Student protests proposition 8 on campus
Michael Ahmad blends activism and performance in a unique demonstration

The passing of Proposition 8 has inspired protests throughout San Diego, including one this past weekend that attracted an estimated 25,000 participants.

USD's own professor of poetry and creative writing, Dr. Jericho Brown, presented his poetry as part of this year’s Cropper Series. The theater filled quickly and people sitting on the floor had to be led into an overflow room this past Friday.

Brown read 11 poems from his book “Please,” the design of which is meant to remind the reader of a music album. In addition to the jacket resembling an album cover several poems are titled as track numbers and the book is divided into three sections Repeat, Pause and Power, with the single word Stop on the page following his final poem.

During the question and answer session after his readings, Brown said that when creating poetry “the metaphor is music…you manage something on the page so readers can hear it come off the page even though the voice isn’t there.” He feels that reading poems aloud is an integral part of understanding reading poems aloud.

During his performance, Ahmad shook the cage and answered questions about student housing.


do not feed
the homosexuals

While some activists marched in masse, junior Michael Ahmad chose to lock himself in a cage. His artistic demonstration, which he titled “Plastic Fruit for Hungry Mouths,” drew a crowd outside of the UC during dead hours last Thursday.

Ahmad sat unspeaking in a metal dog cage that was lined with newspapers. A sign attached to the cage read, “Do not feed the homosexuals.” Three paper grocery bags placed just out of his reach were filled with plastic fruit and labeled “Life.” “Liberty” and “The Pursuit of Happiness.”

Some onlookers found the demonstration laughable. “I think this is weird and unnecessary,” Joey Bailey, a sophomore, said. Others, including Professor Evelyn Diaz-Cruz of the Theater Department, saw it as a poignant example of performance protest.

“This is heartbreaking. It’s humiliating and he puts it right in our face so that we can see how we treat members of our society like animals,” Diaz-Cruz said.

During his performance, Ahmad shook the cage and signed desperately for food. Many were startled and responded.

Homicide on Mission Beach causes worry
USD students react

21-year-old Christopher Ross Connor was found dead in his Mission Beach apartment at 12:28 a.m. on Nov. 16.

Police have arrested neighbor Brandon Callanan, 29, who allegedly visited the victim and was involved in a fatal altercation with him. According to authorities no weapon appears to have been used, although autopsy results have not been released. As of press time, Callanan is being held in prison, without bail, on the suspicion of murder.

The apartment, 2620 Bayside Lane, by Niantic Court, is close to home for many USD students who live at Mission Beach.

“I live near the scene of the murder. In some ways this news is surprising. That part of Mission Beach is very quiet; it seems safe. However, there isn’t really a strong sense of community. Neighbors don’t really ever see each other, and rarely get to know each other,” senior Tom Nash, who lives on Sunset Court said.

“It reflects that Mission Beach is an example of performance protest.

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