

# the dpe diplomat

## DPE Joins Hands with Student Groups to Bring Relief to South Africa

by Anela Chan  
Publications Committee

This November DPE presented a campus-wide philanthropy event to benefit impoverished South Africans. Under the direction of President Aaron Ordower, who hoped to make philanthropy a bigger part of DPE, active members formed a committee with Treasurer Rachel Whyte at the helm.

Through old friends, Rachel learned about "jericho!", a student group performing improv and sketch comedy at shows throughout the semester. Having seen their shows in the past, she knew that jericho! would be "organized, fun, and attract a sizable crowd," making the group a good candidate to work with DPE for a campus-wide event. In the past, jericho! had worked with Art Aids Art, a nonprofit organiza-



The Epsilon chapter at Berkeley Hillel following the benefit dinner with jericho! and Art Aids Art.

tion with Berkeley chapter dedicated to creating economic sustainability in South Africa, and this international focus led to a perfect three-way partnership between DPE, jericho!, and Art Aids Art.

Based out of Khayelitsha, near Cape Town, Art Aids Art is devoted to aiding women and chil-

dren in impoverished, AIDS-affected South Africa. The organization provides economic opportunity by purchasing artwork from collectives and exhibiting it in the U.S. Income from art sales is then reinvested in order to build community centers, create micro-

businesses, and improve education, thus creating a positive, sustainable cycle. In addition, Art Aids Art serves to educate the public about South African culture and the HIV/AIDS crisis through in-home and community presentations.

Proceeds from this charity event went towards Art Aids Art's building of eKhaya eKasi - "Home in the Hood" - a one-stop community center to provide health resources, education, employment and a family-like support network for families coping with AIDS.

DPE arranged all of the event logistics, including venue booking, menu planning, grocery shopping, cooking, promotion, ticket sales, set-up, and clean-up. Rachel and the Philanthropy Committee chose a bright, hardwood-floored space

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# Senior Profile: Lily Tam

by Kate Lewis  
Publications Committee

Lily Tam took her first vacation out of the country the summer after graduating high school. Her Spanish teacher had encouraged her to enter an essay contest held by the California Department of Education, and hers took first in the state. Her reward: a free trip to Spain. It was here she became hooked. "Traveling is something that I really love doing," the Delta Phi Epsilon member and outgoing senior said. "I love talking to people."

Although she was born in Florida, Lily lived in a village outside of Guangzhou, China with aunts and grandparents until she was five. She does not remember much about that time, but on a recent trip back to the area, she was surprised to learn just how much the people remembered about her. They recalled an incident of her taking money out of the cash box at her aunt's business to buy ice cream for the local kids. "It was so amazing that all of these people remembered my history and childhood better than I did," she said.

Lily recently spent a year abroad in Cairo, Egypt. She chose Cairo, she explained, because she relished the challenge of learning Arabic. "I knew it was one of the hardest languages to learn, and that not that many people at the time were taking Arabic. This meant a lot better odds for me to be able to find a job or utilize it in some

way." Living abroad was another challenge she wanted to face: "I wanted to see if I could live abroad, if I could live under any circumstances in which I find myself."

At the American University in Cairo, she was the first student to ever study Arabic independently. She taught herself by traveling into the markets and talking to the local merchants. During her year-long program, she traveled to Turkey, Jordan, Lebanon, and Israel. She even went to Costa Rica during winter break because she "just wanted to get out of the Middle East for a little bit." Lily said that she learned quite a bit from her Egyptian experience, most significantly about the discrepancy between perception and reality.

"What struck me the most is how different events on the ground could be from what is depicted in the media. When I was in Egypt during the bread riots, if you read the news it would seem that it was a movement that had completely engulfed the whole country, but I felt like there wasn't really an impact made except outside of the urban centers."

Before going to Egypt, she was under the assumption that the hijab (veil) was an example of the oppression of women in the Middle East. Upon arriving, though, she realized that "it's a very complex and multifaceted discussion. The issue is very gray."

The cultural misconceptions go both ways,



Senior Lily Tam (right) and her pledge "little sister", Miki Sankary at September's Santa Cruz retreat

however. Lily said that many Egyptians watched American television and assumed that it accurately represented American life. Although she herself was never physically harassed, her blonde friends were because "they thought that a blonde-haired girl was looser than someone else because of something they had seen on TV." On the other hand, because of her Chinese heritage, she says that many Egyptians did not believe she was American. "I had to tell them, "this is the America I'm proud of, comprised of many different people of different backgrounds."

Nevertheless, she never found the Egyptian people to be anti-American. "I got the sense for the most part that they loved Americans, even

though they might not necessarily love American policies. They were frustrated with America being the dictator of the world, the bully. But for the most part they could separate American policies from the American people." She noted that the wealthier Egyptians tended to be more in-tune to Western ways and were therefore less critical of the United States than the poorer classes.

She has been back in the United States six months now and says that she fell pretty easily back into her old routine- with one exception. "One thing that really struck me was getting used to skimpy clothing. People are a lot more conservative with their clothes there- I was excited to come back and wear shorts and not be stared at."

# DPE and the Free Speech Movement at Berkeley

by Selina MacLaren  
Editor-in-Chief

According to Terrence Boyle, National General Secretary of Delta Phi Epsilon, UC Berkeley's Epsilon chapter played an integral role in inciting the free speech movement on campus.

Terrence Boyle came to UC Berkeley in 1963-64 to earn a Master's Degree in Political Science, and he was initiated into DPE in 1963. One of his brothers in DPE at the time was Bruce Durbrow, son of Elbridge Durbrow, former U.S. ambassador to Vietnam. While Terrence and Bruce were attending UC Berkeley, South Vietnam's president Ngo Dinh Diem was causing global "commotion" by allowing violence to amplify a long-standing religious discrimination toward Buddhists. The First Lady of South Vietnam, Madame Nhu, toured the world to speak about the issue, and UC Berkeley's Epsilon chapter used Durbrow's connections to invite her to speak on

campus.

"She was all over the newspapers making remarks that were very controversial," Boyle said. "She went on a world tour to represent her country and try to give it a better image."

Madame Nhu agreed to speak on campus, but days before the event, university administration officials told DPE they would have to pay for security at the event, which would be several hundred dollars.

"That was a lot of money in 1963," Boyle said. "We set a table up on Sproul—no one had ever done it before."

The money was generated, the speech drew a full house, and the security proved to be unnecessary as the event proceeded calmly.

However, the event caused a disturbance of another kind. Other groups had seen the table on Sproul Plaza and used the same technique to draw attention to their causes and raise money.

"They all seemed to have

two of my friends (both very competent Berkeley students) took from six to ten months in finding a decent job, while a third decided to give up the search and go back to school. Expect to see a lot of "3 to 5 years experience", and "masters required" when filling out job applications.

Fortunately, I had already landed an internship at the University of San Diego by the time I graduated and had a couple of job interviews lined up. The head of the internship program at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice was im-



**SAN FRANCISCO NATIONAL CHAPTER**

DPE sponsored affair at the University of California, October 29, 1963. Left to right: Mr. Thach, Vietnamese Security Officer; Dr. Robert Scalapino, Chairman of the Political Science Department; Miss Le Thuy Nhu; Madame Nhu, speaker; and Gary Collier, president, Epsilon Collegiate Chapter.

socialist or communist in their names," Boyle said.

The owner of the Oakland Tribune published an editorial condemning the left-wing groups and pressured the University of California Regents to prohibit fundraising on public property.

Although DPE had removed their table once the fundraising was no longer necessary, other groups demanded a permanent presence. When the tables were prohibited, angry students, including Mario Savio, began to protest on Sproul Plaza. The movement evolved to include broader issues, and eventually came to be the

full-fledged Free Speech Movement that Berkeley is known for today.

While DPE's solitary table helped incite a campus-wide protest and years of Sproul Plaza flyering, Boyle said he and his DPE brothers had no intention of starting a progressive movement.

"It didn't have any intention of starting a revolutionary movement, it just adopted a policy that other people copied and some people took offense," he said. "I'm happy the Epsilon chapter has reactivated and is once again going strong."

## DPE Alum: Claudio Meneses, '07

Fellow DPE members,

As a recent graduate of UC Berkeley and a newcomer to the workforce, the best piece of advice I can give is the following: Future graduates, get ready for some hard times! The job market is saturated with unemployed, highly experienced individuals who are applying to virtually any job offering a decent salary. I already knew things were bad when

pressed when I told her that I was a member of DPE and the events our Fraternity put on. But other than the obvious resume building qualities of the organization what I cherish most from my participation in DPE are its members. I don't know if it's the nature of the Fraternity, how we recruit, or maybe just dumb luck but we seem to consistently get a fresh batch of friendly, highly motivated, and resourceful individuals every semester (myself being a rare exception).

I am currently working for Wells Fargo and al-

though it isn't quite what I pulled all those long nighters for, it has proven to be an enriching experience. Seeing as how I am living fifteen minutes away from the border with Mexico I have also been able to get more involved in local Mexican politics, exchanging ideas with party members and government officials.

If any of you have any further questions of life outside Berkeley's Ivory tower please feel free to contact me.

Great job DPE, and good luck with the rest of the semester.

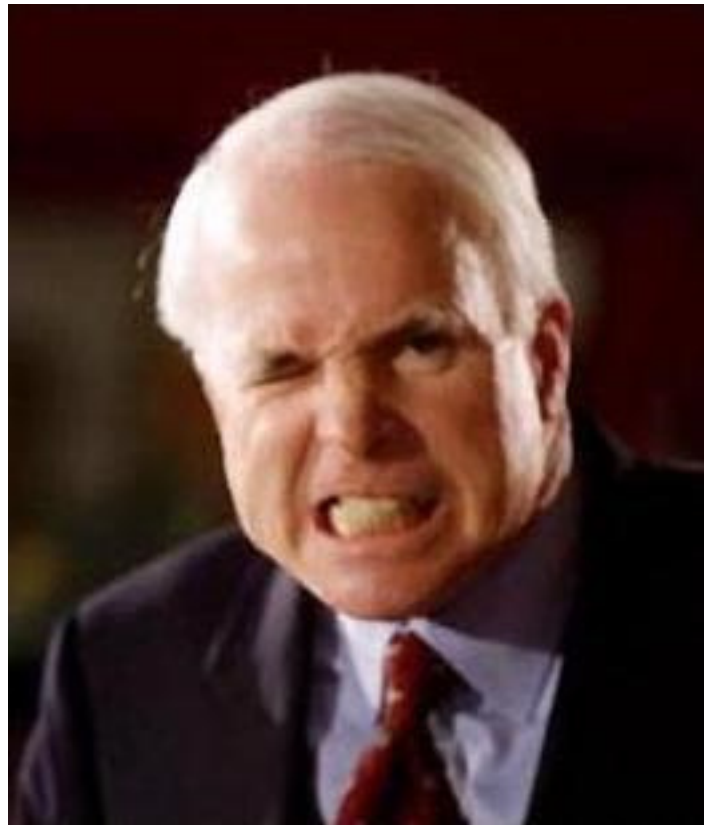
-Claudio Meneses, '07

# Humor: McCain, Our Presidential Hopeful

by Briant Carcamo  
Publications Committee

President-elect Obama won the race on Tuesday, but I think that America has made a terrible mistake. While McCain's speech was regarded as one full of humility and poise, some people argue that McCain should have listened to those obnoxious frat boys that were cheering him on to continue the fight. Come to think of it, what they were really yelling was probably something like "where is the beer pong?" but you know how Fox News twists things. I digress.

So Obama has been talking about change, getting rid of the old Washington, ardently defending that he's not a terrorist (even though we all know he really is), and all this yidi yada. However, his Republican counterpart was seriously overlooked. In an era where government spending runs rampant, it is important to remember that old guy, what's



his name, oh yeah John McCain. I'm sorry if my memory runs amok, but for some reason I've forgotten where I put those gosh-darn Alzheimer meds.

Why should we have voted for McCain you ask? Simple, old people are thrifty.

In all seriousness, America's passion for money is worse than Michael Jackson's passion for little boys, and we don't even get to play in a cool, Peter

Pan-themed mansion and drink underage (that's what fraternities are for). What America needs is an old-timer with his infinite wisdom to put a sock in that spending machine's mouth, and to our fortune, John McCain happens to be that elderly person.

In the first place, the elderly value money much more than we do. They remember things like when soda pop cost a nickel, or when ol' Carly McGee

had to eat the leather off the sole of his shoes to survive the Depression. They're even kind enough to give us the shiniest penny in their jar of coins, but only because it's your birthday kiddo.

If an elderly person ran the country, we wouldn't have such a huge government deficit. You know how stubborn they can get, and as soon as those S.O.B. Dems start spending, McCain can yell things like "Stop spending, and if you don't like it then scram" or "I'll send you like a bat out of hell" - whatever that means.

Old people are also great bargainers. An elderly president can cut executive spending by heading out for that Early Bird IHOP special and even get the coveted senior discount. McCain will probably stop spending all that money on those costly Air Force 1 flights and remind us of days where he had to walk 18 miles uphill both ways to get to school.

So my advice to America is to forget about the election results and reconsider our dearest, most wise candidate, John McCain. Without him, we're letting the kids run the show.

## DPE Roundtable: Pledge Edition

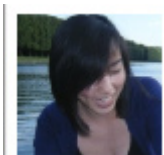
What does the United States need to do to improve its image abroad?



Mary Chesus (2011):  
"Elect Barack Obama."



Miki Sankary (2012):  
"There needs to be a push for more cross-cultural understanding. We seem to be unaware of how the global issues relate to us in America."



Tram Pham (2011):  
"Scale back interference in countries where US assistance is not necessarily needed, and step up in issues such as genocide or health aid."



David Berrios (2010):  
"Eliminate the notion of "American exceptionalism" and prevent it from dictating US foreign policy; we should however accept the notion that America can be exceptional through extensive cooperation."



Ning Ma (2012):  
"The US needs to reassert and demonstrate its political, economic, and military power, not through the means of aggression and interference but through diplomatic solutions."

# Middle East Focus: The Palestinian Refugee Crisis in Lebanon

by Devon Peterson  
Publications Committee

The refugee crisis created by the Palestinian diaspora has troubled many Arab states, but none so much as Lebanon. Balanced as it is between delicate sectarian rivalries, located near Israel – with whom relations have been tense at best – and strained by its relationships with neighboring Syria and the militia-turned-political party Hezbollah, Lebanon's political scene has not allowed for a particularly judicious treatment of the refugee problem. Often simply overlooking the state of refugees, the government has occasionally attempted to "resolve" the issue by imposing harsh restrictions on refugee life intended to encourage emigration. The resultant conditions of helplessness and repression present a threat to local and regional security (poor refugee camps are breeding grounds for radical politics and ideologies), but despite sporadic progress in normalizing refugee status, Palestinians in Lebanon face substantial economic and political barriers.

Palestinians that fled to Lebanon following the creation of the state of Israel came largely from the regions of Galilee and Coastal Palestine. They and their descendents currently number around 215,890, according to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, equal to about 5% of Lebanon's population. These figures are fairly controversial, with Palestinian and Lebanese sources tending to

estimate higher – claiming incomplete UNRWA registration – and Israeli authorities (asserting instances of double registration and other irregularities) estimating lower in general. More than half of Lebanon's refugees live in twelve refugee camps spread throughout Lebanon; the remainder live in cities and towns, as well as rural settlements, mostly in the south. The refugees are largely Sunni Muslim, and are overwhelmingly composed of second- and third-generation refugees, with only 12 percent having lived in Mandate Palestine prior to the creation of the Israeli state.

Lebanon initially welcomed the refugees, believing the crisis to be temporary. As time passed and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) grew in strength and influence, launching attacks into (and inspiring retaliation from) Israel, distrust of refugees grew – especially during the civil war from 1975 - 1990 – which has persisted to the present, despite the 1982 expulsion of the PLO from Lebanon by the Israeli army. The Ta'if Accords of 1989, which ended the 15-year war and constructed a government finely balanced between religious sects, also carried provisions excluding non-Lebanese from practicing certain rights (such as property ownership). Buttressed by subsequent laws and decrees, the systematic exclusion of non-Lebanese from many spheres of life – including much professional employment – as well as prohibitions of things such as construction/

building expansion, has economically decimated the refugee population.

Naturalization of the refugee population is out of the question. In 1994 a group of Shi'a Palestinians in border villages were naturalized, followed by a group of Sunnis the following year. Protests on the part of Lebanon's Maronite Christians then secured citizenship for the remaining population of Christian Palestinian refugees. With sectarian relationships as they are, the government of Lebanon is unwilling to destabilize the population by introducing a large bloc of Sunni Palestinians into the mix.

A popular theme for the refugees (and their hosts) is the desire to return home to their lands, known as repatriation. Repatriation is an unlikely solution for most Palestinians in Lebanon, given the limited absorptive capacities of the West Bank and Gaza and the fact that most of the refugees are from northern Palestine, and have no desire to relocate to current Palestinian territories. The right of return to lands in Israel, though upheld in UN resolution 194, is denied by the Israeli government, and while occasional family reunion-type arrangements might be made, they will be small in scope humanitarian rather than political solutions.

It can be assumed that the Palestinian population in Lebanon is there to stay, especially since a full quarter of third-generation refugees have at least one Lebanese parent – and thus a strong attachment to the country. Currently classified by

the Lebanese government as "foreigners who do not carry documentation from their countries of origin," 94% of Palestinian households in Lebanon reported a monthly income less than that which UNRWA deems the basic minimum for a family of five. Experts on the situation have suggested the creation of a sort of permanent non-citizen residency status (similar to the American green card) would go a long way towards stabilizing the status of the Palestinians. This arrangement – like most – would depend upon the existence of a sovereign Palestinian state with greater resources and recognition than the Palestinian National Authority, though recent visits by PNA president Mahmoud Abbas to Lebanon are re-building confidence in official Lebanese-Palestinian relations. For the moment though, the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon exist in a potentially volatile state of political and economic repression – one that it is in the interests of regional stability to address.

## SAVE THE DATES: DPE CALENDAR

11/12: Active Event:  
"The Greatest Foreign  
Policy Challenge for the  
Next Presidential  
Administration"

11/15: Bhangra Social

11/16: UoP's Psi Chapter  
Initiation

11/18: Pledge Event:  
"The "Blue" Gold Rush:  
Water Scarcity in the  
Next 50 years"

12/3: DPE Banquet

12/4: DPE Executive  
Committee Elections

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at Berkeley Hillel.

After posting fliers around campus, tabling on Sproul Plaza, and selling tickets, the big day came on November 1st. Several dedicated DPE members came to Hillel hours in advance to chop zucchini, toss salads, toast garlic bread, pesto up pasta, and of course bake brownies for dessert. Their efforts paid off when a hundred people entered from the Berkeley downpour outside to find a warm, home-cooked meal. Then, after a chatty dinner, with DPE members buzzing about, jericho! took to the stage with three videos and two acts. This three-year-old comedy troupe proved its ability to make us laugh with improv, taking random words from the audience to get the story going.

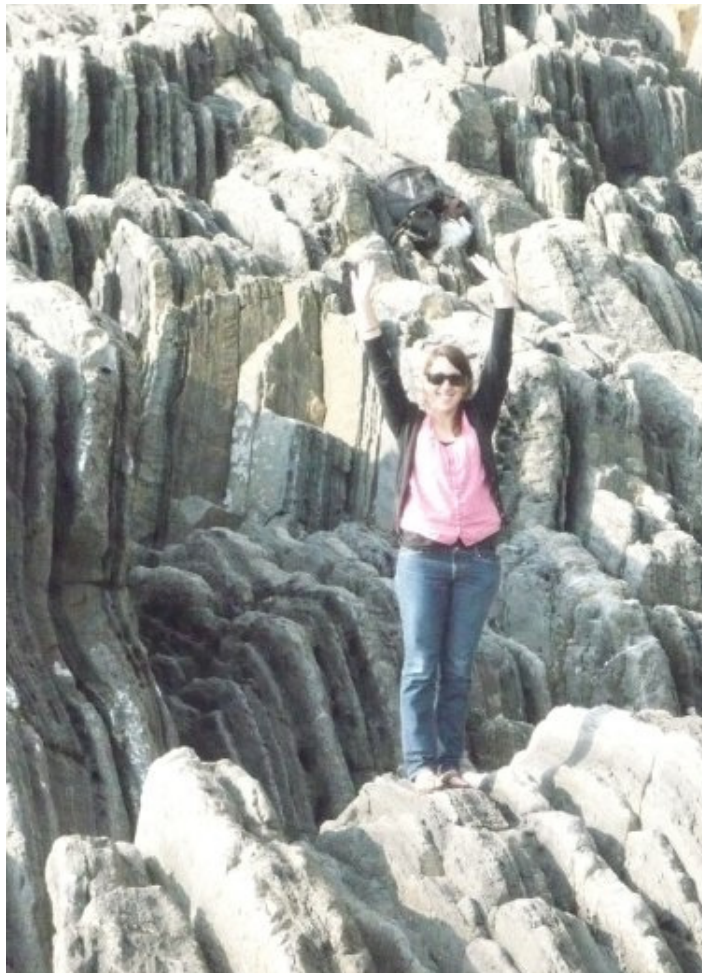
Due to their efforts, DPE and jericho! were able to donate about \$800 to Art Aids Art. Rachel commented, "Donations actually do make a huge difference in the lives of those that need it most. Also, I am extremely grateful for all of the effort put forth by DPE members. They did a great job!"

*The DPE Diplomat*

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## Letter from Abroad: Ashley Elles in Italy

Cari DPE,

I'm Ashley, a fourth year, and most of you (hopefully!) remember me as either Treasurer ('06-07), President (Fall 2007), or a normal active of DPE. I'm creating my own major with Interdisciplinary Studies Field Major titled "The Global Environment".

For now, I'm studying in Florence, Italy for the Fall semester. I am attending Scuola Lorenzo de Medici, a private university open to all students, but it's mostly American. I chose Italy because of my family background, and because I studied Italian for five semesters at Cal (and probably because of the food, too).

I've been here for about

two months now, and it's been a roller-coaster of an experience. I have really enjoyed developing my language skills and trying to talk to locals, but because Florence is so touristy, it's hard to find people who will speak Italian and NOT English to me. I feel like when studying abroad, you definitely have to try to branch out as much as you can while in your country to get the most out of it. I am trying to meet local students here, have signed up for a language exchange, and will soon start a volunteer position with a local Florence organization. I want to meet as many locals as I can!

While here, I definitely miss some things about the US – peanut butter

is a hidden, costly treasure here, and something I miss a LOT. On a more significant note, I miss being connected to the US elections. Most Italians know about it, and politics does come up a lot. Even the debates are covered on the front pages of the Italian newspapers.

My craziest experience here so far has been a disastrous experience with my housing situation. Our entire apartment went through a 2 ½ week ordeal with a bug problem: we were first evacuated, and after the fumigation process failed, went through another week of moving, packing and turmoil until we were finally moved into a new apartment.

Although the experience was something that I could not have expected, I tried to handle it the best way possible. When things weren't getting done (this is Italy), I took over and demanded more support from our housing department. Although I hate bugs, I knew I could deal with them because I remembered stories of far more horrific living conditions from past DPE members and speakers. The wood bug problem was nothing compared to the problems in the horrible stories told by Anne O'Leary and Leslie Mc-Bee. Sometimes, traveling doesn't always go as planned, but I know that what makes one a better international traveler and citizen is being able to adapt and overcome these challenges.

I'm going to get back to enjoying pasta and vino here in Firenze. I miss you all, and can't wait to see you in the Spring. Have a great fall semester, DPE!

Ciao tutti,  
Ashley