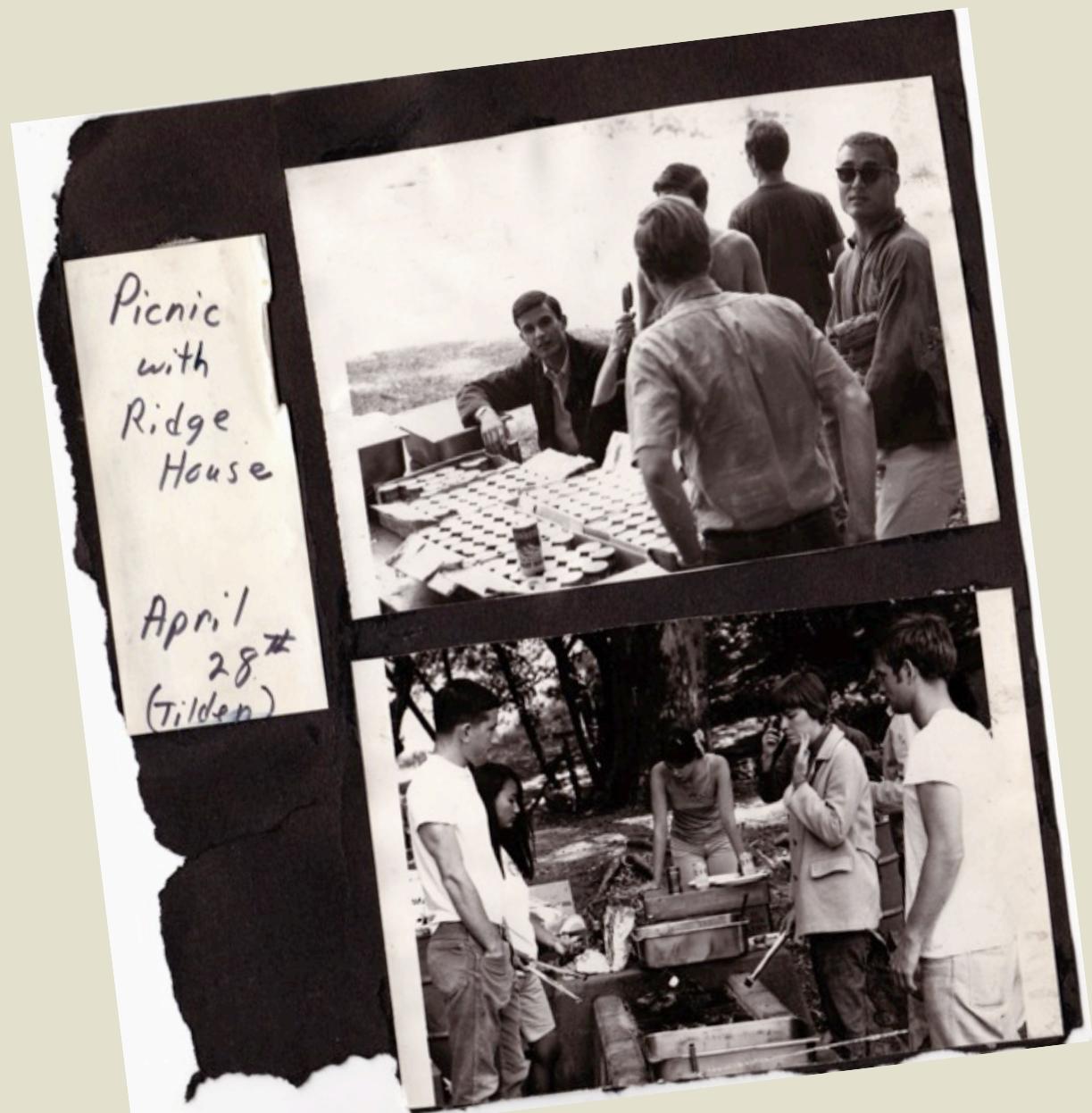
### 1980s

A laid back rivalry continued with Ridge House, with occasional fights in hallways and an egg throwing contest. In regards to the other houses – members of Cloyne and Ridge Project would attend each other's parties. However, the house was generally not a big fan of Cloyne. In comparison, the atmosphere at Barrington was much more enjoyable – however, whilst members

there, especially during a period when many up and coming punk bands were passing through, the house's culture was a little too destructive for any czars to want to move there.

## 1990s

With Barrington closed down, CZ and Cloyne were the only really large houses left, so a little rivalry was natural. However, this rivalry would not be played out to its full extent until the 2000s, with members in the 90s generally content to keep any house competitiveness to Broomball matches between the houses.



Maintaining friendly relations with Ridge House, 1966-69.

# CZ 1966.- 1999 Breaking it down:

A timeless co-op  
obsession with music - it  
started with the Grateful

# Tradition VS Technology

From the very beginning, music was a big part of life in the Project with sweet tunes coming from every room. What did people listen to in the house before Dubstep? Well, the 1970s was the time of Eric Clapton, The Grateful Dead and Sleep with Mac.

As well as people listening to music, members used to go downstairs and jam on the piano (some of the pianos that exist today are the same as the ones from the 1970s). Julian performed in the house talent show with friends after many piano jamming sessions but found that the talent show led to the death of their innovation after so much rehearsing.

As the house moved into the 80s a battle ensued between Soul music and the Grateful Dead along with other 60s favourites. However, as a group of punks moved into the house, punk music became popular too.

A technological revolution...

1980s – In the outside world, a tv revolution was happening, with people now being able to watch pre-recorded programmes on VHS tapes. The TV in the house, was a 'Beta,' back then the main rival to the VCR. In the end, the Beta lost and the social managers wisely invested in a VCR for movie nights.

The switchboard system, which had existed since the beginning, was also beginning to grind on the house management, as it could never be run smoothly because of the house's turnover, as well as billing issues between roommates. The switchboard also starved the house of a huge amount of workshift hours, and hours equalled money, even then, making the switchboard a costly operation – "half the house's workshift hours were just running the dammed phone system."

In the end, the switchboard had to go – and it was disconnected in 1985/86, and according to Rodney, it was

In the end, Rodney said, the diversity of the house, meant that everything had to be played and little has changed since.

the first house with a switchboard in the USCA to do so.

With the 90s came the rise of the Internet but because these were the days of 'modem and dialup' it was only around 1999 that Ethernet was beginning to be installed in the house. "It was a big deal, a huge project, David said. "People were like – Ethernet, what's that?"

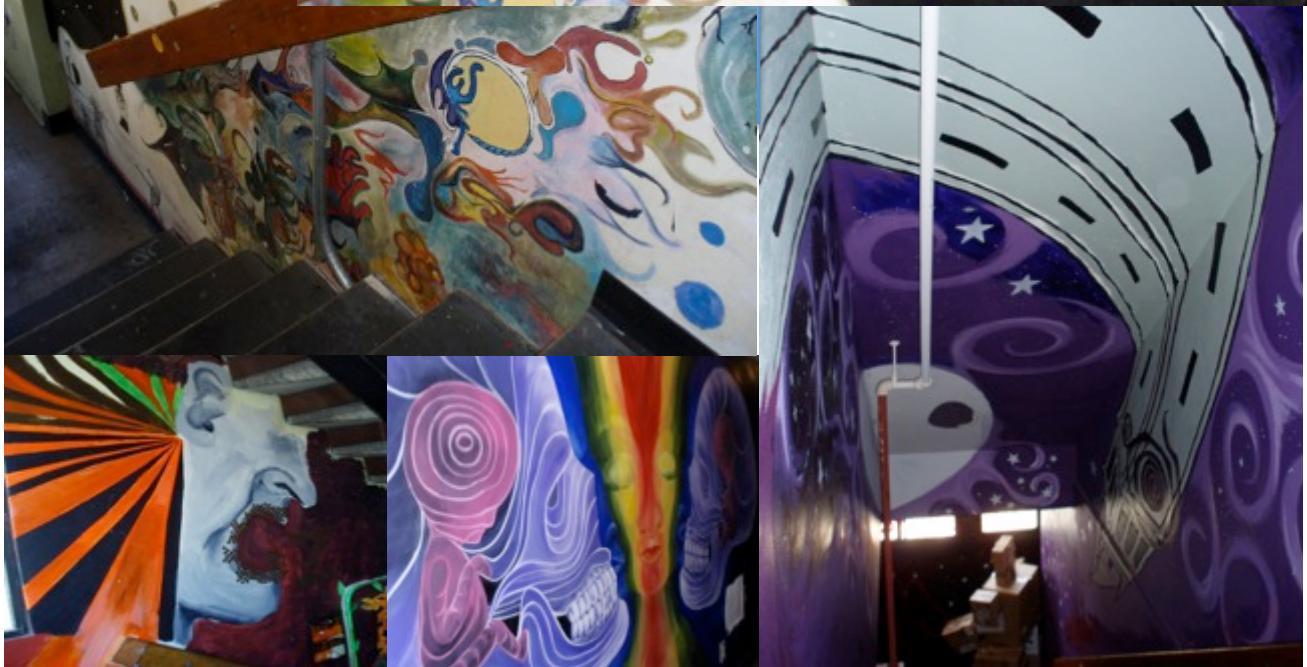


The Grateful Dead,  
performing at the  
Berkeley Greek  
Theater, May 1982



## Part II:

2000-2009,  
reviewing  
the last  
decade.



## A new millennium, a new era?

**“There was something about all these people working in concert, enabling and empowering each other to make the house a better place.” Greg ('99)**

In CZ, the new millennium, brought hope for change, but also a well-entrenched resistance against it. The house had the lowest square footage per person in the USCA, according to Greg, and unsurprisingly, the retention rate was low, only about 20% with people living there a maximum of three semesters. With a flea problem too, it was not somewhere people viewed as their home. Indeed, even the house manager (circa 2001) was a disturbing sight for parents moving their children in. Six months pregnant, the House Manager, Kelly, would greet newbies in a halter-top, mini skirt and heels, smoking while giving them a house tour. Truly representative of the ‘old guard’ of house members, she was symbolic of what the house had got away with in the 1990s, but would no longer be acceptable behaviour come 2001.

Thus, the period between 2001 – 2004 ushered in a great sweep of change with the bylaws being rewritten, a stricter workshift policy being created, rooms being remodelled, occupancy being decreased, the food order being revamped, but most importantly, with a strong management team, a whole house was encouraged to take pride in their co-op, as never before. “People didn’t have the ‘this is my co-op’ mentality when I moved in,” Greg, a former Workshift Manager said. “It was really fun watching this culture evolve... it was one of the things we had over Cloyne.”

The change of course, was partly due, to who made up the membership at the time. In the early 2000s, the house catered to a larger number of working class students, Cookie recalled. These were the type of people who had a number of practical skills, such as carpentry or auto-mechanics, and who were willing to put in the hard graft.

## Article taken from the CZine, the second edition of the house magazine, published Fall 2002.

CZ is blessed with mostly an above-average managerial crowd. But none of the recent Czars seem to have fully grasped the intricacies of the position; none of them have internalized house-managerdom. That is why I bring you:

### How to be a House Manager Lessons learned from Kelly Bukholdt (circa 2001)

For starters, a house manager does not have to be bound by Bylaws and Council. Smoking a cigarette in the kitchen while emptying a can of tuna juice into the compost is any house manager's right, if not an explicit duty.

Secondly, a H.M. must take the manager evaluations very seriously. This includes not only taking every comment written deeply and personally, but using your own knowledge of the house and your network of friends to infer who every manager evaluation came from. Only then can you achieve that face-to-face contact with your accuser that allows for conflict resolution to take place. This is no easy feat: with 127 members, such detective work requires a true understanding of the membership.

Next, provide the house with pets. An average Czar fears humans and human contact, so giving three of your kittens to the 300s floor is an excellent idea as it provides not only companionship but undeniable proof that life will find the way to survive through even the most adversarial of conditions.

And lastly increase house occupancy by getting yourself pregnant (or someone else, if you are reproductively disadvantaged). Kelly saw this as no reason to stop wearing any of her skimpy outfits – the Bee blue crop-top with chains, the leopard everything, the Black Pleather everything, the Cat, enormous boots and little butterflies in hair. This only improved her managerial superpower to kick out sketchers.

Enjoy this and learn from Kelly. Even as all the facts are true, any meanness is unintended – Kelly was a spice to the house and ran it well in a difficult time.



A larger proportion of the membership would also be students from Berkeley Community College than in the latter half of the decade, when the USCA started advertising on the UC Berkeley campus. However, an "intellectual big kid culture" as a description fit the house well throughout the decade, as the average member could be described as being "smarter than even Berkeley kids but a step too weird," according to Andrei.

# Long Live Krackistan! CZ declares its independence.

Come 2001, house members were once again growing restless with their current house name, and a motion was proposed, several times at council, to rename the house Krackistan. The name came from a song called 'Necaphelia Ain't Even A Crime' written by house member, Will Robey. Finally, Robey would give a speech at council, describing the nation of Krackistan as an alliance of people – those who did Crack and those who did not. The speech was ironic, as no one used that drug in the house at the time, although the speech was funny enough for the new house name to pass. The name, however, never became official beyond CZ's walls, having got vetoed by Board, although 10 years later, it is still a term used to refer to the house.

Whilst it is genuinely believed that the new house name never got imprinted on anything more elaborate than house clothing and the house 'zine, in the foundations of the VLSB on campus, the phrase, "Protectorate of the nation of Krackistan," can be found. It was actually blown into the concrete rafters with a blowtorch, according to one former house member.

Furthermore, the Satsuma would also be proposed as the national fruit of Krackistan. However, the motion would fail at council, as one member pointed out that the Satsuma was an unreliable fruit, as sometimes it had seeds and sometimes it did not.

From then on though, a trend of re-naming objects, places, manager positions and people was sparked in the house. Andrei, a Russian house member, resident 2000-2004, would start the second wave, as the first member to propose renaming manager positions with perversions of the Russian Imperial ranking hierarchy. The position of Chief Germaine was born, where a house member was required to act as a house 'preventionalist.' The position was worth about half an hour's workshift, and was essentially custom made for one well-loved house member, nicknamed, 'Bop,' due to his tendency to 'bop' up and down. 'Bop' would give a report on his job every week at council, and was described as essentially being the house's mascot by Andrei.

## Democracy at work...

**"It was definitely eye opening seeing the way democracy works - this is a pretty small community, I mean it's big, but it's not a country nor is it only 10 people in the house." Billy ('02)**

Due to a massive amount of policy change, many bylaws would be re-written in the early 2000s, and much of this was credited to former house members, John Nishinaga and Charlie DeTar. However, as can be seen from the bylaws today, there are some that seem unnecessary, and are irrelevant to today's house. Too many house policies were being passed, and so a new policy was introduced, where all new policies would have to be written in rhyming couplets to be eligible to be added to the bylaws.

Democracy, in general, though, was considered another great achievement of the house, with tolerance levels and open mindedness amongst members being something that made the house unique, Ryan, resident 2005-2006 said.

Some things that passed through council were debateable though, with some members liking to push the boundaries of council. Rachael Kirk, former Food Manager, was a formidable perpetrator of pushing things through council because they were funny or cool, according to Justin, house resident 2007-2009. The purchase of a collection of "funny but creepy" ceramic gnomes to go round the house was passed at council circa 2008-2009. Two still survive. A pair of planters, shaped like gargoyles, were also taken to every council by Kirk until it passed. Still today, council is tainted by the purchase of the gargoyles, estimated cost \$1000, as they are brought up as justification every time someone wants to purchase a cheaper but equally bizarre item.



However, despite the house being very mature in some matters, they were still very immature in dealing with other things. When the tennis courts were removed from the Parking Garage in 2003, a change that unsettled members, due to construction starting at 6am, Austin, resident 2002-2005, recalled, flaming couches and broken bottles were thrown off the roof when the builders were off duty. Things came to a height one morning, when the 'big, burly' builders returned to find that their diggers had been re-painted pink overnight, and there was nothing they could do about it. The throwing of water balloons off the 100s roof towards unsuspecting people at Northgate, would also result in the Roof Ammendum being passed in Fall 2006, according to Rahele, resident 2006-2009. The Board and CO backed the decision prohibiting the dropping of items off the roof, following a complaint being made by a neighbour, whose disabled dog had been hit by a stray balloon.

The house council would also have to intervene in 2009 following an increased trend of glass breaking in the house. A new policy would be introduced, where for every bottle broken, the perpetrator would be fined an hour of workshift. Workshift hours would then multiply, the more bottles broken.

## A Changing Membership: the post-retrofit era. 2007 – 2009

While the retrofit would make the property more structurally sound, there were worries about what it would do to house culture, in particular, its effect on the atmosphere of the house. These fears stemmed from the already divisive culture that had re-formed in the house by 2005, with the house having removed itself into two distinct groups, Tiffany, resident 2005-present, remembered, with old czars and new members failing to integrate. Fall 2006, the last semester before the retrofit, would only see the divide become more pronounced. "A lot of older czars returned for one last hurrah, and pity to anyone who moved in that semester because we were all about preserving the old house vibe and not much into meeting newbies," Tiffany said, in an email. Whilst some more enthusiastic members returned to the house, a significant portion also departed for other houses early, feeling that the end had already come.

Spring forward eight months, and the house was ready for reopening. The new management team made more detailed preparations for the semester ahead than usual, knowing that re-integrating the house could provide a bit of a challenge. However, whether the retrofit had damaged the house long term, in terms of creating a worse social atmosphere, is something former members cannot fully agree on. On one hand, Joe, resident 2005-2009, the first Social Manager post-retrofit, believed that house culture was not irrevocably damaged as those who moved out to other co-ops brought new friends back with them and CZ was left with a great myriad of people.

On the other hand though, old members would certainly return and whine about what had been lost in the retrofit, some still seeing new members as inferior for having not experienced CZ pre-retrofit. The managers would do a good job of bridging the gap, recalled Justin, who moved in Fall 2007, the first semester after the retrofit.

The retrofit alone though could not be blamed for any cultural changes taking place in the house. The rent had increased steadily over the years, and alongside advertising on the UC Berkeley campus, the house was attracting a more mainstream group of people. "It's gone from being a necessity to being more of a lifestyle choice," Rahele said, describing what attracted people to the co-ops, rather than other student housing options. However, this was not necessarily a bad thing. The retention rate, which peaked in the mid 2000s at 70 percent, was still high, with the average member having 3-4 points, and members were now viewing the house as more than just a stopgap until something better came along.

However, something had shifted in the house culture from the earlier to the latter part of the decade. "During the "glory

"days" when we were punching above our weight at the board and remaking the culture and physical space of the house, we came to take for granted that there would always be around 40-70 members who had been in the house for years and knew how to do things," Cookie, resident 2001-2005, said in an email. "We did not educate the younger members very well and things were not as great as we had hoped when the house reopened." Thus, many members did not understand the need to be smart, how to play the system and maintain a united front to the outside world, although they still wanted the parties and the drug culture from earlier times.

In Cookie's era, new managers had been groomed to take over, working as apprentices for a year, doing IKC, helping out with the network, or generally just fixing things. However, by 2007, this had fallen to the wayside for most positions, Rahele said. "(Before) It was people who had skills – you earned your reason to be manager."



photos  
from the  
RETROFIT



# CZ 2000 - 2009

## Breaking it down:

# The evolution of workshift and house management.

Following a troubling decade for the house in the 1990s with CZ being regarded as a 'problem house' by the Board and Central Office, a small group of members who joined the house in the early 2000s took it upon themselves to turn the house around, improving the look, the feel, and the running of the house to attract new members and retain old members.

Greg, who became Workshift Manager in 2001, was one of those involved. Describing the dire workshift situation he was faced with when he became manager, he said, "The policy when I took over was a joke – the number of people who had between 30 – 60 hours down was absurd." To deal with this, he introduced a new policy, which stated that once members got down 10 or more hours, their fines would double. Whilst this meant that the house would gain monetarily from lazy workshifters, the policy change was more about safeguarding the house's functionality by preventing members from getting down hours, and house getting dirtier. As workshift manager, he also made a concerted effort to get the house on top of its workshift during temp periods, actively seeking out members to do jobs, something that had not been practise previously.

F.U.C.K parties (an intensive cleaning party at the end of each fining period) were also created in this period, to allow members to catch up on hours, and to clean parts of the house that were often bypassed by workshifters. Typically, they are timed to coincide with the largest parties, so there will always be a group of members to do the party clean up.

Despite Greg's changes, a few bizarre workshifts would re-appear by the mid 2000s, but none of these would prove as hour hungry or as permanent as 'grafting' positions from the earlier decades.

For example, a 'House Bitch' position was created whose role was essentially to raise objections in council. The member nominated was given a special red sash with 'House Bitch' embroidered in ornate gold lettering, Joe, a former House Bitch, said, and the position required two special qualities: firstly, the ability to tell people why they were wrong, using the

'bitchiest' rhetoric possible, and secondly, a good sense of humour. Ryan recalls that the position was created more for entertainment, than usefulness, as the workshifter only received half an hour a week for all his/her bitching. Indeed, one semester, a house Board rep was nominated as House Bitch and wore the sash to Board meetings with pride.

Another workshift anomaly was born out of a council meeting where a house member was up for termination as he was down at least 15 hours, Ryan recalled. As a frequent workshift offender, whose shift had even been changed to make it easier for him, members were annoyed. However, as a dealer in the house, he proposed to give a gram and a half of weed to every house member if he would not be fined or terminated. The house voted in favour of dropping his fining hours.

In the early 2000s naked councils were also established for the first time, following Andrei's election pledge (2004) that if he became President he would run councils naked. Andrei was elected and ran councils naked on a regular weekly basis. Naked council still survives today, only on a less frequent basis.

Overall, throughout the 2000s, the house had a generally strong management structure, although the pre and post retrofit period, between 2005 – 2007, had a few rocky patches due to manager fights, also known as 'house wars.' Several of these came about due to nasty breakups between management couples, with the biggest division of the house coming in the semester before the retrofit. The 'management problems' were blamed as one cause of the Apocalypse party, where house members ran through the house destroying everything (in a burning man fashion) knowing it would all destroyed in the retrofit anyway. The fact that such chaos occurred showed the next generation of czars how vulnerable the house could be if there are issues within the management team, and house wars have been few and far between since.

## The structuring of house space: rooms remodelled, and the retrofitting of the building.

This decade saw more, large house improvement projects completed by members than any other decade to date. The largest and most time consuming of these included the complete overhaul of the room below the common room (now the Red Room), the creation of Ito's Lounge out of the Penthouse room on the 10s side and more recently, the building of the Stripper Stage in the common room.

The house would also receive a seismic retrofit in 2006, which would prove controversial, due to what was deemed unnecessary destruction of murals, among other issues the

retrofit created. The house's capacity was also reduced from 127 to 124, meaning CZ no longer held the title for smallest amount of square feet per person in the USCA.

## The creation of the Red Room.



**The Red Room, today. ADA ramp installed during the Retrofit.**

**"As soon as it was red, it was the Red Room..." Andrei ('00)**

Until 2001, the room underneath the common room served as the TV room and was more of a place to pass out, than hang out. "It was dark," Cookie recalled, who described the whole downstairs of CZ as ugly and hideous when he moved in in 2001.

"The ceiling was coated in this thick weird plaster shit and the floor was gross, chipped tile." Many of the 'enormous trough-like' light fixtures in the room also no longer worked and a 30 inch television dominated the room, with the couches present all arranged in a fashion for the sole purpose of tv viewing.

The decision to transform the room came after the first series of plans for the later retrofit were announced. Originally, part of the retrofit was to include the "undertake of major remodelling" in the house, according to Cookie, who was a Board rep during this period. When it was realised that this was no longer part of the plan, two creative members, John Nishinaga and Charlie DeTar joined up with the HI Manager of the time, Becki Sanders, to plan their own complete remodel of CZ, all to be done in-house. Money for the remodelling came from rolled over funds in the HBAP account, and a large number of house members soon came on board to help with the project.

"The end result was a really beautiful room that became the new social focal point of the house," Cookie said.



The remodelling occurred in 2001 – 2002 during which members ripped out the floor, removed the ugly coating from the ceiling and one of the walls, and repainted the entire room a deep red. The new floor was polished and the original wood on the east-facing wall was exposed. The TV was disposed of and new furniture was acquired, including a pool



The Red Room, 2004



table. The room's layout would be tampered with a little during the retrofit though, and ten years of wear and tear have occurred since.

## The establishment of Ito's lounge.

**"You know there's a fish in there right?"**

The rooftop room on top of the 10s side of the house, known as one of the two 'Penthouse' rooms in the two earliest decades of the house's operation, was being used as a pool room by the early 2000s.

However, by



Ito's Lounge, today.

mid 2002, the pool table had been set fire to and thrown off the roof and the room was mostly bare with scattered junk and the occasional homeless person. "The walls were just a bunch of bare braces with windows outside," Andrei said, describing the old space.

The decision to convert the room into a lounge area with a bar and a ceiling projector came about following fears about the social dynamic of the house, according to Billy, resident 2002-2006, as a small group began to dominate the common room watching tv, loudly, on the house computer there. By moving the 'tv den' to an isolated part of the house, "the goal was to have the anti-social activity of the house (there), and take it away from the central common space," Billy recalled. However, in order to attract people to this distant part of the house, those managing the project understood the room had to be made attractive. The TV card in the common room computer would also have to be removed.

The remodelling of the room began around Fall 2002 and was headed mostly by the Maintenance Manager, Joachim, who saw potential in the room and got permission from the house to make the area off limits whilst he worked on it for the next four

Months.

The newly refurbished room would be named after Ito, a 'fish,' who used to live up there (until circa 2001). He was considered a strange fellow, having taken, and stuck to, a vow of silence for a whole year during his time in the house (see Kyle's interview for more about Ito).

In the centre of the ceiling, a large lockable black box was created by Andrei and another house member, John Flournoy, to hold the projector and despite being effectively papier-mâchéed to the ceiling it still exists today, although the projector is no longer stored inside. The west facing windows were filled in with drywall to create a white screen for the projector. A TV frame mural would be added to this wall in the late 2000s and the room continued to be decorated with newspaper and book cuttings, shards of glass and broken records glued to the walls and ceilings until the end of Fall 2010.

Joachim also built a permanent L shaped bar for the room (that also still survives today) following several earlier attempts (including a pool table cannibalised for the earlier bar by 'old man' Kyle). The top of the bar was decorated with pennies and keys under a clear top, the setting of which required the room to be closed off for a week, according to Greg. The newly installed bar would later lead to Ito's bottle collective that would function on and off for several years for those over 21.

However, whilst some people like to leave time capsules for future generations to find, the HI crew at the time had a different idea and left a nasty hidden surprise in the gap between the west facing windows and the projector screen, according to Andrei. A dead fish stored in an alcohol filled jar was put in when the screen was built and the glass was



intentionally painted over with just a little bit bare. A liquid filled jar is still visible from outside.

Ito's Lounge,  
soon after it  
was first  
created.

Whilst both these rooms would survive the retrofit, others would not, including the house dark room. The laundry room on the 10s floor would also be swallowed up and, along with it, a house brewery that had functioned there. Whilst some of these rooms would just serve different purposes – the dark room, now the current freepile, and the 10s laundry room, now the current bike room, other rooms were annexed to Central Office including the Den of Inequity, the house office and a bathroom.

## The Den of what?



Just off the red room, the little nook that had once been a tv room in the 1960s still existed, now as a storage room, but in the early 2000s, it would be revamped into a cosy semi-private hideaway for members. The room is most commonly referred to as the Den of Inequity, but it was also referred to as the Den of Any Cutie or the Den of the North East Quarter, according to Cookie, who said the origins of the confusion over the room's name came from a cryptic sign.

The room itself featured a single couch and an old record player, with the walls decorated with collages and old newspapers, according to Austin, resident 2000-2005. "It was painted, not muraled, and it was just a very warm room with

carpet... and a chandelier," Billy said, recalling how it was a great place for late night conversations. The cosy, private atmosphere also invited other encounters, with Tiffany recalling, in an email, "pretty much its only purpose was to let 'sexiled' people hook up."

## The Den of Inequity, 2004.



## The creation of super singles.

While the change in the retrofit plans acted as one motivator for massive HI projects to be taken on, there was also a general feeling within CZ that the house had to clean up its act, according to Andrei, as what it could have got away with in the 90s was no longer possible in the noughties, and the long term damage of that era was very evident with the decline of house furnishings and the increasingly high turnover.

CZ, even more than its troubled colleagues, Cloyne and Chateau, had a problem retaining older members and this was put down to two reasons: 1) the lack of amenities and 2) the lack of nice rooms that could be bid for as seniority points were acquired. Following former House Manager, Kelly Buckholdt's success in 2001 in getting room 49 changed from a triple to a double, on the basis that it was the smallest triple in the USCA, and actually violated their rules on room sizes, John Nishinaga and Cookie took the initiative to create some nicer singles and doubles for CZ.

Rooms were measured and their sizes compared to rooms in the other large houses (small houses were considered inappropriate comparisons as they offered other attractions for older members) and the motion of having the house's occupancy reduced was brought before Board. CZ's argument was that by maintaining older members the repeated cycle of functionality and decline that the house went through would be broken. The motion was passed, and the occupancy was reduced by five, and with many of the larger rooms to be created on the 100s side, the side of the house that previously only new members had been exiled to began housing older members.

## Converting Heidi's Room.

In Fall 2004, following the creation of the Super Singles, 'Heidi's room' was also remodelled into member housing, a project led by Cookie. Until that point, the apartment style room contained a kitchenette and a separate bathroom besides a bedroom, and was open to all USCA members to utilise for visiting friends and parents. In reality, the room was mostly utilised by CZ couples who were not lucky enough to have singles. Quite an irony, considering the room's original purpose was to house the woman who was meant to ensure the upkeep of the house's morals. The room would ultimately be divided up into a double (99) and a single (100), an idea that was easier to sell to Board, after the creation of the super singles, as it would make up for some of the lost occupancy. Room 99 retains a small balcony, an original feature of the house, although the private bathroom, a very coveted feature, which only room 100 would have then had access to, is no longer in existence.

## Taking a step outside...

The courtyard,  
early 2000s



Changes were also made to update the back courtyard and the garden area during this period. An outdoor stage was removed from the back yard, which had taken up much of the Southeast area of the courtyard, allowing more space for plants. A geostatic dome was also built on the 100s roof, pre 2005, that acted as a functioning little house, according to Joe. The house even had a

fireplace! Allegedly, a house member who had fallen out with their roommate lived there.

Circa 2008, the current trellis was built, the brainchild of Eric Oleger, the HI

## The rooftop dome, Spring 2004.



Manager at the time. Eric would also be responsible for the building of the tables and benches in the courtyard. Ofri, resident 2008–2009, was keen to get involved when she first moved in, having had some experience in construction work and recalled the unique way the plan for the trellis was explained to her:

"He found a green onion and I remember being in the kitchen... and him explaining to me how we were going to build this trellis with this green onion visualisation of how the trellis was going to

happen," Ofri said. "I remember being like that's amazing, that's fucking nuts, that's huge – that was all him."

Indeed, whilst many projects in the house were the ideas of just one or two members, in true cooperative spirit, a larger group of creative spirits were needed to make the projects come alive. Greg, who saw the first HI



Courtyard, today.

Crew being created while he lived there, recalled how important having this crew was to ensure any potential projects actually got off the ground and were completed.

Another key feature of the courtyard would be the hot tub. Whilst in the 1980s, this had been in the front courtyard, later house hot tubs would be installed in a much more private area of the backyard. A hot tub, purchased in 1994, was in the house until 2000, and another one would feature in the backyard for about six months in 2003. However, such an expensive amenity had become controversial by 2009, when house members were considering purchasing the current hot tub. Not only did a hot tub cost

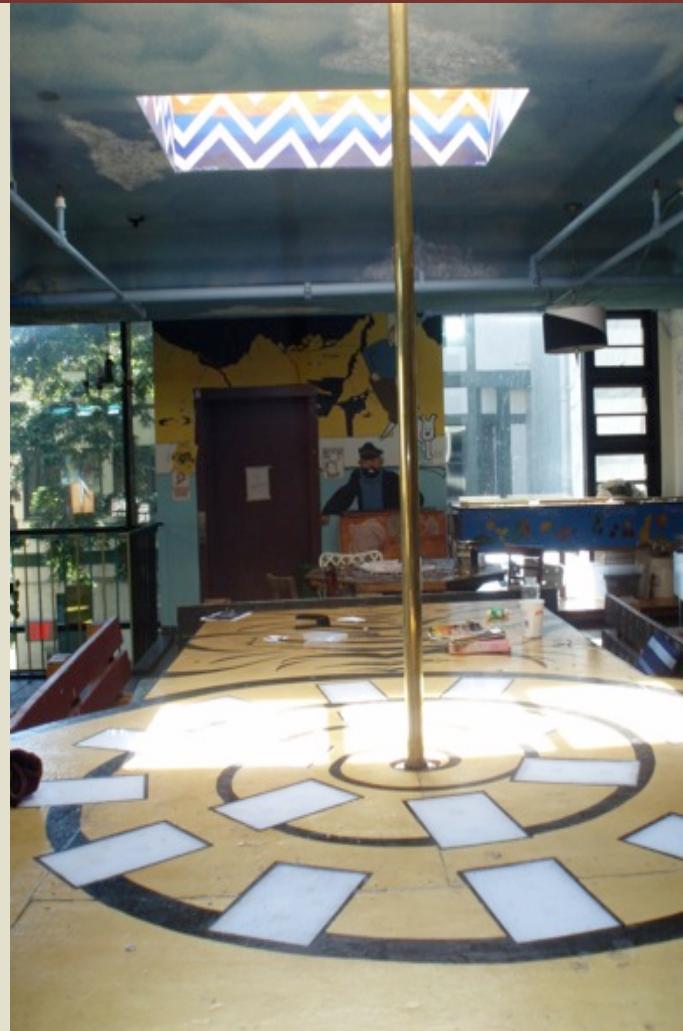
several grand, but they were not always long lasting, as proven by the example in 2003. Furthermore, there were fears that a hot tub would eat up workshift hours, as members would be required to maintain and clean it. There was also Ridge House's hot tub next door that members liked to take advantage of. "The Jacuzzi came summer '09 and I thought it was pointless as we'd all go in Ridge's hot tub and the joke was Ridge is the parents and they won't notice if we sneak into their Jacuzzi and just go there and be loud and drunk," Ofri said.



The second hot tub being brought in the house, 1994.

## A dedicated space for dancing: the construction of the Stripper Stage.

The Common room had long been the focal point for house parties and by the mid 2000s, temporary stages with poles would be constructed for parties and torn down afterwards. The first temporary stripper pole came about circa spring/summer 2004, following holes being cut in the ceiling for skylights (which would not be filled in until the end of Summer). This allowed Joachim to weld a pole to the then visible structural supports in the ceiling. The bottom of the pole was welded into the massive, now defunct, metal server, which had used to hold the hot plates, Joe said. However, by Spring 2010, with a "janky stripper stage" in existence, members were angling for something more permanent and a plan was hatched for a permanent light up stripper stage.



Justin, who was brought on board to configure the lighting, remembers that \$420 was the budget for the project. 'Super-exited' house members, who had already received detailed designs of the stage via the mailing list, happily endorsed the project and when the costing was passed through council it was simply greeted with calls of "woooo 4/20!"

The original designer, Joe, had planned for the stage to be rectangular and painted gold. The circular wings (to make it more feasible for dancing) and the lights were added to the design when Riana Kernan took over as Maintenance Manager that summer. Alongside her, Stephen Cohen, Kim Penamora, Adrian Parra and Scott Clark also helped assemble the stage, which had to be done so with haste, so it would be assembled in time for that summer's Special Dinner.

In order to make the stage light up different colours, Justin wrote a computer programme to help configure the wiring. Explaining how the lights work and change colour, Justin said, "It's actually using a very dumb controller that only outputs one colour at a time but by twisting the wires we give it the appearance of having several colours." Overall, it was a massive project, with even soldering the connections between the many little groups of LEDs requiring over 30 hours work from each czar involved.

Today, the Stripper Stage, is the centrepiece of the house common room, and has proved very multifunctional, being used as a table during meals, a dance stage for parties, and even being fashioned into a Pirate ship for last semester's Special Dinner.

## The RETROFIT, 2006 – 2007.

At the end of Fall 2006 CZ would be closed as contractors were called in to give the house a seismic retrofit and rid the house of asbestos. House members would be forced to relocate to other co-ops until Fall 2007 whilst the work was going on. The retrofit became a contentious issue with some members seeing it as an effort to 'whitewash' CZ. Board reps for the house would also have to negotiate with the USCA so that displaced house members would be allowed to keep their active house points when moving into other co-ops.

The planning for what would become the retrofit began in the 2000 – 2001 academic year, following several years of CZ being (rightly) viewed as the "problem house" by the co-op community. The house was considered "a blight," by Nat Spiegel, the President of the Board of Directors, according to Cookie, but due to the Board culture of the time, closing the house and purging the residents was not a feasible option.

Instead, he created a committee, known as CZ Com, that would

plan a remodel of the house that would encourage a nicer house culture. Around 10 people sat on this committee, approximately five of which were from CZ including an alumni rep. "This actually was a great idea, though his reasons were not, and some of the remodel plans were super cool," Cookie, an early CZ Com member, said, in an email. "A highlight that stands out was a plan to build a bridge linking the 100s and 10s side of the house." The bridge would have gone across the Middle Roof, and its creation would have led to balconies on both sides and some larger bedrooms.

However, the ambitious plans soon fell through after a structural engineer was hired and CZ Com were presented with a computer animation that "showed the house collapsing and sliding down the hill onto the tennis courts." The house would require massive structural changes to make the property safer in the case of an earthquake, and little money would be left spare for aesthetic changes. However, the adventurous architectural plans would not go entirely to waste, as house members would take it upon themselves to remodel various parts of the house. Indeed, one of the prompts for the Super Singles was the plan for the bridge.

By late 2006, CZ Com was still functioning, although some of the members had changed, and

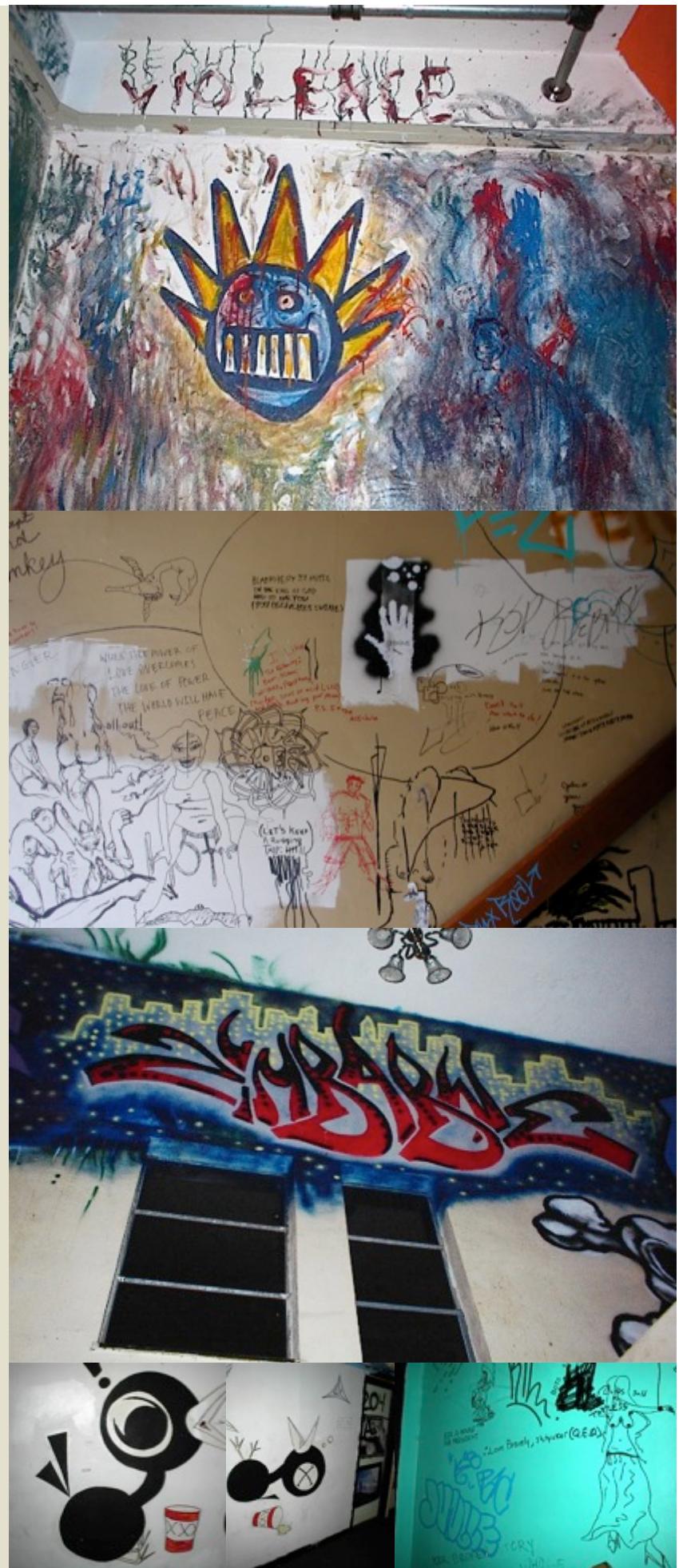


Lost at  
last

the outlook for the house's aesthetics continued to look grim as it was acknowledged that a number of murals would have to be destroyed to allow for structural work. However, there was fear that the selection of murals to be destroyed could be taken too far as some reps saw it as an opportunity to 'clean up' the house, when in reality only a few needed to go. The fear proved genuine.

CZ Com held discussions on how to decide which murals to eradicate, Billy, an alumni rep on the Committee, recalled, and it was decided that the 'most offensive' murals should go, despite a debate over whether it was right to even vote on destroying murals that were not necessary for the retrofit. A majority vote was used and as Casa Zimbabwe, as a house, was effectively no longer in existence by the time these talks occurred, the mural decisions ultimately lay with a very small group of people.

However, from the outset of the first house tour that the committee (along with some members of CO) took to blacklist



murals, it became obvious that the category of 'murals to go' would broaden, from just the ones considered offensive, to include the 'less aesthetically pleasing' as well. Recalling how the first house tour became contentious from the outset, Billy said:

"We started out at the 100s entrance and as you walk in there's the Pink Floyd mural on the left, there's the crazy magazine clipping, the ceiling is the abstract red and white lines painted, and the wall to the left is another mural – and so we come in and none of these murals by themselves are offensive but right of the back (USCA President) Johnny George wants to whitewash not one, if two of the murals. We said, "Why? It's not like they're offensive," and he said, "It's just too busy – it's like visually overwhelming," and that was apparently grounds enough for him to want to destroy murals."

For house members, the President's objections were put down to him being an apartment dweller that had never lived in CZ, nor any of the other large houses.

The replacement of the carpets in the house was also another big decision taken by the committee, according to Billy, as the original carpets were very grotty. Carpet panels were decided on as then they could be ripped up easily, if paint was spilled on them, and a colour scheme was set out, so different floors would have different colours, to help intoxicated and lost new members find their way back to their rooms. The three carpet colours chosen were red, blue and green.

## The final outcome...

Ultimately, the retrofit had two main purposes, ADA compliance with the introduction of the ramps and the elevator, and structural integrity. However, the house also received a nicer kitchen, one which house members, Cookie, and Spencer Breiner, a former Kitchen Manager, were allowed to design. Whilst these were long-term gains for the house, the members who moved back in in Fall 2007 still had to deal with the short-term consequences, and members, who had lived there pre-retrofit, were quick to point out what they did not like.

"We had this water filter system before the retrofit, we had this nice huge hot water machine like we do now but... they thought we'd be satisfied by this just tiny little water unit that was on our sink," Joe said. "(But as a Head Cook) I wanted something that could produce 25 gallons of water instantly for my potatoes or my soup."

Changed facilities were not the only issue, as the actual house membership of CZ became a worry too. Whilst old members were meant to receive priority to move back in, many were still kept on the waiting list and there were concerns over whether the old pre-retrofit czars and the new members would integrate well.



## 'Scream and Runs'

'Scream and runs,' became a trend that Fall, according to Tiffany, as members found creative ways to jump their friends higher up the waiting list. For a while, there had been an idea bouncing around about whether there should be some form of screening of new applicants, to

see if they could cope with CZ alternativeness, although because it goes so strongly against cooperative ideals, nothing was ever decided formally.

However, this did not stop old members pulling stunts on new members and their parents, during the move in period, hoping they would go to CO and request transfers. These ranged from the funny and bizarre, with multiple guys wandering around in shorts and creepy moustaches to more disturbing antics such as "a guy, naked, sleeping on a table chugging water from a handle of vodka at 10 am." The tradition of building a 'Couchhenge' during move in week and other empty periods of the house can also be dated back to Fall 2006 as members piled couches precariously on top of tables in the centre of the common room and preceded to get stoned, hoping to scare off new members.



As well as the workshift system and the appearance of the house being completely overhauled in the early 2000s, the food service would also be re-worked by the same generation. In 2000, the food the house ordered-in was of low quality (e.g. frozen pizzas) and there were no provisions for vegans. Special dinners had also degenerated by 2000, another one of the casualties of the "hard core drug phase" that ruled the house during the mid '90s. "When I moved in, the house had terrible food politics..." Cookie recalled, in an email. "One head cook actually tried to serve canned ravioli for dinner until she was told she would not receive any hours for doing so."

Changes had to be made both on an in-house level and on a co-op wide level to ensure healthier food would be provided for,

as well as educating, the whole general membership about eating sustainably and cheaply. In house, Blake Boles, was considered one of the first great Food Managers, who working alongside the Workshift Manager of the time, convinced the house to return to cooking their own Special Dinners, rather than getting an outside source to cater the whole event. "(Special Dinner) went from a really mediocre event to one of the things CZ does best," Greg recalled, who as Workshift Manager helped oversee the process.

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### KRACKISTAN, THE LAND OF PLENTY

[Blake's Memoirs]

To really appreciate the quality of food service in our house, it helps to have historical perspective. My first semester in CZ was Spring 2001 — the end of the dark ages, one could say. CZ had its last big rave that semester, fully equipped with ecstasy pushers. It began to lose its entrenched, bitter, perpetually-arguing management. But the food was still terrible.

In my first semester at Cal and my first semester as a co-op, I was assigned to a cooking shift with China Josh. About every other week our head cook, who had dinners planned out about once every other week, let us make giant stir-fries. It was a fantastic time — Josh and I each had one griddle, two metal spatulas, and a heaping pile (sometimes a foot tall) of bell peppers, onions, garlic, mushrooms, broccoli, zucchini, and countless miscellaneous vegetables. One stir-fry had chicken, the other tofu. We seasoned them with soy sauce and copious black pepper. Like I said, it was great fun to cook those stir-fries, but in retrospect they must not have tasted that great, and I'm sure house members got tired of stir-fry and white rice every other goddamned week.

Another indicator of the food status at CZ was Special Dinner. Though it may seem a ridiculous and far-fetched idea now, for a long time Special Dinner was *catered*. We would spend \$3000 (at least \$1000 more than we spend today) to get eight or nine mediocre catered entrées, and house members would *line up* to eat just like any other dinner (except a much longer line). There'd be an open bar, but really, the event was over in an hour and a half. We'd sit at our tables, eat our food, and go back to our rooms.

Late that semester, we failed our third city kitchen inspection in a row. It was terrible. The kitchen was boarded up, the walk-in fridge padlocked, and the pantry doors locked as we paid a professional cleaning team thousands of dollars to clean our kitchen for two days. The only food the house had to eat was some peanut butter and jelly behind the front windows of the walk-in (which weren't locked). I ate at La Burrita for two days.

The food manager at the time was Eugene, a short, neurotic, obsessive-compulsive (but really nice too!) guy who could be caught frying up double cheeseburgers at night and scurrying back to his room or frantically inventorying the pantry every weekend. Eugene was food manager for three or four consecutive semesters; no one else seemed to want the responsibility, especially when Eugene made it seem like you have to put 30 hours a week into the job. In my second and third semesters at CZ as head cook, I would go down to Eugene's room every Sunday night to give him orders. He would crack the door open four inches; warm, stale air wafted out and I would catch a glimpse of numerous shiny orange soda cans on his desk; he would nervously take my food orders and close and dead-bolt the door immediately. Eugene was a super-nice guy, but he was just way too stressed out from taking 22 units every semester and taking the food managing thing way too seriously! When he graduated, I knew I had to step in.

Being a food manager is like no other position at CZ (or other co-ops for that matter). Your life becomes food; your mind becomes a data-collection center for important tidbits of information, like "Is that the last raspberry yogurt?" "Who ate all the fucking almonds?" and "How can one house go through 75 pounds of flour in a week?" The most difficult part for me was my loss of personal identity in the house. No longer was I Blake; I was a walking, talking banana with a chik patty for a head and chocolate chips for toes. That is to say, house members no longer saw me, but rather a food generating machine, like that Star Trek materializer thing. And when I couldn't materialize food out of thin air, people got upset. Everyone has their little requests that they've been mentally compiling throughout the week, and when I dared show my head in the kitchen they would all come flooding out. Of course, this is why food managers get paid full comp. It would drive any normal person insane! Only the sweet, sweet flow of capital could keep us performing at top notch. This is also why I deserted to Kingman for a year — to recover from being the damn food manager. But then I did it again.

Food orders were revamped, and a bunch of food prep. workshifts were introduced, where food was half prepared and left in the fridge. Typical examples of 'food prepped' were sliced meat and ingredients for burritos.

On a Board level, talks began about whether the co-ops should go freetrade and how best to buy sustainably. Whilst this environmental commitment made some happy, Cookie, a former Board member, remembered it also alienated some low income members, as an increased commitment to sustainability and better quality food, came at the price of reducing the USCA's primary commitment to providing low cost housing.

However, by 2003, coffee purchased for the co-ops had to be free trade and resources were spent on educating members about food politics. The rise of food consciousness in the co-ops was seen as paralleling the gentrification of the membership. Despite more education about food, many members would continue to fail to understand seasonality and eating cheap, Cookie said, with house members continuing to demand strawberries in Winter.

## The SOCIAL lubrication of the house.

**"At one of our Room2Rooms, Andrei served Vodka and fucking catfood, 'the essence of the Breznev era' – and got some visitors from a frat to drink it." Austin ('02)**

The large-scale rave culture, associated with the house throughout the 90s was already in decline by 2000, and would effectively die by 2001. The organisation of parties had been reined in, and there would be no more 'handing over the house' to an outside group to party.

Indeed, by the mid 2000s, an unofficial co-op wide social committee had been formed; known as SMUCK (Social Managers Unofficial Committee). The role of the committee was to stay on top of the Social Manager regulations but also to ensure different houses' parties did not overlap, so when a house threw a large-scale party with an entrance fee, maximum profits could be made, according to Ofri. Rahele, a CZ house member, chaired the committee, and whilst seen as a good Chair who kept everyone in order, was also known for inciting revenge on certain houses that had refused her entry to their parties as a freshman.

Throughout the 2000s, each semester would have a heavily packed social calendar filled with events that had generally not

**Excerpt from an article, written by Blake Boles, describing the first Bacchanalia, taken from the Czine, fourth edition, published 2004.**

Bacchanalia was a concept party that ended up manifesting itself beautifully. Dylan and I came up with the idea while food managing in Fall '02 — get a bunch of people in the (then-new) red room, make it really comfortable & warm, get them drunk, and bring out a smorgasbord of finger-food desserts and tell people they couldn't feed themselves. The party was meant to replace Special Dessert, which in years past was as much a failure as catered special dinners — people would get their five desserts, drink wine, and leave an hour later. Bacchanalia changed all that. We got the name from Gaia, a student from Paris and excellent chef. She was good at translating into French — although one week she ordered 10 pounds of "lard" for a dinner, which I promptly bought at Safeway, only to discover that in France "lard" meant "bacon" — and so we asked her what a party with lots of nakedness and drinking and debauchery would be called, and she said "Bacchanalia." It was executed flawlessly, and the timing couldn't have been better with a house full of new fall members and not too far into the semester. A large group gathered in the red room at 9 pm, when we brought out the alcohol (but not food). Socializing and drinking went on until 10:30, when we finally released the food. Dylan and I were amazed — within minutes, people were nonchalantly feeding each other, biting chocolate-covered strawberries and transferring them to others' mouths with follow-up kisses, getting more and more naked... I myself got really drunk, and stole off to hook up with a member of the house who still lives here, and if you're reading this now, I'm sorry for deserting you to go pass out in the 200's bathroom stall naked! Really, sorry. A number of stories still float around from the original Bacchanalia — you can find them if you just ask.

*[Like the time you called Loveline to ask whether chocolate degrades condoms, and they called you a stoned hippie on the air? Or was that unrelated to Bacchanalia? — Ed.]*

The primary motivator of change in the quality of CZ's food in the past few years has been our growing repertoire of dedicated cooks and head cooks. There's no good reason *why* so many dedicated co-ops appeared out of nowhere — it certainly must connect to the broad CZ renaissance — but regardless of its origin, we now have the best food out of all the houses, bar none. Our \$4.20 a day is put to good use. Long live Krackistan!

changed much from earlier times. Popular parties were still Room2Rooms, soci and sushi nights, movie nights, Special Dessert, Special Dinner etc. By the late 2000s though, two parties had become particularly distinctive — the house's annual Fall stripper party, which became better facilitated for over the years with the establishment of a permanent stripper stage, and also an event called Bacchanalia.

Bacchanalia, was a strictly in house event, a Special Dessert style event, taken to the extreme. The event was piloted in 2002, aimed to be a revamp of Special Dessert, under two enthusiastic Social Managers alongside the excellent Food Manager the house had at the time, Blake Boles. "They made a bunch of desserts and the rule was no clothes and no feeding yourself so it was just a bunch of people in their underwear feeding each other," Billy recalled. With desserts coming out late intentionally, and the Red Room fire making the room 10 degrees warmer than it should have been, the event provided an inviting atmosphere for people to drink and shed some clothing. Mattresses had been strewn across the room next to the Red Room (now the disabled bathroom). One thing soon led to another. "It kind of degenerated into like twenty people having sex with each other in the red room — it seemed like one of those one-off things — at no other time did it happen," Andrei recalled.

CZ Special Dinner,  
Fall 2006.



A Bacchanalia style party would continue to feature on the Social Calendar for several years but by 2008, it had simply become a "tamed down" Special Dessert.

Food events had become extremely popular, following the overhaul of CZ's food service under the Workshift and Food Managers of the early 2000s. Special Dessert would be held once a semester, "on the 100s roof with a jazz band," and Special dinner would be the big finale of each semester.

Describing the house's attitude towards the food event, Andrei said:

**"The way our tradition of Special Dinner started was that it was the rest of the budget – the excess."**

By the 2000s, each special dinner would have a theme such as Circus special dinner or Imagination Land dinner. By the late 2000s, there was an increasing trend towards throwing incredibly lavish dinners, hoarding social and food money and throwing less

THE ILLUSTRIOS  
HISTORY

SpDin origins ~ good co-op food...  
Hillary - food mgr when Greg moved in.  
('99) Angel; lived in 3d w/ 2 full-sized dogs,  
used raw goin as meat (to clean)  
buying methods if all food's mediocre, no  
hoarding, if always same cheap food, estimate  
consumption. Cafeteria fruits, all seasons.  
Conventions/meetings for organic  
Lived above CK options, even to Kelly (unmentionables).

Well, Hillary thought, if we only buy red apples, oranges, bananas, and the occasional melon, then there won't be any hoarding, and consumption will at least be predictable.

SpD was catered - mediocre 3st. food.  
All served cold/lukewarm. Gave cooks day off...  
Hil. was left on cooks...  
3 courses - ppl line up, wrap napkin, 3 times!  
(app., main, desrt.)  
Décor was streamers, c'pieces, paper t'cloths -  
theme like supermarkets...  
Hil. wd. form food bkg surplus deliberately, proud of it.

Ruby Grapefruit, Avocado and Baby Spinach  
Special Dinner was catered. The food was served lukewarm, and it would be cold by the time you got to the front of the line...

Eugene was her disciple & followed her. Not bad, but NVTS. Did 25 units & PM. No understanding of food. Grated a hard avocado to make guac. No seasons. Ate me 3kcal. (chik pat/bacon/sausg./ice cream) meal, not dinner. Spent hrs. trying to compute nonperishable consumption. Tried to send 10 lb. brown rice nonperishable, but CK!

'Eugene was the next food manager after Hillary, and was her disciple. He didn't seem to know that fruit has seasons. One time I watched him try to make guacamole from a rock-hard avocado. He was using a grater.'

Charlie promised vegetarian options at dinner, more variety in food, and a Special Dinner cooked at home. "But it won't be special!" people said.

"CZ was extremely diseng., so valid point" - Ginger Ppl attack Charlie due to no experience (the milkman). Eugene pleaded, "Love thyself!" Begged for a second term and won.

Lots of ppl are dissatisfied. Want self-made SpD, but SpD knew Eugene didn't know how Greg wanted to do one unforgettable example. (Greg is the fresh, flashes!)

*Appetizer*  
Crabcake  
Lobster Tower  
Goat Cheese and Leek Galette  
Beef-Wrapped Green Onion  
Miso Tuna Skewers with Shiitake  
Sushi

*Salad*  
Mixed Green and Red Pepper  
Tarragon and Grape  
Shrimp Ceviche  
Ruby Grapefruit, Avocado and Baby Spinach

*Entrée One*  
Roasted Rib Steak and Chanterelle

Duck with Orange Marmalade  
Gnocchi al Gorgonzola  
Asparagus Tips

*Entrée Two*  
Lamb with Blackberry Relish  
Seared Mahi-Mahi with Pineapple Salsa  
Stuffed Ravioli with Tomato Saffron Sauce  
Spicy Fennel Seitan Sausage (V)  
Baby Artichoke Hearts

Bread, Fruit & Cheese

Parable of the Vegetarian

Clayton's Macaroni & Cheese

Fried Potatoes

White & Dark Chocolate Mousse

Napoleon

Chocolate Chestnut Gelato (V)

Creme Brûlée

Crème Caramel

Vanilla Bean Pudding

Chocolate Soufflé

Food Manager, Rachael Kirk, planned two other hugely elaborate Special Dinners. Ofri recalled that her 'Let them eat Cake' French Special Dinner took months of planning. "She planned that for like a year – it was nuts." Whilst food managers were genuinely good at sticking to a tight budget, Kirk also got the reputation for overspending, in her last semester throwing a "last hurrah" dinner that cost between \$7000 – \$8000, according to Justin. "We had three exotic meats – snake, ostrich and maybe alligator?"

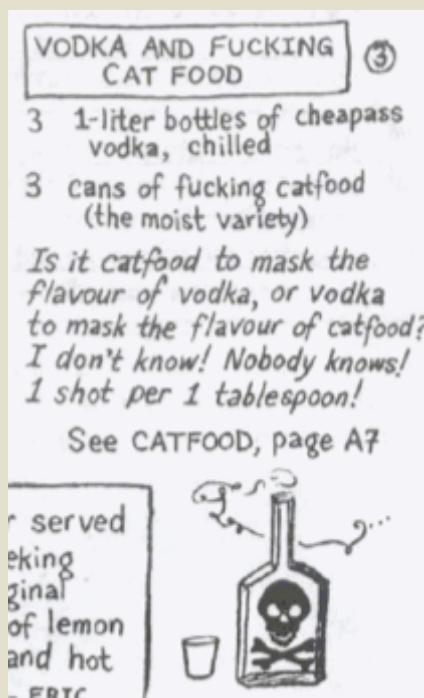
However, as always house social events were not just limited to wild alcohol fuelled parties.

'Siren day' was a house tradition in the early 2000s, Austin recalled, when members would retaliate against the monthly testing of the 'emergency' siren UC Berkeley did on the first Wednesday of every month. The most extreme retaliation involved electric guitars, the noise of which could be heard from the middle of campus, according to Austin. The tradition withered for a while after a warning from CO, however the tradition would re-emerge again by 2008.

"We would frequently amass a bunch of pots and pans and have a group of about 10 – 20 people and get up on the roof, up onto the cheese slice (stairwell) and fire back with all we had at the sirens – we got a few looks from Euclid and Hearst," Justin said. The tradition died out, Justin assumed, when the test siren period decreased from two-three minutes to 20 seconds.

Some house members were also quite adventurous and liked to plan trips beyond CZ. Describing a camping trip, she went on with fourteen czars, where they forgot the tent, Tiffany said, in an email, "It got so cold, and late in the night I was woken up by a raccoon attacking our camp for some candy someone had stupidly brought along – it was terrifying."

Many members, however, did not see the need to leave the house for an adventure. "Once we used all the couches in CZ and made a giant fortress in the common room, like an alternate city..." Johnny said. "We played around with an obsessive amount of couches and it was just more of a labyrinth type of city."



## CATFOOD

continued from page A6

**BACKGROUND:**  
A desperate combination resultant from the flood of cheap western goods into ex-Eastern bloc nations (A protein slush is a protein slush, after all!)

Easily transplanted into US college scene via Room-To-Room or similar. Frat boys show up uninvited and dare each other to eat it — they love that communal suffering! (Is this concealed payback to the imperial youth?)

**BONUS POINTS:**  
Eat as much as you can yourself. One point per spoonful, 3 for vomiting.

Na zdravye! — ANDREI

# House.



**"We took Loth's carrot, they had a big stuffed carrot that was their mascot, it was a prank of kindness - we cut it open, re-stuffed it and re-painted it. But before we could return it they stole one of our members' panda suits and they did a really cruel snuff video." Austin ('02)**

Throughout the 2000s, CZ would continue to have a rivalry with their neighbour, Ridge House, who was looked down upon for being perceived as quiet, unfriendly, and not liking to party. Whilst several attempts were made to bridge a better relationship with Ridge, the relationship between the houses can be best described with Ridge, as the restrained parents, and CZ, as the unruly children, with CZ liking to sneak into the parents' hot tub and steal the parents' booze.

In terms of pranks between houses though, most were kept light hearted and friendly, such as flag stealing, although there was always the issue of one house taking a retaliatory action too far. Indeed, in the early 2000s, CZ was repaid for stealing Cloyne's swing, by having their windows smashed, Greg said.

The swing would be returned, but having been dismantled, it would be left in Cloyne's courtyard, the wood arranged to spell out F.Y.S.U. F.Y.S.U (Fuck Your Shit up) would come to be the acronym for any other pranks played on other co-ops.

For CZ, their house flag was a source of great pride and seen as an ideal target by other houses. Indeed, all co-ops with house flags needed to be wary of pranksters. In the early 2000s, Lothlorien's mushroom flag was stolen by the CZ, and replaced

with a McDonalds flag, Billy recalled, and this would lead to a co-op wide trend of flag stealing. "Somebody at Cloyne stole (ours), then someone at Davis had it so we had a sit in at Davis house but they locked down the building as they found out we were coming and wouldn't let us in," Billy said. "So, I think me and Charlie climbed a tree onto the third floor balcony, let ourselves in, ran down to the front door and let the whole house in." Chaos ensued, as several naked czars ran through Davis whilst others sat down with typewriters and typed up Communicates. One member peed down their chimney. Despite a full on invasion of the house, CZ would not get the flag back that time.



Cloyne's swing, dismantled, Feb 2001.  
Loth's new flag, May 2001.

The flag used at the time had been a standard Jolly Rodger, hung from the antennae of the CZ's then Pirate Radio, but after having their flag stolen multiple times, mostly by Cloyne, a sensible house member decided to purchase a dozen identical flags which could be easily replaced if stolen. Cloyne eventually gave up.

The house flag would later have its design changed – with a white sheet being hung up, and the word, 'FLAG,' simply painted on it. The 'FLAG' flag no longer exists.

Furthermore, one of the more memorable rivalries was the so called 'War of Stebbins' that occurred circa 2008 and would lead to the motto, 'Fuck Stebbins, Stebbins sucks,' whenever the house was brought up in future. In a friendly rivalry gesture, several

CZ house members stole a large bench that sat outside Stebbins, placing it on the CZ balcony. However, after a while, Stebbins decided they wanted their bench back, and a Stebbinite, nicknamed Pirate Zac, who would later come to live in CZ, came round to reclaim the bench. After arriving at CZ, Pirate Zac stripped naked and began dancing. However, one house member refused to move. "(House manager) Jon Hung was sitting on the bench in defiance of Zac's naked dancing but eventually Zac's dancing got so provocative and naked Jon had to get out of his way lest it be too awful for him," Joe said. The bench would return to Stebbins but not before Stebbins had passed an uncooperative fine of \$20 against CZ. CZ would have the last laugh though, according to Ofri, as in order to pay the fee, the house presented Stebbins with a giant sack with a dollar sign painted on it. The sack was filled with pennies.

Despite all the pranks played between houses, the co-op community as a whole tended to stick together, and house members, would continue to have friends from other houses and move from house to house as well as going to each others' parties. Some social events would be organised on a co-op wide level too, including the very popular role-play game, known as Assassins, where victims are 'killed' by a non-threatening object, such as an apple. "Co-op wide assassins was even better (than house assassins) as they'd just give you a picture of the person... and the name of the house they lived in but not necessarily their room number or where," Ryan remembered. "You had to just go hunting to other coops or try to stalk them on Facebook to see where they were." In such a large organisation, the use of technology would be very important to help locate victims, and with some coopers leaving their class schedules visible online, they could then be tracked down outside their classrooms on campus. Ultimately, one round of co-op wide assassins would result in another house prank, with a golf cart being taken from Cloyne, and driven back to CZ. The vehicle would only live a short life in the house, after some drunken members drove it through the Red Room, out of the house, through the front courtyard, and into the front gate, crashing the cart going only 10 miles per hour.

Today, however, rivalry with other houses, was not as large as it once was, Justin recalled, who moved out in 2009. "I certainly remember the semester I moved in (Fall 2007) a Clone stole all the showerheads." Rivalry, now, is generally limited to the stealing of food during parties.



# Technology: movies, music and piracy.

The 2000s were a big era for technological advancements worldwide and CZ was not going to be left behind, especially with "a pretty strong contingent of science nerds" in the house to lead the way. By the mid 2000s, the Ethernet Manager was receiving half comp. to make the network in the house as useable as possible. The introduction of this was also a recognition of the level of skills needed for the job, a position highly valued by members who want uninterrupted, high speed internet.

The installation, maintenance and expansion of file servers would be a big task for Ethernet Managers throughout the decade, and in the early years, the servers were nicknamed after Physics quarks. The router was called 'Truth,' and the first file server 'beauty.' 'Charm' would follow. The naming system would change in the late 2000s and file servers would be named after the seven deadly sins. New servers were called Gluttony, Sloth, Envy and Lust.

Servers would be used to store music, films and tv shows. The music server came about, partly to make it easier for house DJs, as a computer was set up to crawl all the song servers on the network, pre-iTunes, and create a database full of music.

The expansion of a film server would also come from an unlikely source, according to Billy, a former Ethernet Manager. By 2003, another former Ethernet Manager had already set up a series of computers that could encode movies, with one Linux computer acting as the master encoder and the others as 'slaves.' Movies could be ripped from DVDs, encoded, and loaded onto the server over a 24 hour period. The only problem at the time, Billy remembered, was that much of the software used to do the encoding was very high-tech and half of the computers in the house could not cope with playing the films once they were ready. This did not deter them though, knowing that, in a few years, the playing of high quality movies on a bog-standard computer would cease to be a problem.

Indeed, film encoding took a particular boom one semester, when one girl got a job at a Berkeley cinema, a perk of which was getting free unlimited DVD rentals. Another computer savvy member, with a semester off school, took advantage of this, making daily trips to the rental shop with her card, taking out 12 films at a time and returning home to encode them. The shop got suspicious though, especially when more than one trip in a day was made, and after three months, a 3-film limit was introduced. By the end of the semester, an estimated 800 new films had been added to the house server.

Beyond maintaining and improving network service provided to the house, in the early 2000s, Ethernet Managers were at times also asked to take a look at the old telephone switchboard. Whilst not in use, some members still required a landline, and the Ethernet manager, would use the switchboard to wire phone numbers to people's rooms, Ryan said.

## Tuning into the house radio station...

However, one of the stranger innovations by house members was the creation of a pirate radio station in the mid 2000s. Money was passed at a house council to purchase a 20 foot radio transmitter, an empty radio frequency was found, and a room in the hallway, where the elevator now is, was transformed into the broadcasting booth, Ryan recalled. Anders, a house member, who liked to name things with words he did not understand the meaning of, gave the radio station the name of the 'Colloidal Autonomous Zone.' The station broadcast a range of odd speeches, music and shows several hours a day for a few months, and the radio frequency allowed members' friends, outside the house, to tune in. However, as the radio station had never been registered with the FCC it was technically illegal. Recalling the demise of the station, Andrei said:

"So finally the FCC sent an inspector out which was kind of entertaining and he came into the house, he must have had a warrant or something, so he came up to the roof and pointed to the radio station transmitter and said "ok, that needs to go down," and then he looked around at all the pot plants and shakes his head, "just take down the radio station." "

Following the retrofit, most of the work done on the networks in the house was more focused around maintenance, than large development projects. However, the Ethernet managers would still have their fun:

"(On April Fools day) I would typically redirect websites – for example, if there were a number of stoners in the house I'd typically redirect a website that was a 'shroomery' or 'growery' to a site saying that it had been shut down due to illicit activity, followed by a site that re-directed to the DEA." – Justin, former Ethernet manager.

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Miscellaneous

Tales from the  
2000s.

Once upon a time...

## CAMPUS PRANKS

'The big CZ'

"It was made of tiles painted yellow attached to wooden boards and brought up the hill at night and then next day you can see it from the Campanile."

Attack on the Campanile.

"One semester when we were here - you know when they put those projections up for the Stanford game on the Campanile that say go bears - we went up there and replaced them with a gigantic pot leaf on the northside and a gigantic batman symbol on the southside. They project them from these elevated poles on the ground. It took them 15 minutes to like get them down."

## A CHICKEN CALLED OAKLAND..

"(In the Fish Balcon/Guest Room) For about 3 days, there was a beat chicken named Oakland living there. The way we ended up with a chicken was that someone wanted a hen that could lay eggs to eat - and they realised that at the reptilarium where they sold reptiles you could get chickens for cheap because they're sold as snake meat. But you can't just ask for them directly so a guy came up and said, "I've got a reticular python and I need food for it," so they asked him, "Alright, how big are its vermiculation's?" and the guy obviously didn't know, so he just went, "Like this big." And so you have to have it smaller than the vermiculations, so they gave him this really tiny chicken and it was like a tiny little thing, and so people were against keeping it in the house, but we couldn't get rid of it, so someone went and stole an Oakland Tribune newspaper dispenser and dragged it up here - which is not easy - they're really heavy..."



## CZ PLAYS WITH FIRE

After two successful attempts, two members try to light a third canister of gas on fire on the 100s roof...

"The can's not going – so we're like wow that sucks, so (my friend) goes over to see what's going on and she grabs a stick and starts poking it and she's sitting and she's like why isn't it going? She gets down squatting down in front of it so her face is like two feet in front of it. She's like poking it with a stick. And I'm like saying this is not alright so I go over and I grab her and just as I'm going down to grab her so her face is like two feet away and my face is maybe like 3 feet away, diagonally, up and to the side, and suddenly all of the sudden, the thing explodes – like the seal around the edges blows, so instead of getting this stream right in her face we get like the whole can's contents emptying and since there's a hole in the stone facing us there's an expanding sphere of gas just engulfing us and this surface of fire and as soon as it blew you hear the sound and you close your eyes to the jet and all of a sudden you feel this wave of heat hit your face and move pass you. I kind of like open my eye and I'm squinting, like "OMG is there still fire going?" and I squint and I see the two of us are still engulfed in this golden glowing sphere of fire. And I'm like that's cool so I can still see. And then it stops and we look at each other like oh my god that was amazing..."

The pair both suffered a series of second and third degree burns, which put the one member off amateur pyrotechnics for life.

"Ah but the funny thing about the explosion – it shook the house first of all, and secondly someone who had been down at Northgate waiting to cross the street had seen a giant fireball on the roof – and we saw them just as we were going down to the hospital and they were like, "Did you guys see a fireball on the roof?" And we were like, "Yeahhh...""

The girl, however, would be later terminated for her love of pyrotechnics, following her and a different member setting fire to a bathtub full of gas on the roof and the fire brigade being called by someone who saw the flames on the roof. Trying to disguise the fact that gas had been being burnt, she and another member put an old Christmas tree in the tub.

## Fire Department Log By RICHARD BRENNEMAN

*Friday January 28, 2005*

### Yule Fuel

A full crew of Berkeley firefighters arrived at Casa Zimbabwe just after 8:30 last Sunday evening after receiving a report of flames shooting from the roof of the co-op housing building on Ridge Road.

Though the flames were gone when the trucks arrived, firefighters were quickly able to determine their source in the charred skeletal remains of two Christmas trees reposing in a water-filled bathtub accompanied by a partially gas-filled liquor bottle.

Two residents acknowledged that they'd set one of the trees alight, just as they had the night before, said Deputy Fire Chief David Orth.

After learning from their previous experiment that gas wasn't needed to ignite a desiccated Christmas tree, the pair said they hadn't bothered with the fuel for the Sunday night fire fest.

**Article taken from the Berkeley Daily Planet,  
January 2005.**

# HOUSE CHARACTERS.

There have been many. Here is a selection:

**300** "This guy is like his 30s, certifiably insane but he was really good at doing workshift. He would do more workshift than anyone ever asked him to – it was kind of like fun to him, he was homeless. It was kind of nice for him to have a home to clean. Everyone thought he was kind of weird – he was clearly insane... he'd talk about how like someone was trying to kill him – and you were like I doubt it dude." Current status – a former 'fish,' he currently lives on Telegraph.

**AVI** "He was one of the few people who managed to get PNG'd without doing anything really horrible. He just started doing increasingly annoying things... he also had these really strange obsessions – he once took me on a tour of his favourite urinals around campus which were the most interesting describing why this one was a wonderful urinal, and how it was so interesting with the window here..." Current status – unknown, but shortly after being PNG'd, he was taken to a mental institution by police.

**UNKNOWN** "This guy decided he was going to start composting on his body and put compost in his hat, compost in his pockets and he always had a shopping cart of compost too and so he wanted to be a self-sustainable eco system... he stole (a member's) pet rats for this eco system project... by this point he was living in downtown Berkeley – I remember at this point having to go down there to his house to talk him into giving back his rats. It took all the persuasion skills I could possibly have... and I got the rats back in the end yeah, you know it's like you're having a debate with somebody, but you're feeling it out as you're never quite sure to what he would agree to as a statement of fact at that point because this is somebody who thinks they can stop pooping by composting their body.. I start arguing with him about why would you take these rats? Why do you think these rats are better off doing this? He thought the rats are better off doing that because they were living in a cage otherwise. So (the rats' owner) ended up promising him not to keep the rats in a cage anymore and I didn't expect that she would actually follow this but she took it very seriously. So as a result when we came back she actually got rid of the cages and were keeping the rats living in her room which a lot of people in the house were seriously minded and it also turned out to be the case because the vents were large enough in rooms that rats could get through so her rats regularly ran away." Current status – unknown, schizophrenia diagnosis.

## THE PRICE IS RIGHT

"We got a green tour bus and about 40 of us (wearing custom shirts) went to a taping of 'The Price is Right' and one CZ person got called up... (he) played and won a truck. (We had a sign saying) "Co-ops heart the silver fox" – Bob Barker noticed and, he said, in the commercial break, "And the Silver Fox loves you."

## JOHN'S SHAFT

**The story of how one house member was injured whilst doing a home improvement project for the house, which involved clearing out a space, next to an unknown air shaft.**

"My friend John fell down the air shaft, holding a handful of fluorescent bulbs when he fell – something very bad to fall with. He grabbed at the shaft, the shaft was thin, so he could slow himself down with his hands as he fell."

"(Oren, another housemember) heard him scream... I remember the exact moment, Oren Lefer, was the one who went a long way to do something about this, (he) figured out where the shaft was and freaking took a fire axe and started going at the wall before the paramedics showed up and had already undone much of the wall (by that time). It was the very bottom, back stairwell, 10s level. Oren really helped them out. It was this crazy, crazy moment, when no one knew what the fuck was going on because we didn't know he'd slowed himself down during the fall so a lot of us – we didn't think he was going to survive. I remember coming in there and trying to talk to him, he's like my best friend, trying to have a conversation with him, and like what the hell do you say to someone... like his only answer was, "Eurgh, where am I, where am I?"

Until John's fall, house members had no idea such a shaft existed.

"You know what it is – like in the basement of the house, there used to be – CK used to make food centrally and this was the exhaust for the stove. Thankfully, it wasn't in use. And also, everything in this house is built slightly weirdly and inefficiently, so the exhaust had a big kink in it, which is why he didn't fall all the way down to the basement – the kink slowed him down."

John survived, although it was not clear at first whether he would ever walk again. After a lengthy hospital stay, and with two metal rods inserted into his spine, John did walk again. Later, house would be sued for his medical expenses and the house would rename the shaft in the bylaws as 'John's Shaft,' and Oren, already nicknamed 'Fort Awesome,' would be renamed 'Fort Awesomer.'

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Miscellaneous

## Sabine; a tour of her murals and why she painted them.

Sabine, resident 1999-2003 and 2007-2009, was also considered a house character, being much older than many of the members, aged 35, when she move-in, and following strange comments made to her fellow house members. One of her comments, in which she described the Pantry, as a 'torture chamber,' as it had only one door, was memorable enough for the room to be renamed as such in the bylaws. However, regardless of some of her stranger qualities, she has probably contributed more artwork to the house than any other member. Below, are her comments about what inspired each of her paintings.

**"I was heavily influenced by Vogue magazine as I grew up in the fashion world, so the types of murals I painted here are usually of a central female figure and I try to make it as glamorous, and glorious and fairy tale like as possible and of course I try to include women who don't look like me..."**

**100s floor, going up 100s front stairwell – This is called 'Springtime in Moscow.'**

Now this woman is Egyptian and here she is you can see her eye – right here – I drew the eye with sharpie and it's still coming through – and she's on a sled and the sled is in winter – springtime/winter being drawn by an elk. Here's the example of one



modification – she used to have an Egyptian hairstyle. This is a cloak – a leopard skin cloak and she's riding on a swan sled. This is typical of what I did – with a singular woman in a very exotic background, which of course is the influence of what I did with the fairy tales and vogue magazine." Painted circa 2007.



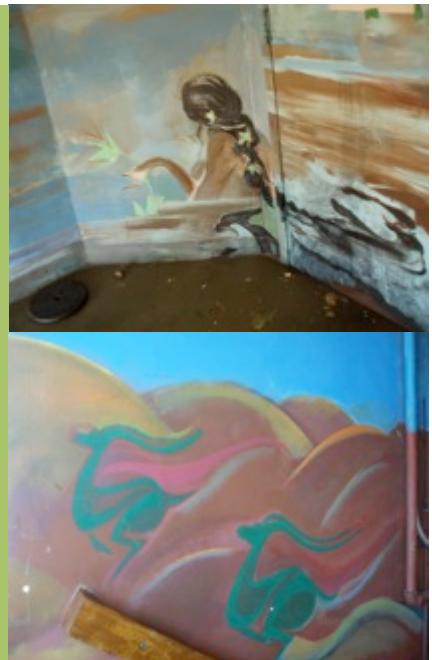
**200s floor, 100s front stairwell –** “Leopard print theme and some rainbow colours. It looks like crucifixion but it was more again in the theme of a glorious woman that would appear in Vogue magazine who was just holding her arms out in a Christ like manner to show beautiful she is. I like the hair as well, I’ve always liked the idea of having different types of hair and so I went about trying to make something really pretty you know like this beautiful woman with this beautiful hairstyle... I’m using sponges, sponges from the kitchen and house paint to paint it so there’s very thick lines but it works, it really works.” Painted circa 2002. Mural later modified with deep red border.

**Laundrette** – “This was my super, super challenge, – those were the only colours I had available to me at this point in terms of house paint and I thought ok, well, go with the idea that all you have is purple and weird shades of green, so I just started drawing her and I really like those type of flowers – they grow on Berkeley highways in the car divider barriers and they’re usually purple, sometimes white and I just thought – they’re beautiful. I love these flowers, I’ve always loved them, so why don’t I put one in my mural, so I did...” Painted circa 2002/2003.



**Recycling area** – “This whole room was all orange and the idea was that this was supposed to be the sky with the stars – supposed to be a cave from a caveman and these are the paintings he made with his hand, accounting for his travels...I kept using this orange and I thought it would be a nice colour for a cave... I had people who came through here stick their finger in a light pink (paint) and make a star. And so we’ve got some shooting stars.” Time of painting unknown.

**Outside the Study room, going down the front 100s stairwell** – “She’s the India woman, a central woman figure, way up to her elbow in an alpine ability. These were the only colours I had available to me at the time. These pastel blues, these really nice blues, and a black and this green I had – how can you make this really beautiful? I kept thinking about water and buckets – I thought about her skin and that black hair and how in the fairy tales there’s lots and lots of hair. I extended it all the way down the stairwell, as the stairwell was just yellow. I did the reindeer and every now and again tied in the blue water with the reindeer and it really worked.” Painted circa 1999.



**20s/30, front 10s stairwell** – “The idea is the genie in the bottle, it’s straight from a fairy tale – there’s a central woman character and you can see the close up of her face and the purples, and the yellows and the reds, and this very strange green – I made the genie bottle green and just kind of experimented with her Arabian hood and the tattoos on her face and the genie’s definitely coming out of this bottle and the parrots in the background are just kind of laughing and squawking.” Painted circa 1999.



**10s Front stairwell, hallway level to 10s floor** – “I made all this water but this is just water and down (the stairs) – this is just where I took the paint and made little drops, millions of little drops and the kind of swirl thing and then I painted the stairs in all these weird colours and this was more just like oh I have paint – what to do with it?”



**Bike room** – “This was supposed to be a Monet this was all lillypads and this wall orange again. This room was so dark and this orange, this colour right here really lifted it. It was just probably white – it wasn’t a very happy room, it wasn’t a happy space. I started out with the doorframe... This is going over 9 years... one day they just said we’re going to give this to you as your workshift policy – it’s ‘making rooms happier’...” Painted

**Door of room 16** – “This was my room. I’m actually copying another artist – his name is Clint and I love his work and I just decided to see if I could do a Clint and I did – at the time, glitter was coming out, so, I bought this glitter and added it down there just to make it nice – again it’s a central woman figure – make it as beautiful as possible, it’s not an original work, it’s somebody’s art but I like the way it came out.” Painted circa 2007.



was unintentional but then again I only had black and green and yellow... I decided just to do it as I saw them here struggling with the notion that there's a party tonight and we don't have anything cool, and I could hear them saying that so I just whipped it together real quick. And then I left this (tag) here as I thought it was funny.” Year painted unknown.

**10s floor** – “I did this (the day of a r2r). Zebra stripes and I was extremely excited about it as wow, look at our home –it fits in with her (lady above), it

**1. 10s Bathroom** – Painted in the same style as the Bike room. Year unknown.

**2. 10s floor** – “This is the African witch... I worked to make all this hair and then I did that big earring and the nose ring and the just beautiful encrusted jewels in her hair and over her head...” Year unknown.

**3. The Mail Cabinet** – “She’s a Starbucks waitress, she has a little jet pack so she can float and she’s floating through the Starbucks with her tray of stuff.” Painted circa 2002.

**4. 10s floor** – “This is (my insect representation of) Casa Zimbabwe... see how happy it is, how beautiful it is.” Year unknown.



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Miscellaneous

# An interview with 'old man' **KYLE.**

While a lot of czars come and go, for the last ten years one remained a constant. Kyle, aged 34, first moved in to Casa Zimbabwe, in Fall 1999. Despite graduating in 2003, and moving back to San Diego, a semester later, he would be back in CZ pursuing another degree, and over a ten-year span, he would witness a variety of events from the last of the armed robberies and the raves, to the retrofit and beyond. As well as gathering a lot of seniority in CZ, Kyle would also spend time in several other houses. This semester will be his last.

**Q: So Kyle, what was your first impression of the house?**

A: "Well I visited the house back in 1997 and I flew up from San Diego with a couple of my high school buddies – (another) couple of my high school buddies lived here, were going to Cal, and we were trying to figure out where we were going to stay and they of course, said stay in our Guest Room – and I thought, Guest Room, that sounds nice. And we finally get here, and the house itself didn't bother me... much. But the Guest Room... it was back when it was Heidi's room – and back then it was still like a broken kitchen with a functioning room – there was nothing in the room apart from three soiled mattresses – nothing, no blankets, nothing! And you know, I was like, I should have asked, if he'd told me (what it was like) I would have got a hotel..."

By 1999, Kyle was living in Daly City, a student at San Francisco State University, when his housing situation fell through. Apartments in the area were ridiculously expensive, and when a friend suggested he was eligible for CZ, as an enrolled student, Kyle jumped at the chance. "I'd always assumed you had to be a Cal student to go there..."

Kyle would move into the house two weeks into the Fall contract period, aged 23.

**Q: What were your early memories of the house?**

A: "That first semester, November I believe, I bought a keg of Heineken – I was a Heineken man back then – took it up to the 300s floor and tapped it. And it turned out being ok, I woke up with a nice young lady, and thought CZ's kinda nice. But the next day someone shows me this picture they had of me laying on the floor passed out, someone had given me a blanket and put a teddy bear in my arms."

Kyle also confessed he had been confused by the layout of the building, not realising the bathrooms were co-ed at first and not discovering that the 10s floor existed for several months!

**Q: What was the house like in the late '90s?**

A: "The management structure was a lot different I think. For one there was no Finance Manager. CZ wasn't as attractive to applicants back then as I can remember."

**Q: You said there was no Finance Manager, why?**

A: "So there were a lot of raves, and when I came there at the tail end, they were really fun and cool I thought – but people told me they were much more raving earlier... and at the time (older members) said, the reason we got the finance manager position was as people would essentially rent our house out, essentially to some person who would hold a huge fucking rave and the place would just be going all night – they'd charge at the door... but the house got essentially none of that money – it would all go to who's renting the place. It was not cooperative but it was highly profitable."

**Q: What was your experience of the raves?**

A: "One of my first memories of many of CZ, involving a rave, was the room I was assigned, 308, facing the courtyard, a double. It was one of the first raves I had been to – I was 23 and I remember waking up the next morning and looking out of my window, down into the courtyard, and there were just 50 strange strangers sleeping down in the courtyard. None of them lived here – and that was just in the courtyard. We just let people pass out and sleepover – we thought that was better than sending them off drunk, and I thought that was pretty cool. However, there were also problems, violence..."

**Q: You were here during the last armed robbery (circa 1999-2001) – the one that led to the gate?**

A: "So I was friends with this guy and we lived next door to each other actually and we were in my room, had the door open, it was probably 2am, I was in a t-shirt and underwear, watching tv, and three guys come to my door and immediately I sense something's wrong, something was just wrong, and unfortunately the guy I was with was attempting to sell these people Marijuana so let's just cut to the chase here – so my friend ends up getting jacked for whatever the hell he had on him, they almost broke into his room, his girlfriend was lucky to be able to lock and close the door..."

But so basically, there were three guys, and two of them were in the hallway and as I was pushing the third guy, trying to stop him from getting into my room, the guy must have been like 7ft, 300 pounds – he could have kicked my ass in an instant, I never really understood why he didn't. But as I'm pushing him out, I was watching my friend get his ass kicked in the hallway, trying to get this guy out of my room, and eventually he says to me, "I have a gun." At that point I kind of just look at him as if to say why didn't you just say that at the beginning, y'know, and

like I'm out of here? And so I'm trying to get past him, and he's trying to stop me and I don't know why he's trying to stop me – I'm trying to run out of my room, and he can take whatever the hell he wants. And I'm wearing one of my favourite shirts at the time. And he grabs the back of my shirt and I literally just ran out of the thing as he ripped it off my body. And so I'm just in my underwear. And a minute after that somebody yelled out to call the police..."

The police would come, but no further action was taken, as Kyle's friend did not want to get in trouble for selling narcotics, although Central Office would still terminate his contract the next day. After realising that the three suspects had just waltzed through the front door and asked where they could buy Marijuana, an estimated \$10,000 was spent putting up a secure metal gate outside the house. However, during the retrofit, the gate would be torn down and replaced with a less sturdy gate.

**Q: You've lived in other houses too, when was the first time you moved out and why?**

A: "(After a disagreement with a friend) I needed a change. So I went down to CO and. I was like, you got anything available for me to transfer, and they listed off a bunch of places and Oscar Wilde was the only one I knew that had a hot tub. And I was like ok, so it's like my last semester in college, my last semester of undergrad and I was finishing up my beautiful BA in Philosophy, and I was like I'll go ahead and live there for summer (2002), and by Fall I'll have active points and get a kick ass room. I got the biggest room in the house. They married me to the house and I loved it. I was Hot Tub Manager while I was there. I cleaned it all the time, it was fucking great."

Kyle graduated with a BA in Philosophy in Fall 2002. After a brief detour to Europe, teaching English in Prague and getting deported from Great Britain, when the authorities believed he was trying to seek employment, Kyle was back in CZ by mid 2003. With no immediate job prospects, Kyle was admitted to SF State for a second Bachelor degree. In 2006, he would move back to San Diego to write his thesis somewhere more peaceful, but by Spring 2007, he was back in Berkeley. Due to the retrofit, he moved into the newly remodelled Hillegrass-Parker house, the only place with available singles, and in Summer '07 transferred to Stebbins, fed up of pretentious grads. Fall '07 and Spring '08 were spent at Northside apartments. However, believing Summer '08 to be his last semester in the co-ops, Kyle moved back to CZ. Summer '08, Kyle gained a Masters in Political Science. Due to the recession, this was another bad time to pursue a career, so Kyle enrolled in a second Masters at SF State, in International Relations, and returned to CZ Summer '09.

**Q: Tracking long-term changes, how has technology changed in the house since you arrived?**

"Well, we no longer use the intercom as you might have noticed. Although I'm happy to see it still says Spring 2000 and I'm still

on it. The intercom used to work, I guess, when there were no phones, but even then when they programmed it (it was annoying) – I programmed my cell phone to the number, and people would come to the gate and press (the button) and be like, "Kyle, I'm at your gate man," and I'd be like, "Sorry man I'm in San Diego." And they'd be like, "You're lying dude, I'm at your gate." And I'd be like, "No it's going to my cell phone you don't understand..."

**Q: What manager positions did you hold in CZ?**

A: "I remember my first few councils were very polarised when I first moved in. Like most people would sit in the same groups for every dinner and every council and they were very vocal – shouting and yelling at each other. And a bunch of people started moving out – and a bunch of the moderates approached me and were like there's an open House President position and we think you should go for it. And I was a little reluctant at first as I'd done other student elected positions... and it seemed the House President had almost as much responsibility as the house manager except for room bids. So, anyway, I ran for House President circa 2000/2001 and I did that for maybe a couple of years and that eventually wore on me – I think I may even have moved out and moved back and done it. I got a lot of compliments and some complaints."

Kyle would also be one of two Social Managers in 2001 and ran for Workshift Manager, unsuccessfully, four times. Several times, he also ran for a central level position on AdCom, but ironically when he finally got it, he realised the meetings clashed with his class schedule.

**Q: So, you must have seen a lot of house characters over the years.**

**Tell me about Ito.**

A: "He was older, probably the oldest guy in the house – and he'd already done the party thing so had sort of moved onto a more spiritual level, and he was fishing, and he was just sleeping in this room (now Ito's lounge) up here and there was nothing up here – it was just a mound of junk. And... there were a lot of new people and they wanted to bring them up individually (as fish). And Ito felt strongly, even though he would have been passed easily – I mean I'd walk down to the kitchen at 3am and see that guy doing hours of dishes, like every day, he'd always be in there doing dishes – he just didn't want to be brought up at council and he just left. But the last year or so I knew him – he took a vow of silence and actually kept at it. And so there was very little to learn about Ito in that time as he was quiet... And when I learnt he wasn't going to do it (go to council) I tried to reassure him. And one of my last encounters with him – I think I was on the 300s floor still then – I was in the restroom and I heard his voice and I recognised it and I was like, why is Ito talking? He hasn't talked in almost a year. He was saying goodbye to somebody – and he said goodbye to me and gave me big hug."

**Q: How did the retrofit affect the house?**

A: "There were new groups... I think that's just a generational thing – like with me the late 90s/early 2000s. There are those kind of changes – I mean when you have a major retrofit the entire house has to leave for a year – and there are new people – and I mean there were some people who left, came back and could have moved out but wanted to make sure there was some kind of continuity. And I'm glad that they did that."

**Q: Any cool stories...**

A: "(Explaining why one table in the common room has a periodic table glued to it) So early 2000s there was a scavenger hunt... so I can't even remember what you had to do to be the winner of the scavenger hunt but among them was (to get) the periodic table of the atoms which our group managed to get by scaling a building on campus in the middle of the night... and coming out with that big arse thing, which (took) a bunch of different forms – at one point it was in the guest room and then it became a table – it's lasted a long time – from the early 2000s. Our team was runner up... I remember one of the things on the scavenger hunt was to go to Vegas and so that team beat us by points – so this thing went on for 2/3 weeks – they gave you a lot of time but only one team had time (to go to Vegas) and in order to win points you had to have pictures, proof that two thirds of your team had participated in something. (For one task) we also went to San Francisco and took a picture with Willie Brown, the Mayor."

**Q: So, how did you get hold of the Mayor?**

A: "Dude, it was so amazing. So, I think it was Susan – she just sat at the computer, and Google might have just come out about then, and googled Willie Brown and got his itinerary. And he was going to be at Union Square at some period the next day. So we literally just took BART the next day and went right up to him – and he kind of looked at me a little sideways as I was kind of scruffy, had this big coat on and beard, and a bag on, and Jason and Susan and I –we asked if we could take a picture with him and posed with him."

**Q: How would you describe your overall experience here?**

A: "I don't know, there's just no place else I've ever been like CZ and I've met thousands of people and the interaction itself is amazing – it's part of growth and development and learning and to live with a bunch of students, and I don't go to Cal, but it's great. For example, I had to take logic and I'm terrible at Math, let alone philosophy Math... and I come back here and ask does anyone know anything about logic? And my housemate who's maybe four or five years younger than me teaches me logic."

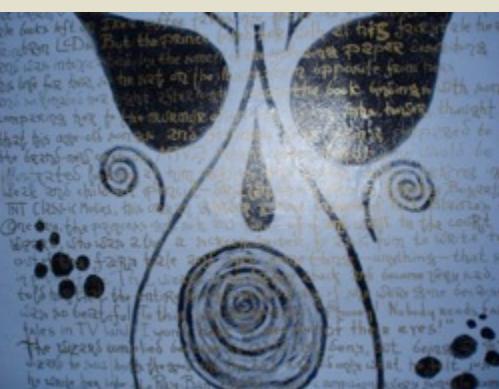
**Kyle's dedication to the house was formally recognised in Spring 2011 with the Smoker's Balcony being renamed 'Kyle's Balcony' in the bylaws.**

# CZ 2000 - 2009

## Miscellaneous

# A glossary of house items and quirky facts.

Current sign, made circa 2002, as a HI project. The origins of the original sign, allegedly date back to the early 1990s, following a parent's evaluation of his child's new home. The original sign was allegedly later taken down due to offending another parent.



This mural dated back to the late '90s, having been painted by the residents on the 100s floor one year. A list of floor residents is inscribed on the right side (not pictured). One resident listed, Krista, would still be living in the house in 2000.



The Haiku Wall was initiated in the early 2000s, when someone wrote 'Haiku Wall.' From then on, the wall filled up with haikus and other tags. The mural has been erased before, but it is very easy to recreate – all someone need do is write 'Haiku Wall.'



This mural came about following the creation of a house art club that met every week in the early 2000s. "It was going to be a Decal but no one got off their ass to register so we just met like every week and did these projects. So we'd give each other assignments and I forget what the assignment was but I think everything else from that point is gone (retrofit) as I think it was



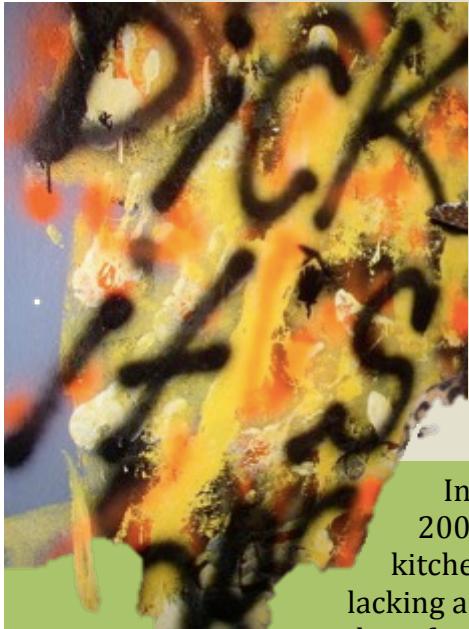
A house member, Mark Baum, who painted this in the early 2000s, would later be reprimanded along with another house member for stencilling dollar signs





The house mural, originally painted early 2000s, was modified, when the actual house was repainted. The 'dirty stucco' was replaced with bright yellow walls, and several former members were portrayed as stick figures on the building. Billy, who had developed a love of climbing, following going to a Climbing Disorientation his first semester (and teaching it thereafter), where members were taught how to climb different bits of the house, is depicted scaling the left side of the building (not shown in photo).

The house, circa 2008-2009, would acquire this sign following a Stripper Party, when a few house members went out with a fire fighter they had just met. The fire fighter was very drunk, and was happy to help the party acquire a number of signs, including this one.



2000s - Following an extremely lengthy speech, made in council, by a girl on the topic of eating organic food, that night, the phrase "Dick – it's organic" was painted on her door. Shocked, the next day, the girl painted over it. However, the perpetrator would be back again that night to re-paint his message. A paint battle was waged for several days, until the matter got so ludicrous it was brought before council. However, reflecting the 'tolerant' atmosphere of the house at the time, members voted to not uncooperatively fine the perpetrator, on the basis that his right to freedom of speech, allowed him to write anything he wanted on the walls. The tag no longer exists.

In the early 2000s, the kitchen was lacking a good kitchen work surface, but

purchasing a table large enough for eight potential cooks to use would have been expensive. Instead, Joachim, as his HI project, built this massive hardwood table in the kitchen from scratch in the early 2000s. The table had to be built perfectly to size to ensure no chinks of food could get stuck. The



# End word.

In conclusion, CZ has gone through many forms. While it may have shed some of its earlier attributes (clean, tidy, nice furniture), it's never lost its spark, having remained a tight knit community from start to finish. For me, one of the most striking aspects of how the house has changed, is how it went from being, to put it simply, a cheaper alternative to dorms, to have a very distinct culture in its own right – i.e. 'this is MY co-op.'

The house will continue to evolve and naturally, some traditions will be forgotten, but also new ones will be created. Some things are simply no longer relevant, but I hope by writing this, current members will be aided in retaining a little of our institutional knowledge for future generations to come.

Indeed, in one of my first days in the house, I was greeted to a few old house legends by a couple of old czars, including the tale of John's shaft. While this may have been a weak attempt at making me scream and run, it ultimately had the opposite effect, stirring a mild curiosity, and making me think, 'God, where the hell have I moved into?' Admittedly, that first night, in my cold, damp 100s temp room, jet lagged and homesick, unused to dustup thumping through the walls and the funny house smell, for a moment, I regretted not accepting that iHouse contract. But a year later, I'm very, very happy I stayed put. Today's house is full of amazingly friendly, welcoming people, yummy food, and elaborately planned social events. The house is thriving.

Researching and writing this, I tried to aim for as full and as accurate account of the house's history as I could get in the few months I had, however, I recognise that in some areas I probably have failed. This is because on the time frame I was working on (and having to factor uni work in), it was simply impossible to contact as many alumni as I wanted to. In particular, I wish I had found some contributors, who had lived in the house during the period 1985–1995. Anyhow, I made the best of the sources I got, and this is the result.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Of course there are a few people who have helped keep me sane during this process, as well as some wonderful people who let me interview them/harass them with emails. First, thank you to all those who offered their contributions, this monster could not have been written without you. I have thoroughly enjoyed hearing and reading your stories. A few of you even went round the house with me pointing out the exact nuts and bolts of what had changed since you left! Thanks to members of the Converge listserve, who

directed me towards photos, videos and accounts of the house in the early-mid 2000s, some of which have been featured in this piece. Furthermore, thank you, to the many wonderful current czars who sat down and listened to me moan about that 'dammed house history thing.' Some of you even directed me towards useful websites or old friends who could help. I can't name everyone but a few people stand out. Eboneigh and Ahreum, my roommates, who couldn't escape my rants/bouts of overenthusiasm, sometimes occurring in the middle of the night. Hannah T (Hann Dawg) who listened (or at least pretended to) and badgered me about my inability to type with more than two fingers (I can now type with four, if you count thumbs). Ham, who showed an interest, and kept asking for more photos to be put on the listserve. Justin ("Justin, I found the dead girl") who passed my photos onto the listserve, following my technological ineptness at decreasing photo resolution and always seemed to be there just after I'd found out something really exciting. Kate M, and Margaret, who put up with me taking my transcripts on holiday. Chris W(GBC) who was nosy and read my transcribed interviews over my shoulder (don't think I don't know!) on the train. Finally, considerable thanks go to Madeleine and Betsy down at CO, who helped me get in contact with some former house members.

## Where former members are now...

**Greg**, age 29, lived in CZ between 1999-2003. He still lives in Berkeley. He was workshift manager for two years, as well as kitchen manager for a semester during the same period. He also lived in Lothlorien, where he met his wife, for eight weeks. He has a BA in History from UC Berkeley. He now works in management consulting for Boston consulting groups. In CZ, he lived in 310, 110 (when it was a triple), 212, 42, 99, 305, and the 40s fish balcony for a summer.

**Sean**, age 36, lived in CZ during Spring 1996, his junior year. He is married with two kids, and working for Yahoo as a data specialist. He lived in 205 and was a Literature major at UC Berkeley.

**Cathy**, lived in Ridge Project between 1975-1977. She lived in Barrington in 1973 and in Kingman for a while after leaving CZ. She was a Social Welfare major at UC Berkeley and is now a Sorting Specialist. She has three sons, whose father she met at Kingman. Following a recent visit to the house, her 17-year-old son wants to move in! She lived in 301.

**Laura**, age 49, moved into to Ridge Project as a freshman, and lived there between 1979-1982. She was Food/Kitchen Manager. She is married, has two children and is a Paediatrician. She lived in include: 15, 27 and 28.

**Rami** lived in Ridge Project between 1966-1967, moving in as a Sophomore. The previous year, he lived in Barrington. His father had previously lived in Barrington and Oxford. He was Workshift Manager. He still lives in California and is a retired engineer, having majored in Maths at UC Berkeley. He is married with two kids. For the last six years, he has been taking classes at UC Berkeley.

**David**, age 30, lived in CZ between 1998-1999, moving in as a freshman. He also would live in Stebbins, Kingman, Rochdale and Fenwick. He still lives in the Bay Area, working on a Clinical Doctorate in Psychology and working at the Berkeley Free Clinic. He lived in 112 and 111.

**Ryan**, age 25, lived in CZ between 2005-2006. He also lived in Kingman for a summer and briefly in Cloyne. He now tutors kids and does some web design work. He lived in 301.

**Ofri** lived in CZ between 2008-2009. Previously, her sisters had lived in co-ops-Lothlorien and Castro. She would also live in Castro, after leaving CZ to study abroad for a semester. She was House Manager in Fall 2009. She lived in 109, 48 and 35.

**Rodney** lived in Ridge Project between 1982-1985, moving in as a sophomore transfer to UC Berkeley. He is married and now teaches adult literacy in Richmond. He also lived in the Fenwick apartments, after leaving CZ. He was House Manager, then President of the USCA. He also chaired the Minority Affairs Board and would be an alumni consultant when Afro house was being created in 2000.

**Sabine**, age 50, lived in CZ between 1998-2007, with a three-year gap in the middle. She was a History major at UC Berkeley, and went on to gain a teaching qualification. She now teaches Preschoolers Botany at the Montessori school in Berkeley. She lived in 16.

**Ken** lived in Ridge Project between 1968-1969. He would also live in Cloyne in the 1970s. After dropping out of school for seven years, he would return and get a degree in Psychology. He is now a senior manager at UC Berkeley's School of Education.

**Rahelle**, age 24, lived in CZ between 2006-2009. Her major was Political Science. House and central level positions she held included: Ad Com Rep, Support Rep, Board Rep, House Bitch and Kitchen Manager. She lived in 206, 202, 204, 33 and 45.

**Andrei**, age 29, lived in the house between 2000-2004. He was House President in 2004. He has an undergraduate degree in Computer Science and Communicative Studies from UC Berkeley. After three years in engineering and a year as a performance artist, he returned to Berkeley to get an MA in the humanities. He is now doing a PhD in Computational Sociology. He lived in 107, 44 and 32.

**Billy**, age 27, lived in CZ between 2002-2006. He was Ethernet manager and would serve as an Alumni rep on CZ Com. He now works at the UC Berkeley Science labs, building radio astronomy. He lived in 107 (as a triple), 104 (as a double) and 48.

**Justin**, age 25, lived in CZ between 2007-2010, moving in as a second year grad student. He has an undergraduate degree from Caltech. He was Ethernet Manager. He lives in Oakland and currently tutors alongside sometimes doing casual work at CK. He lived in 213, 205 and 21 (when it was the fish bowl).

**Johnny** fished in CZ in 2006, following several years at Chateau. He works at Hummingbird café, following a winter working at a Colorado ski resort. He also makes didgeridoos. He has one son.

**Joe** lived in CZ between 2005-2009. He also lived in Stebbins during the retrofit. House positions he held included: Board Rep, Social Manager, House Manager, Kitchen Manager and House Bitch. He works for Meyer Sound Laboratories in West Berkeley.

**Kyle**, age 34, lived in CZ between 1999-2011. He also lived in Oscar Wilde, Hillegrass-Parker, Stebbins and Northside Apartments. Manager positions he held included: House President, Social Manager, and Hot Tub manager (at Wilde). He holds a BA in Philosophy, a MA in Political Science and another MA in International Relations, all from San Francisco State University. His first room was 308.

**Cookie** lived in the house from 2001-2005, moving in as a Freshman. He would also live in Northside Apartments for a year. Central levels positions he held included: Assistant Workshift Manager, House President, Kitchen Manager, Board Rep, CZ Com Rep, Cabinet at Large, Vice President for Development and Planning, House Manager and Board Facilitator. He is now studying for a PhD in History in New York.

**Tim** lived in Ridge Project between 1966-1968. Prior to living in RP, he lived in Cloyne for three years. He has played guitar with the Robert Cray band. His musical talent has taken him to five continents, 35 countries and 48 states.

**Louis**, age 64, lived in Ridge Project between 1966-1969. He lived in Barrington, the year previously, as a freshman. He was Garden Manager. He got a BA in Biophysics and is now a Kidney Specialist in Oregon. He is divorced with three kids.

**Julian** lived in Ridge Project 1974-1976, moving in as a Sophomore. He was Communications Manager in late 1975. He has an undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley in Computer Science and a Doctorate from Ohio State. He worked for NASA for 10 years, focusing on 3D Computer Animation. He believes that he is the only house member to have ever spent time in a Space Shuttle. He is divorced with teenage children. He lived in 314 and 312.

**Jay** lived in Ridge Project between 1979-1983. A summer earlier he lived in Cloyne Court but moved out as the house was too decrepit, recalling that his mother brought him a climbing rope to keep under his bed on the third floor so he could abseil down the wall if the house caught fire. He was Workshift Manager. He was a Mathematics major and is now a software development manager at ROLM/IBM/Siemens. He lived in 105, 310, 23, 36 and 46.

**Tiffany**, age 23, lived in CZ between 2005-2011. She also lived in Cloyne during the retrofit. She was Workshift Manager. She has a BA from UC Berkeley in History and Classics. She is currently a director of special events at Treasure Island Events Center and a manager at Oasis Bar and Grill. Rooms she lived in include 15 and 211.

**Austin**, age 27, lived in CZ between 2002-2005, where he met his wife, Mandy. He was House Secretary between 2003-2004 and then later, a Board Rep. He lived in 104, 312, 302 and 27. He has an undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley in Mathematics and is currently working on a PhD in the same subject.

**CZ OR DIE!**