

UNIVERSITY COOPERATIVE HOUSING ASSOCIATION
YEARBOOK

UCHA CO-OP

2011 - 2012



LIFE
IN THE
COOP

FASHION EDITION

UCLA AND SANTA MONICA
COLLEGE'S FINEST
STRUTTIN' THEIR STUFF

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Arusha Weerasinghe



el director del co-op
in a conversation with Joana Parducho.



Q: Out of the foods the Co-op kitchen serves, what is your favorite?

A: Salmon, without a doubt. I love it.

Q: So how come we don't serve it more often?

A: Because it's expensive. Because it's not about what I want; it's about what the organization can afford and it's about what the vast majority wants. Salmon and asparagus? I'm in heaven.

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: I'm not a movie buff believe it or not. I like movies that are about real life situations or if it's about a famous personality or interesting personality or someone who has contributed to society. I don't even know what the last movie I saw was. But I watch TV all the time.

Q: I always find it interesting to see people from the Co-op outside the Co-op environment. What is life outside the Co-op like for you? What do you do in your free time?

A: I love to travel. I've been to different countries. I've travelled across the U.S. as well. I've visited about 36 states. I've done an equal amount abroad. So that's my passion. I've been to China, Japan, Philippines, most of the European countries, U.S. Virgin Islands, India, Canada, Hungary, Poland. I'm a keen musician, and so visited

Chopin's birthplace, in Warsaw. I've also been to Malta. It's a little island where the Blue Lagoon was filmed. It's a movie that made Brooke Shields famous.

Q: So what's the next one?

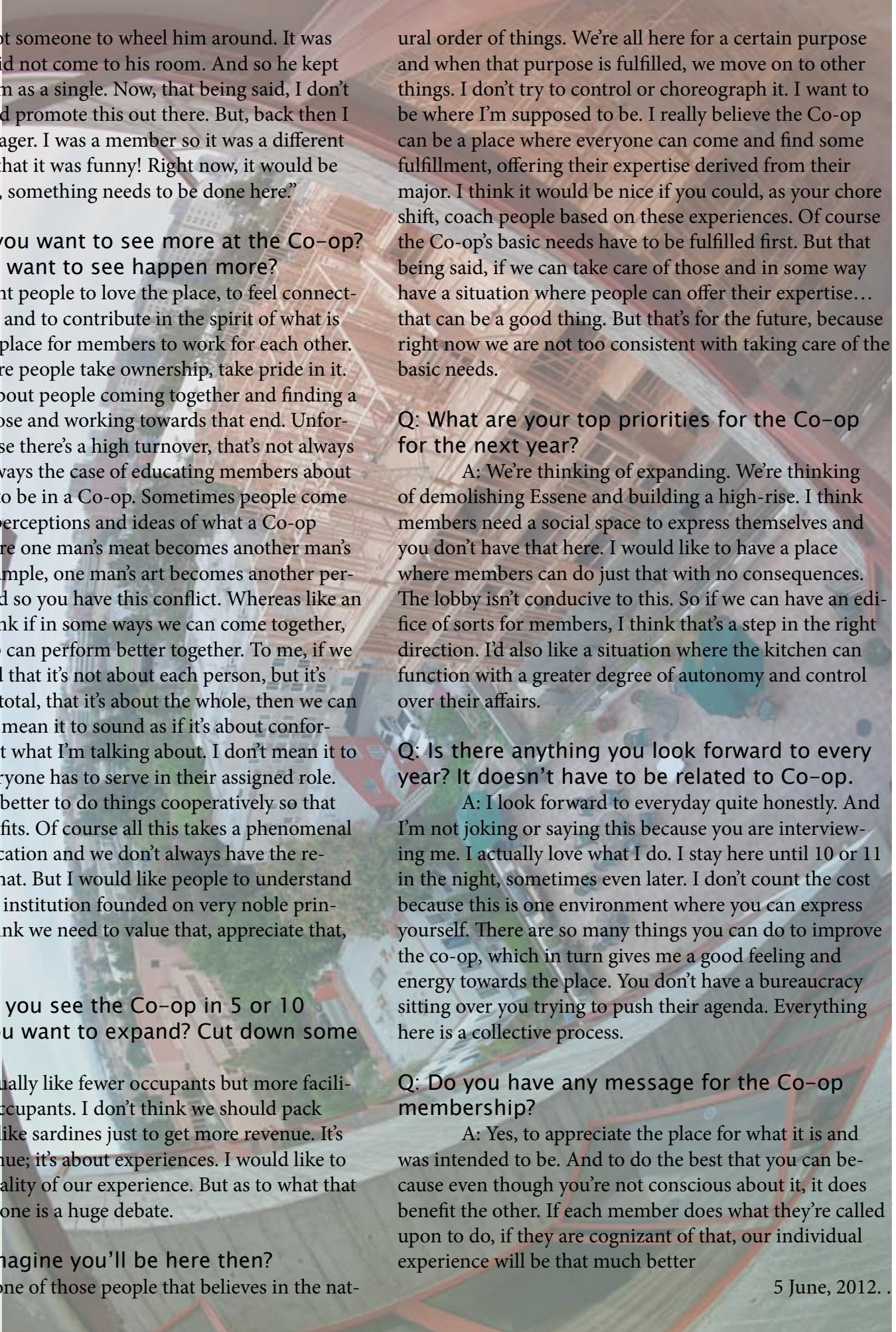
A: The next one is I'm going back to the country of my birth, which is Sri Lanka. The last time I was there was last December.

Q: How would you describe this year's group of students? What have you noticed? Any trends?

A: I like what I see in that I see a lot of social activity amongst members. I see them practice their instruments. It's a good energy. Being that I'm a musician, I like that. Then there was the prom party. I believe through these social events, people find their connection with each other and to the organization as well.

Q: What has been the craziest thing you've seen in the Co-op? Not to encourage crazy things...

A: If you're asking what the craziest thing someone has done, I can tell you at one Bump there was this guy who wanted to prevent people from coming to his room. He was around 6 feet 7 inches tall; he dressed like Marilyn Monroe with the wig and everything. He



sat on a cart, got someone to wheel him around. It was crazy. People did not come to his room. And so he kept the double room as a single. Now, that being said, I don't know if I should promote this out there. But, back then I wasn't the manager. I was a member so it was a different perspective in that it was funny! Right now, it would be more like "Hey, something needs to be done here!"

Q: What do you want to see more at the Co-op? What do you want to see happen more?

A: I want people to love the place, to feel connected to the place, and to contribute in the spirit of what is intended. It's a place for members to work for each other. It's a place where people take ownership, take pride in it. The Co-op is about people coming together and finding a common purpose and working towards that end. Unfortunately, because there's a high turnover, that's not always possible. It's always the case of educating members about what it means to be in a Co-op. Sometimes people come with different perceptions and ideas of what a Co-op should be; where one man's meat becomes another man's poison. For example, one man's art becomes another person's graffiti and so you have this conflict. Whereas like an orchestra, I think if in some ways we can come together, then the Co-op can perform better together. To me, if we can understand that it's not about each person, but it's about the sum total, that it's about the whole, then we can do well. I don't mean it to sound as if it's about conformity; that is not what I'm talking about. I don't mean it to sound as if everyone has to serve in their assigned role. It's just that it's better to do things cooperatively so that the whole benefits. Of course all this takes a phenomenal amount of education and we don't always have the resources to do that. But I would like people to understand that it's a noble institution founded on very noble principles, and I think we need to value that, appreciate that, and foster it.

Q: Where do you see the Co-op in 5 or 10 years? Do you want to expand? Cut down some things?

A: I actually like fewer occupants but more facilities for those occupants. I don't think we should pack ourselves here like sardines just to get more revenue. It's not about revenue; it's about experiences. I would like to increase the quality of our experience. But as to what that means to everyone is a huge debate.

Q: Do you imagine you'll be here then?

A: I'm one of those people that believes in the nat-

ural order of things. We're all here for a certain purpose and when that purpose is fulfilled, we move on to other things. I don't try to control or choreograph it. I want to be where I'm supposed to be. I really believe the Co-op can be a place where everyone can come and find some fulfillment, offering their expertise derived from their major. I think it would be nice if you could, as your chore shift, coach people based on these experiences. Of course the Co-op's basic needs have to be fulfilled first. But that being said, if we can take care of those and in some way have a situation where people can offer their expertise... that can be a good thing. But that's for the future, because right now we are not too consistent with taking care of the basic needs.

Q: What are your top priorities for the Co-op for the next year?

A: We're thinking of expanding. We're thinking of demolishing Essene and building a high-rise. I think members need a social space to express themselves and you don't have that here. I would like to have a place where members can do just that with no consequences. The lobby isn't conducive to this. So if we can have an edifice of sorts for members, I think that's a step in the right direction. I'd also like a situation where the kitchen can function with a greater degree of autonomy and control over their affairs.

Q: Is there anything you look forward to every year? It doesn't have to be related to Co-op.

A: I look forward to everyday quite honestly. And I'm not joking or saying this because you are interviewing me. I actually love what I do. I stay here until 10 or 11 in the night, sometimes even later. I don't count the cost because this is one environment where you can express yourself. There are so many things you can do to improve the co-op, which in turn gives me a good feeling and energy towards the place. You don't have a bureaucracy sitting over you trying to push their agenda. Everything here is a collective process.

Q: Do you have any message for the Co-op membership?

A: Yes, to appreciate the place for what it is and was intended to be. And to do the best that you can because even though you're not conscious about it, it does benefit the other. If each member does what they're called upon to do, if they are cognizant of that, our individual experience will be that much better



Kitchen

The kitchen crew is in charge of preparing food for meals, and cleaning up dishes and tables. They work under a KC, as well as for chefs like Jorge pictured here.



Mem Com and BoD



Mem Com (Membership Committee) is the elected judiciary body of the Co-op in charge of bump, delinquencies, and rent. BoD (Board of Directors) approves the budget, pass rules, and preside over hearings.



Security



The security crew ensures the safety of the Co-op by patrolling the night hours. The meal check branch of security makes sure that only members or paid patrons eat at the cafeteria.

Accounting and Office



The accounting office handles finances and fines, as well as credits and payments. The office crew works at the entrance to the Co-op, checking in new members and taking care of logistical issues.

Maintenance and Bathroom

Maintenance fix problems like leaky faucets, clogged toilets, and lose electrical connections. Analogously, the bathroom crew is incharge of maintaining the cleanliness of Co-op bathrooms by providing cleaning supplies for Co-opers.



Gardening



The gardening crew makes sure the plants and flowers around the Co-op landscape stay beautiful by removing weeds, providing water, and seasonal planting.





Mail Room and Store

Mail room handles incoming mail and packages, distributing them to the appropriate members. The store crew is another service crew supplying snacks and essentials for Co-op consumers.



Social



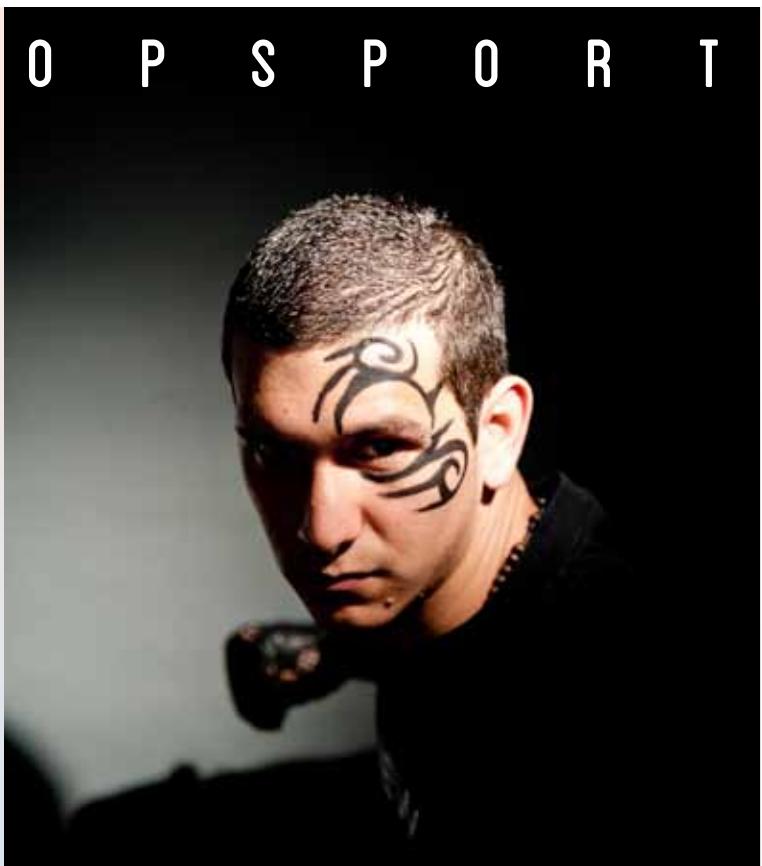
The social crew plans activities like the salsa party, prom, hiking, Super Bowl BBQ, Halloween party, movie nights, and food for finals. They keep everyone entertained.

Bicycle

Want to start your own crew in the Co-op? That's totally legitimate. For example, here's are the Co-op bicycle riders crew. They go to crazy places all around LA on their bikes. Join them if you dare.



C O O P S P O R T





W E L C O M E T O T H E J U N G

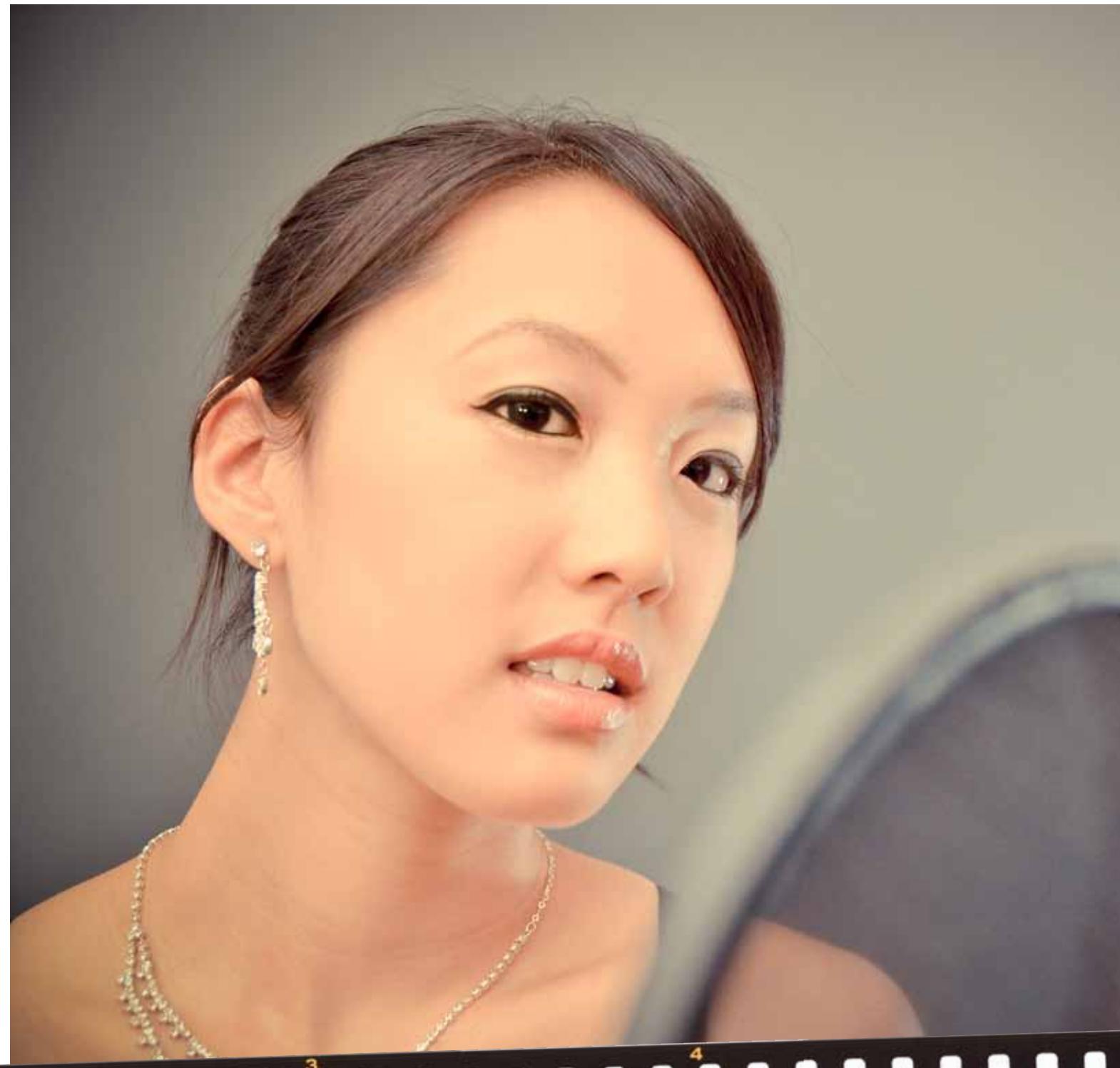








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reasons why the co-op is the best place to live.

by maddy glenn.

the patio. endless sunshine. almost-good coffee. hhh. jim morrison used to live here. friends. someone is always playing the piano. we pay less than everyone else to have more fun than anyone else. halloween. essene. people from everywhere. we have a famous architecture

building. the library.

tea and
the walls.

coffee. murals on
a horror

movie
here.

was filmed
ping

pong.

infinite

white

rice.

move

in day.

there's

always

some-

thing going

on.

music. places

to stay in

every country.

foose ball.

curry. bump. netflix

tv room. pool. burger

wednesdays. parties so

hard the police come... every time. roomates. cooking. cleaning. themed parties. freedom. ice cream. our wonderful cooks. random robison nights. dragons in the stairwells. 24 hour soda fountain. study rooms. garden. travel buddies. qph. ridiculous things always going on. the best facilities crew in Westwood. new experiences. the porch.

beer pong tournaments. never bored. dancing. peaceful living. pumpkin carving. meeting new people. laughs. never bored. smiling faces. trees. everyone wants to be a co-oper. poker. shots. new love. the coolest place on Landfair. hippies. delicious homemade bread.

we own it.



Co-op Poem by Alan Pan

From my workshift I just come back,
Heading to my room, I feel that I have no lack.
My mind beaming with concentration,
And heart teeming with inspiration,
My dreams suddenly become dross,
Because the internet connection to the entire co-op is lost!
Racing to sixth floor, I try to secure a seat in the computer room,
But I find that every station is taken and I fear that I have met my doom.
My final exam is tomorrow, can't Time Warner Cable see?
I need to read nineteen powerpoints posted on ccle.

In the face of the exigency,
I suddenly come to me senses.
There is no need to worry about this course,
Because I have already perused the source.
I already read the textbook four days ago and am ready for any test,
Indeed, I know the details better than all the rest.
So I walk back to my room, and with confidence draw nigh,
Tomorrow is my day, I will not sigh.
I look out the window and the fresh air I smell;
The breeze whispers into my ear, "All is well."

Cornflakes-Yellow Lies by Anna Ramsten

Small, white, innocent lies stacked on top of each other like the boxes of cornflakes, neatly piled up in an American supermarket. Once placed on top of each other – impossible to remove.

I've been eating these brittle, yellow flakes for breakfast, lunch and dinner, for as long as I can remember. I actually see myself as a cornflakes person, a golden, cornfield-sunny, brisk and bright person.

I daydream, and imagine that my hand is stretched out to remove one of the lower, corn-yellow packages. The entire tower would collapse! I can see it before my very eyes.

I withdraw my hand, I better not.

If I'm not made of corn then what am I made of, whole

grains? Or maybe baked beans, what a terrifying thought! No, any time of they day I would stick to these dear, sweet and familiar flakes.

And even if I wanted to rid myself of them, they are now towering over me, a taunting pyramid. If I attempt to move them, they will fall on me, I am sure, and their sharp corners will lacerate my arms as I am trying feebly to protect my precious head from the barrage.

Well, It could have been worse, I assert myself.

It could have been a pile of canned lies.

Need You by Anna Ramsten

I need you like the crop needs water to grow,
Like the red dusty roads of Kenya thirsted for rain in 2006,
The manioc would not grow and the women were Crying out to the Almighty, praying That he would let the heavens Break into tears, fill the cracked Surface of the barren earth.

I need you,
As bad as the jazz musician needs that piano to Soothe his burning fingers.
As the tall man in the bar needs that Cigarette glowing in his left hand.

I crave you,
As women crave chocolate, the way it Melts between their lips.
As young bodies hunger for each other, for the Warmth between their legs.
As aggressively, as that metal drummer Needs his drumsticks and Double pedals to beat up his drums.
I need you so bad that I could beat you up.

Like a boxer needs his opponent – I need you in the ring. Show me your face and knock me out, Because I'm

Still, not, satisfied.

Kelly and her friends on their trip to San Francisco. Taken at the Golden Gate Bridge.



Exchange Students' Life in Coop

A quick glimpse in interviews

Li Ruobi

Every year Coop welcomes a large number of exchange students from all over the world, who bring new cultural elements into the warm

family, and also embrace the American culture in Coop and UCLA.

Today we will be interviewing two exchange students living in Coop and share their stories of happiness and sorrows. The first interviewee is Chuyuan Fu, a 19-year-old junior from The University of Hong Kong. Her friends always call her Kelly. Even she moved in only two months ago, the easygoing girl has made a bunch of friends here. Our interview

with Kelly was conducted during a relaxing dinner talk in Coop's cafeteria with her friends.

Q: How do you feel about Coop at first sight?

Kelly: I think its room is really big. I rarely enjoy such a large space in Hong Kong. And my two roommates are really nice. I knew one of my roommates back in Hong Kong, and I get to know my other Chinese roommate soon.

Q: How about the food? (since we were having dinner!) Kelly: Well I like it. I seldom eat on campus or outside and

I have every meal here! It's great that Coop includes 19 meal-plan for everyone so we do not have to pay for meals.

Q: Talk about the most American-style thing you've done so far? Something you do not do back home?

Kelly: I think...it's drinking. I had never done drinking before and I only started drinking here, mostly on parties. I tried beer on Lunar Year Party held by Chinese exchange students and rum and Bailey in my friend's dorm. The rums enjoyed a 30% off if you buy a 6- pack so we bought several packs back and finished them all! I

did not feel very well the other day but it was fun! It is a totally new experience for me and I am looking forward to more. I guess only in Coop's dorms, since I am not yet 21...

Q: Anything else?

Kelly: I also miss deadlines here. I don't know if that counts an American thing? Haha, but I usually do not miss my homework in Hong Kong, because my friends were always talking about it and I would be reminded. People here are not so concerned about their homework, I think, or it's just I am too relaxed on exchange!

Q: Thank you very much for your time! Do you think that you will recommend Coop to next year exchange students from The University of Hong Kong?

Kelly: Definitely! It has the highest cost performance!

Then we have Yafei Sun, an accounting major junior from The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Let's see how he feels about Coop and Los Angeles.

Q: Your first impression of Coop?

Yafei: Not very good, honestly. My friend highly recommended it before I came here, and I might had a too high expectation. However, later I found that people here are really nice, especially the people that I work with in the kitchen. Now I am pretty used to my life here.

"I also miss deadlines here. I don't know if that counts an American thing?"

Kelly Fu

Q: What did you find most interesting in your life here?

Yafei: I get to travel a lot! I have visited four or five cities in the first quarter, and I plan to fly to the east coast in the spring break to visit my friends there. I would say that is exactly what I have been expecting for my exchange life.

Also I met some celebrities here, that's very exciting! I saw Jennifer Aniston while I was having dinner at Westwood. She seems to be presenting a premiere there. That is a big benefit of living in LA! What is more thrilling is that I met Venus Williams here and talked to her last weekend. I got a photograph with her and I was regretted that I did not have a pen with me to get it autographed.

Q: Thank you for your sharing! I hope you can continue to enjoy the exchange life here!

Yafei: Yeah, you too.

Although the group of exchange students come and go fairly quickly (usually one or two quarters), they do bring more diversity and fun to Coop. They also learned and enjoyed a lot here, from cooking to cleaning, from party to trip. I believe that more and more exchange students will find the fascination of Coop.

Left: Yafei Sun with his friend John and Venus Williams.

Right: Kelly and her friend Kate on trip.





Meng Ai

electrical engineering
"HAHAHAHAHAHAHA."



Karen Alvarez

english
"(>^__^<)"



Ankit Arora

computer science
"One last time....."





Paul Auten

film / business

"If you don't take a risk in life, you're not living."



Elizabeth Barajas



languages
"Yes Man!"

Arin Bedrosian

anthropology

"chase happiness, not material."





Van Bedrosian

degeneracy
%*@# Pedro.



Gabriel Bogo



mechanical engineering
"Tell me why ain't nothin' but a heartache."



Ayesha Bulegoda



finance
"Like a boss."



Fuxi Cai



electrical engineering
"I love coop!"

Renato Campos

mathematics
"Live long and
prosper."



Bo Chang

statistics
"Nicell!"





Lilly Chang

psychobiology
"Gaginang! :)"



Andrew Charron



Cognitive Science
"Kamehameha!!!!!!!"

Jessica Chen

Environmental Science
"Yayy :) co-op love."





Weichun Chen



Civil Engineering
"What?"



Peter Chow

Geography
"One more time, one more chance."



Bianca Cung

Statistics
"AKA Empress Boss Master Lady."





Aaron Daly

graphic design
"Viva la revolution."



Ali Fitch

english / art history
"Life is short, be happy!"



Michael Ge

mechanical engineering
"Nothing, man."





Kerollois Grgis

river dancing

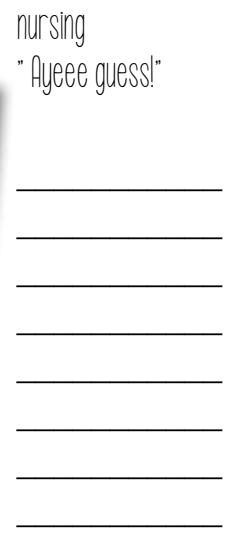
"Welly, welly, welly,
welly, welly, welly, well.
To what do I owe the
extreme pleasure of
this suprising visit?"



Ricardo Gray

nursing

"Ayeee guess!"



Cory Grzechowiak

brainology

"Its hard to stay
faithful in a room full
of hoes."





Neil Hartschuh

accounting / film

"Still no comment."



Hong He

mechanical engineering

"It is a great experience living here!"





Daiki Hidaka

international development

"Whaaaasabilll!"





UCHA CO-OP

Chihiro Ishida



international development
"No way!"

Sehee Jo

hotel management
"World peace."



Grace Kim

physiological Sciences
"Live laugh love."





Yukako Kitamura

art business

"See you soon!"



Edward Kwok



chemistry
"Go co-op!!"

Sze Wai Lee

business economics

"Hong Kong girls are AWESOME!!!!"





Yuqi Liang



music history
"Nothing."



Gangjin Li

civil engineering
"Co-op becomes better."



Jie Li



chemical engineering
"Keep going co-op!"





Cecilia Lin



biochemistry
"There is nothing you cannot handle!"

Karlo Lizarraga

neurosurgery
"We can change the world."



Cejo Lonappan



electrical engineering
"You can't handle the truth!!!"



Kuok Sam Lou

sociology
"Hey what's up?"



Leonardo Martinez-Torres

neuroscience
"Sometimes you just gotta keep on keepin on."



Dan Mathews-Hunter

women's studies
"Love knows no bounds
3."





Peter Nan

economics
"good luck for Green
card!!!"



Nassim Navi



counseling
"Queen of co-op."



Jaden Netwig



philosophy
"Making asses clap
since 1991."



UCHA CO-OP

Matheus Oliveira



dentistry
"I'm an idiot."

Thiago Oliveira

architecture
"Coop off."



Alan Pan

nursing
"UCHA."





Jun Pan

information science
"blank"



Joana Parducho

nursing
"Love and peace!"



Thang Pham

aerospace engineering
"Ten toi la Thang."



Anna Ramsten



communication
"Wzzup?!"



Elizabeth Rendon

english / directing
"Of impossible to pos-
sible! Viva Mexico!"



Artur Rodriguez



history / archaeology
"Veritas & Aequitas."



Esteban Ruiz



bioengineering
"Woot!"

Sakar Shivakoti

research
"Where is the party
tonight?"



Alex Sun



biochemistry /
accounting
"Dare & determined~"



Julse Suxdaltsev

psychology / film

"I wish I was Van."



Nathan Tudhope

economics
"Keep hatin'."



Alexander Vervuurt

mathematics / physics





Anais Walsdorf

photography /
geography
"Save the drama fo yo
llama."



Bitung Wang



anthropology
"A man is rich by the
number of things
he can afford to let
alone."



Kelly Wang



microbiology
"Racial Wang."



UCHA CO-OP

Nicolas Widman



computer science /
bioinformatics
"P"

Fan Wu

biostatistics

"Go Fiji and eat green!"



Kun Hong Wu

civil engineering

"I love UCHA."





Xiaoxi Xie

statistics

"Fave movie: Pride and Prejudice."



Chensi Xu



chinese / film
":]"

Changhong Yang

physics

"Life is too hard to take serious."





Chih Yu Yang



electrical engineering
"Like playing tennis in L.A."



Seungjin Yang

graphic design
"Am I dead? Cuz you are angel."



Yining Yang



law
"Happy time@COOP!!!"





Rong Yang



chemistry /
biochemistry
"Good luck for 2012."

Tatsuya Yoshioka

management
"I'm the BOSS."



Grace Yun



psychology / english
"Love you, I'll bring the
LA sun to Brasil!!!!"



Xinyi Zhang

microelectronics
"I have been fatter
since I came here."



Yingying Yu

statistics
"Fave movie: Pride and
Prejudice."



Yuebiao Zhang

chemistry /
biochemistry
"Nothing."





Zhen Zhou

computer science /
engineering

"I don't wanna get
fined for missing
shifts anymore!"



Jinda Zhuang

mechanical engineering
"Good to be here!!"



Jinfeng Zhu

electrical engineering
"I do appreciate my
COOP friends...."





Albert Hu



cognitive science
"Voted most likely to go to Africa to raise a black family in 5 years."

Qingdi Lu

mathematics

"Love co-op forever!"



Kaley Ngo

nursing

"Daniel's turtles are suicidal."





Chris Quinonez

aerospace engineering
"Yo, let's eat."



Daniel Sun



biology
"I have to do this fricken yearbook!"

Alex Zhang

mathematics
"Hmm... it's the people I love here at co-op :)."





T H A N K S F O R T H E M E M O R I E S



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