

JANUARY 2009

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Nina Macdonald



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

HRB ELECTIONS

There are 3 seats on the HRB that are up for re-election this year. Mike McNally, Cyril McCormick and Jan Fisher are completing their first terms on the HRB and are all running for re-election. If you would like to run please submit a statement of candidacy to the HRB by January 16th. Elections will follow in February.

A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION – HELP GREEN OUR COMMUNITY

Everyone in University Hills can help to make this resolution actually come about. Planting a tree is one of the best ways to claim a piece of nature for your own. You can plant a tree, watch it grow, add green to the earth, clean the air, enhance the environment and help generations to come. UCI, ICHA and ShadeTree Partnership are sponsoring a volunteer tree planting on Saturday, January 24, 2009 on the hillside behind the new housing areas of Wharton Court and Mistral Lane. You are all invited to help with this Oak Grove planting. Over one hundred (100+) trees are being added to the open hillside area below the Area 9 homes. The planting palette will consist of 3 species of native oaks: Coast Live Oak, Engelmann Oak and the Valley Oak. Also being planted are two shrubs, Toyon and Blue Elderberry. Planting basins will be pre-dug to assist with the installations. The UHills Community is being invited to share in the greening of this piece of the planet by helping plant these trees and shrubs. Bring your shovels, work gloves and enthusiasm to Agave Park (cul-de-sac end of Mistral & Wharton) on Saturday, January 24, 2009, at 9:00am. ShadeTree will provide a planting demonstration so experience is not required! Join your neighbors, come in teams, bring the children and explore and experience the wonder of planting a tree!



Please RSVP to ICHA by Jan 10th, 2009 at 824-2424 or Ron.reid@ICHA.uci.edu

Volunteer Tree Planting

Date: Saturday January 24, 2009 (rain date January 31, 2009), 9:00 am

HRB MINUTES - December 4, 2008

HRB Attendees: Chris Hane, Cyril McCormick, Michele Walot, Jan Fisher, Mike McNally, Sukumar Pal, Harry Managalam

ICHA Attendees: Andrew Herndon, Ron Reid

HRB Elections

The terms of three members of the HRB, Mike McNally, Cyril McCormick and Jan Fisher, are expiring. All will run again. There will be elections in February.

Winter Pool Heating

We received 32 email responses and a handful of other replies to our request for information on the listserve

email about the pool heating. Nineteen of the emails favored keeping only Los Trancos heating during the winter, and thirteen favored a switch to Gabrielino. The "handful" of non-emails were from lap swimmers who also favored keeping the Los Trancos pool heated.

It was also clear that some people would use a pool more if it were heated slightly warmer.

The HRB was concerned with the low rate of response (only 32 of about 1000 households), indicating either an inability of the listserve to reach most homeowners or apathy to the topic in general. The HRB is working with ICHA to conduct a more formal survey of the community in the coming months.

The HRB voted to approve keeping the Los Trancos pool heated to its current temperature for this winter season. During the school holidays (until Jan 12th), Gabrielino pool will be heated to 80 degrees. The upper pool will not be heated at all. All spas will be heated and ICHA will provide removable spa covers to help lower the spa heating costs.

The consultant who was going to provide a pro-bono review of the potential costs and value of solar heating has not responded to requests for more details in his assessment. ICHA will contact Mohr Power, who attended the Summer Fiesta, to get their input as well.

California Traffic Signs / Ped Crossing

ICHA met with UCI PD and Campus and Environmental Planning recently to discuss the need for stop signs along California. Both parties requested a zero-sum arrangement that each new sign be matched to the removal of an existing sign. Without this swapping, there would be too many stop signs, which diminishes the effectiveness of all the stop signs. The consensus is to install new signs at Mistral and Wharton and to remove the Stop signs at Twain and Eliot. Temporary signs warning that cross traffic does not stop would be placed at Twain and Eliot when the removals take place.

The HRB concurred with these stop sign choices. The HRB also asked that the sign at California and Whistler not be moved to CA and Owen for a few years due to the young children that reside at Whistler.

The signs and cross walks are proposed to be installed in conjunction with slurring of California Ave.

Dog Park

The seeded area of the dog park will be mowed and the other side of the park will be seeded. Michele Walot commented that the area still seems overwatered, or there may be a leak somewhere. Andrew will look into it. Andrew also discussed a plan to reduce the wear and tear near the gate with some paving stones.

Oak Tree Planting

ICHA, the Campus and ShadeTree Nursery are organizing a tree planting behind Tierney University House (the chancellor's residence) and continuing below Area 9 toward the MWD easement. ICHA and Campus will dig the holes, and ShadeTree will provide 110 native trees.

This area is a fuel modification zone so small groups of 3 trees or less will be strategically placed throughout the area.

The community is being asked to volunteer to help with the planting on Jan. 24th at 9am. This is a great way to enhance the native trees in our community and contribute to the habitat they create. Refreshments and pizza will be provided. Meet at the new Agave Park at the cul-de-sacs of Wharton and Mistral Courts. If you are interested please RSVP ICHA at 824-2424 by January 10th.

Area 10 Planning

ICHA and Campus continue to plan the development of Area 10. With the current economic climate, the speed of development of this parcel is under review. It's likely that the houses and condos or apartments will be constructed over 5 or more years.

The latest proposed site plans (2 versions) from ICHA to Campus both preserve the hilltop paseo. They also avoid the access road at California near Twain in favor of a road that connects to Bonita Canyon near Turtle Ridge.

HRB MINUTES - November 4, 2008

HRB Attendees: Chris Hane, Cyril McCormick, Michele Walot, Jan Fisher, Mike McNally

ICHA Attendees: none

Halloween Party

Only one person volunteered to assist in a party, so no party took place. The HRB discussed if it would be better next year to have a parade for the smaller kids on Halloween day before they trick-or-treat.

Pool Heating

A resident asked about switching from heating the Los Trancos pool to the Gabrielino pool to take advantage of the slight warmer air temperature there. The HRB will use this listserv to solicit resident feedback on the pool choice as well as heating schedule for the holidays.

Community Survey

At the last ICHA Board meeting the HRB asked the Board to conduct a community wide resident survey to help plan the future amenities in the community as well as get community input on other aspects of living in UHills. The ICHA Board was positive about conducting a survey.

The HRB discussed what we would like to have in this survey. While the new amenities should be part of the survey, the HRB did not want to limit the survey to just recreational input. For example, the financing of new amenities should also be examined to determine if changes to how we finance the amenity would lead to different choices. This is particularly important as the Community Center site is the last large area for a new community amenity.

The HRB also discussed overcoming response bias in the survey. We would prefer a representative sample of the community where the survey results are more valid, than the online survey performed previously.

One idea was to pay someone (maybe students) to determine the current usage of the existing amenities.

HRB MINUTES - October 7, 2008

HRB Attendees: Chris Hane, Cyril McCormick, Michele Walot, Sukumar Pal, Jan Fisher

ICHA Attendees: Andrew Herndon, Victor Van Zandt

Area 10

On Sept 25th Chris Hane, Mike McNally and Michele Walot of the HRB were invited to walk through Area 10 with Andrew Herndon and Victor Van Zandt of ICHA as well as Richard Demerjian of Campus Planning. ICHA and Campus showed the HRB the current proposal for road access into Area 10, including a road off California near Twain cutting into the bluff.

As the community was vocal in their support of preserving the existing bluff top walk and its scenic views, the HRB has formally asked ICHA and the Campus to avoid this road access in favor of an access point that would send traffic more easterly to Anteater or Bonita Canyon. Such an additional access point is necessary for emergency vehicle access and homeowner evacuation. Without a 2nd access point the only access point is Gabrielino at California.

Having a second vehicular access point from Area 10 that eventually leads to Bonita Canyon at Turtle Ridge does have the possibility of increasing through traffic. ICHA was confident the through traffic could be mitigated by design measures. The HRB felt that the traffic pattern would not be similar to connecting Gabrielino to Bonita Canyon, something the community argued against in the past (and is now impossible due to the slope of the grade there).

Community Center

At the time of the meeting there were still no firm cost estimates on the Community Center and ICHA office building. While the slow down in the construction market would seem to help lower costs, the turmoil in the financial markets means we are still waiting to see what will happen.

ICHA has asked the HRB to begin gathering community feedback on the community amenities to be built at the site. This was not started earlier in order to wait for Area 9 residents to move in and participate. The HRB asked for ICHA assistance in conducting a community wide survey using an outside agent as was done for the Santiago apartments.

Solar Pool Heating

Andrew informed the HRB that a local solar company who works exclusively in construction (not retro-fitting) may be interested in giving us a cost-benefit analysis on converting some of our pools to solar heating. Another consultant had sent ICHA a very expensive bid, so finding a second bid was necessary before continuing.

Barbecue facilities

Earlier this summer a homeowner complained to the HRB and ICHA that the Los Trancos pool bathrooms and barbecue area was left a complete mess when he arrived to prepare for a party. While the facility had been booked by numerous groups earlier in the weekend, it was not possible to attribute the mess to the last group who used the facility.

The homeowner told ICHA he would withhold dues from ICHA to bill for the time he spent cleaning the facilities. The HRB unanimously agreed with ICHA that homeowners could not decide on their own to bill ICHA for work performed on community grounds.

ICHA has improved our contracts for after hours maintenance to respond to emergency calls to clean restroom facilities as they do for irrigation issues.

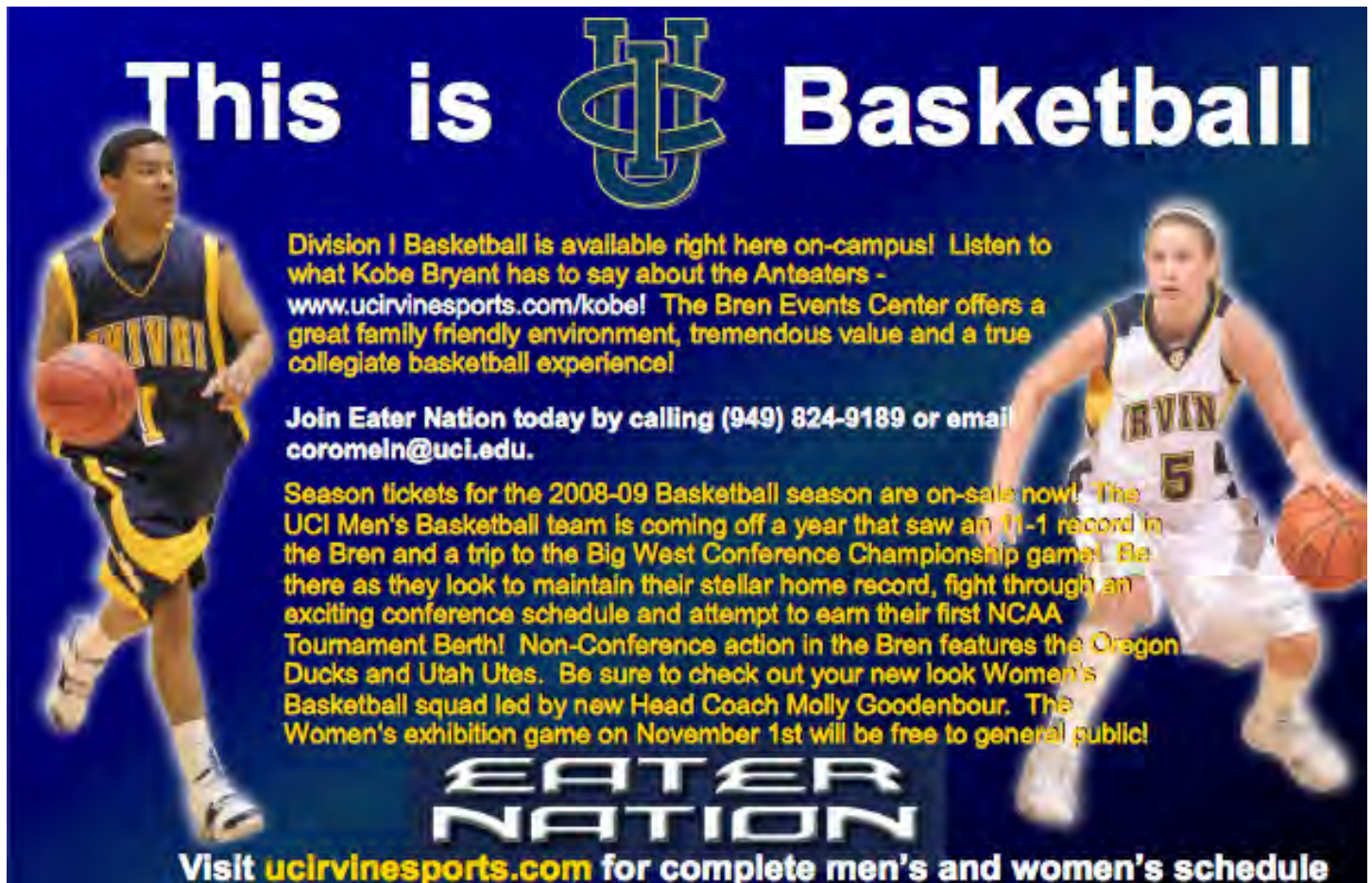
Loud Dogs

A group of homeowners contacted the HRB to follow up with a homeowner whose 3 large dogs are causing a nuisance with loud, uninterrupted barking for hours at a time. These complaints came shortly before the HRB meeting and we were unable to meet with the dog owner at this time. The HRB sent the dog owner a letter reminding the owner of the responsibilities involved in mitigating the noise the dogs make when the owner is not home.

Halloween Party

The HRB would ask for volunteers to plan and run a Halloween party for the neighborhood as has been done in

years past.

A promotional banner for UCI Basketball. The background is dark blue. At the top center is the UCI logo, a stylized 'UCI' in green and yellow. To the left of the logo, the text 'This is' is written in white. To the right, 'Basketball' is written in large white letters. Below the logo, there are two action shots: a male basketball player in a dark blue jersey with yellow accents on the left, and a female basketball player in a white jersey with yellow accents on the right. In the center, there is yellow text providing information about Division I Basketball, contact information for joining Eater Nation, and details about the 2008-09 season. At the bottom, the words 'EATER NATION' are written in a large, white, stylized font. Below that, a white banner contains the text 'Visit uclrvinesports.com for complete men's and women's schedule'.

ASIAN CITRUS PSYLLID HAS INVADED CALIFORNIA

Over the Labor Day weekend, it was confirmed that the Asian citrus psyllid has invaded California. On Friday, August 29th, CDFA and USDA announced that a single ACP had been found in a trap in a lemon tree in the Sweetwater Reservoir area of San Diego about 11 miles north of the border with Mexico. The delimitation survey that followed has found multiple populations of the insect at multiple sites in the area.

The citrus industry in California has been on high alert since June when ACP populations were discovered in Tijuana, Mexico. An aphid-sized insect, the Asian citrus psyllid is of grave concern because it is a very efficient vector of the catastrophic citrus plant disease Huanglongbing, otherwise known as HLB or citrus greening, which is literally a death sentence for citrus trees. The Citrus Research Board has had a public education and outreach program in place for several months, enlisting the help of the general public in scouting for both the insect and the disease. View additional information and download materials at www.californiacitrusthreat.com <<http://www.californiacitrusthreat.com>> and find updates on the San Diego situation at www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/acp/ <<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/acp/>>.

DON'T LET YOUR MEAL CREATE A SPILL (Reprinted With Permission from IRWD)

Grease poured down drains is the leading cause of sewage spills. Grease needs to be handled carefully all year round. Never pour grease down your sink drain, toilet or garbage disposal. Instead, pour grease into a can and refrigerate or freeze until solid and then dispose of the can on trash day. An empty soup can works well for everyday cooking; however for larger meals you may want to save a coffee can to hold the grease. Wipe excess grease from pots, pans and utensils with paper towels before washing. These simple steps will help IRWD

protect the environment by preventing sewer spills.

ICHA Management contracts annually to have the sewer mainlines power cleaned each year to minimize backup and related problems. In some areas, cleaning occurs twice a year. Historically, most problems in UHills relate the collections of grease that constricts the flow of water and effluent through the main lines. Resident sewer laterals must be cleaned from a location at each residence out to the main. If you suspect problems, like slow moving drainage or strong odors emanating from drains, you should consult a plumbing contractor for assistance. Grease build up, tree roots, pipe constriction and foreign objects in the line can be the cause.



TIPS FOR BEING SAFE AT HOME...

In a continuing effort to help ensure the safety of the University Hills community, the U.C. Irvine Police Department would like to offer the following safety reminders.



- Know your neighbors, and the cars they drive. Take note of unfamiliar vehicles parked in your neighborhood .
 - Lock your doors & windows even when you are home and anytime you leave the house, even for a few minutes.
 - An open garage door is an invitation to bike thefts and car burglars.
 - Keep gates locked to restrict access to side and rear yards.
 - When leaving home for an extended amount of time, have a friend or family watch your house and pick up your newspapers and mail.
 - Indoor lights should be on automatic timers. Outside lights should be on timers, photo cells, or motion sensors.
 - Install a peephole in your front door so you can see the person before opening the door.
 - Be aware that criminals sometimes pose as couriers delivering packages.
 - It is not uncommon for criminals to take advantage of the generosity of people by soliciting donations for charitable causes although no charity is involved. Unwanted solicitors should be reported to the UCI Police Dept.
 - Home security assessment can be scheduled by emailing Sgt. Steve Monsanto at monsanto@uci.edu
- Additional information can be found at <http://safestate.org/shop/files/handbook.pdf>**

IRVINE POLICE DEPARTMENT

IRVINE POLICE DEPARTMENT • ONE CIVIC CENTER PLAZA
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Internet: <http://www.irvinepd.org> • e-mail: dgeary@ci.irvine.ca.us

COYOTES

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Coyotes occur naturally throughout the state and have survived very well with the encroachment of people. They are opportunistic hunters who are typically more active between dusk and dawn. They can be found in most every natural habitat, suburban and urban area including Irvine.

Co-existing With the Coyote

Residents, especially those living near open space or wild lands are advised to give special attention to the following **DOS** and **DON'TS** to safely and peacefully coexist with the coyote.

DOS

- Consider making your dog or cat an indoor pet when living in an area that is known to be occupied by coyotes.
- Accompany your dog in well-lighted areas at night for comfort walks.

- Keep your dog on a maximum 6-foot leash whenever you take it off your own property.
- Keep all outdoor trash can lids securely fastened to the trash can receptacle.
- Improve yard fencing to coyote resistant standards.
- Pick fruit when it ripens, and don't leave rotting fruit on the ground.
- Eliminate ivy and other thick ground covers, which may attract rats, which can attract coyotes.
- We recommend that cats be housed in a substantial cat run when left unattended outdoors
- Teach children not to approach stray animals

DON'TS

- Don't feed wild animals.
- Don't leave pet food outdoors, especially at night.
- Don't allow pets to roam from home unaccompanied.
- Don't leave water bowls for pets outdoors.
- Don't leave water in birdbaths, or birdseed outdoors for songbirds.
- Don't attempt to contact or "tame" coyotes.

OTHER IMPORTANT REMINDERS

As with many wild animals, the coyote, if left alone, will regulate its own numbers. If coyotes in a certain area are removed, the remaining individuals will fill the area, either with larger litters, or by allowing outsider coyotes to move. For this reason, trapping or other forms of abatement normally have no long-term impact.

Flashing lights, tape-recorded human noises, scattered mothballs, and ammonia soaked rags strategically placed may deter coyotes from entering an area.

Coyotes and other predatory animals are "opportunistic" hunters. While the coyote's natural diet may be small rodents and fruit, they will not hesitate to prey on small domestic animals, or human refuse, if the opportunity exists. Consequently if you live in an area within the range of coyotes, it is your responsibility to afford protection to your domestic animals and to store your trash in a sound and secure manner. Trash should be put out on the day of pick up and not the night before.

RECOGNIZE that the coyote is indigenous to North America. We are living in the coyote's back yard, and the coyote has adapted well to our proximity. We have an obligation to adapt to the coyote. It's important to understand that the Irvine Police Department and Animal Services Program does not depredate coyotes. We do document sightings and unusual occurrences involving them. If problem animals are identified then efforts to preserve public safety will be taken without having to impact every coyote in the area.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Practice the dos and don'ts listed above. Teach your children to avoid stray animals. Keep your pets on a 6 foot leash and under your immediate control. Report sightings and unusual occurrences to the Irvine Police Department at (949) 724-7200. By doing so, we believe we stand a much better chance of peacefully coexisting with our wildlife. For further information, contact Irvine Animal Services at (949) 724-7092.

COURTESY CORNER...

Styrofoam Packing Material... Let's keep it Under Control

In following up to a recent U Hills listserv post, I have identified the location where a resident was able to recycle Styrofoam packing materials rather than disposing of it in the trash. To assist those who may not have seen the post, the name of the local establishment that accepts the "peanuts" is **The Mail Room – 1000 Bristol St. North Ste.17 Newport Beach (949 477-4077)** and is located in the strip mall at Bristol and Jamboree across from the AT&T Store.

You can also take them to the **Mailboxes in the Albertson's Plaza.**

Hats off to those who recycle! However, at the request of several residents, we are advising those who must dispose of the packaging products in their garbage can or the large dumpsters to please enclose the Styrofoam in some kind of wrapper, bag or box as the peanuts disperse easily when the trash monsters whips the cans and dumpsters overhead. The resulting flood of material into the gutters ends up everywhere, including the Back Bay and on our beaches.

OC-Irvine Freecycle

If you have items that you can no longer use and that UHills can't absorb, or that you hesitate to offer but don't like to see going to a landfill, try posting the item at the OC-Irvine group of Freecycle (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FreecycleIrvine>). It's useful for things that you might not even think to offer or to take to GoodWill such as items left from home remodeling. I recently had takers for track lighting, a large piece of cement board, wall dimmer switches, wall paper samples, etc. It's dedicated to getting useable items from where they are no longer needed to where they can be used, and out of landfills. You may also want to alert your grad students to the site as they may find items, such as baby clothes and furniture, that they could use, and the price (free) is within even a grad student's budget.

UCI FILM AND VIDEO CENTER - WINTER 2009 FILM SCREENINGS

www.filmandvideocenter.com fvc@uci.edu (949) 824-7418

Ticket Prices:

\$3 Students w/ ID, \$5 General Admission, \$4 UCI Staff and Seniors

Series Pass: \$25 general/\$20 UCI Staff & Seniors/\$15 Students

Unless otherwise noted, screenings begin at 7 pm in Humanities Instructional Building 100.

There are no advance ticket sales. Tickets are available in front of HIB 100 a half hour prior to the screening.

Driving Directions: From the 405 or I-5, exit Jamboree and go WEST. Turn LEFT on Campus Dr. Turn RIGHT onto the UCI Campus at W. Peltason Drive. Turn LEFT onto Pereira Dr. From SR73, exit University Dr. and go EAST. Turn RIGHT on Campus Dr. Turn RIGHT onto the UCI Campus at W. Peltason Drive. Turn LEFT onto Pereira Dr. The Pereira/Student Center Parking Structure is the first left on Pereira Dr. Parking is available for \$5. Follow the "Film and Video Center" pedestrian signs to the bottom floor of the Humanities Instructional Building. Downloadable maps are available on the UCI web site:

<http://www.uci.edu/campusmaps.shtml>

About the Film and Video Center The FVC is UCI and Orange County's premiere art house cinema, screening new, independent, experimental and groundbreaking films and videos. The FVC also presents much loved classic films and lesser known gems. Finally, the FVC co-sponsors film festivals representing a diverse range of international and multicultural themes each year. The mission of the FVC is to provide Orange County with quality, original works unavailable anywhere else, promote film and video making and create a culture receptive to new and unique movie-going experiences.

Thursday, January 15

Psycho

Screening 7pm

Directed by Alfred Hitchcock. 1960, USA, 109 minutes, 35mm

For all the slasher pictures that have ripped off *Psycho* (and particularly its classic set piece, the "shower scene"), nothing has ever matched the impact of the real thing. More than just a first-rate shocker full of thrills and suspense, *Psycho* is also an engrossing character study in which director Alfred Hitchcock skillfully seduces you into identifying with the main characters--then pulls the rug (or the bathmat) out from under you. Anthony Perkins is unforgettable as Norman Bates, the mama's boy proprietor of the Bates Motel; and so is Janet Leigh as Marion Crane, who makes an impulsive decision and becomes a fugitive from the law, hiding out at Norman's roadside inn for one fateful night. ---Jim Emerson, *Amazon.com*

Thursday, January 22

Let the Right One In (Låt den rätte komma in)

Screening 7pm

Directed by Tomas Alfredson. 2008, Sweden, 114 minutes, 35mm

In Swedish with English subtitles

A fragile, anxious boy, 12-year-old Oskar is regularly bullied by his stronger classmates but never strikes back. The lonely boy's wish for a friend seems to come true when he meets Eli, also 12, who moves in next door to him with her father. A pale, serious young girl, she only comes out at night and doesn't seem affected by the freezing temperatures. Coinciding with Eli's arrival is a series of inexplicable disappearances and murders. Blood seems to be the common denominator – and for an introverted boy like Oskar, who is fascinated by gruesome stories, it doesn't take long before he figures out that Eli is a vampire. But by now a subtle romance has blossomed between Oskar and Eli, and she gives him the strength to fight back against his aggressors.

Thursday, January 29

The Crowd

Screening 7pm

With live piano accompaniment by Howard Cowles

Directed by King Vidor. 1928, USA, 104 minutes, 16mm

The Crowd is a timeless American silent film masterpiece from director King Vidor. Vidor's natural and uncompromising film tells the episodic, poignant story of the working and domestic life of an average, commonplace man in 'the crowd' - John - with his wife Mary, chronicling their meeting, courtship, marriage, and family life. Vidor refused to pass judgment on the harsh realities of life for the workaday couple, either by condemning or celebrating the gloom of the bleak tragedy befalling them. Instead, he visually and eloquently captured their believable human struggle as they confronted disappointing setbacks, the tragic death of their daughter, dashed hopes and brief triumphs, and eventually found comfort in the anonymity of the masses, watching an unfunny theatrical clown act. ---Tim Dirks, *AMC Filmsite*

Thursday, February 5

Reversion

Reception 6:30pm

Screening 7pm

Director Mia Trachinger to appear in person for Q&A

Part of the "Women Direct Movies" series

Directed by Mia Trachinger. 2008, USA, 90 minutes, DVD

In a world in which the past, present, and future unfold simultaneously, *Reversion* tells the tale of Eva, a woman desperately trying to avoid a destiny in which she kills Marcus, the man she loves. Part gritty road movie, part lo-fi science fiction, part love story, *Reversion* traverses the sprawling landscape of Los Angeles in search of fate, free will, and the nature of morality. It not only captures a distinctive panorama of Los Angeles, but it raises complex questions about love and violence, fate and human nature, morality and the true dimensions of time.

Thursday, February 12

Three Times (Zui hao de shi guang)

Screening 7pm

Part of the "Taiwanese Cinema" series

Directed by Hou Hsiao-hsien. Taiwan, 2006, 120 minutes, 35mm

In Mandarin and Taiwanese with English subtitles

Voted 2005's Best Undistributed Film by both the Village Voice National Critics Poll and Film Comment, Taiwanese master Hou Hsiao-hsien's elegant and rapturously beautiful cinematic masterpiece *Three Times* evokes a sentimental tale of an unfinished love by delving into three stories occurring in three different time periods - 1966, 1911, 2005, and played out by the same actor and actress, Shu Qi and Chang Chen, in the lead roles. Year 1966: "A Time for Love"- A young woman and a soldier struggle to maintain contact, seeking solace in stolen moments together. Year 1911: "A Time for Freedom"- During the Japanese occupation of Taiwan, a married diplomat battles his modern principles when winning the admiration of a courtesan. Present Day: "A Time for Youth"- Under the threat of war with China, A young bisexual woman becomes involved in a three-way love affair.

Thursday, February 19

Grandma's Hairpin

Screening 7pm

Part of the "Taiwanese Cinema" series

Directed by Hsiao Chu-chen. 2000, Taiwan, 90 minutes, DVD.

In Chinese with English Subtitles

Director Hsiao Chu-chen points her camera at her father, a retired soldier. In 1949, the Nationalist government retreated from mainland China to Taiwan with 600,000 soldiers. In his twenties at the time, Hsiao's father believed as did many others they would soon return to China with the Nationalist government. But it took forty years for relations across the straits to be re-established, and it was futile even to dream of returning home. Hsiao uses an ornamental hairpin that belonged to her grandmother left behind on the mainland as the key to her father's world, bringing forth his feelings towards the China of that era and the remembrances of other retired soldiers.

Thursday, February 26

Chants of Lotus (Perempuan Punya Cerita)

Screening 7pm

Introduction by Akira Lippit, Professor of Comparative Literature, East Asian Languages and Cultures and Cinematic Arts at USC

Part of the "Women Direct Movies" series

Directed by Nia Dinata, Upi Avianto, Fatimah Tobing Rony, Lasja F. Susatyo. 2007, Indonesia, 105 minutes, 35mm. In Indonesian with English subtitles

Four women filmmakers tackle four different stories about lives of marginalized women in Indonesia: in "Chant From an Island", a midwife in a deserted island sacrifices her dying health to rescue a mentally challenged woman; in "Chant From a Tourist Town", a high-school student toys around with an overwhelming access to free sex, which may put her life in jeopardy; in "Chant From a Village", a single mother is forced to see her daughter and her best friend fall victims to women and children trafficking syndicate; and in "Chant From the Capital City", a middle class Chinese woman is about to be separated from her only daughter because of an HIV threat. This film was heavily censored by the Indonesian government. The 35 mm print that you will see is uncensored. Some scenes are graphic and shocking. This film is intended for mature audiences.

Thursday, March 5

Nothing Like the Holidays

Reception 6:30pm

Screening 7pm

Director Alfredo De Villa tentatively scheduled for Q&A

Part of the "Cosecha Latina/Latin Harvest" series

Directed by Alfredo De Villa. 2008, USA, 99 minutes, 35mm

In *Nothing Like the Holidays*, John Leguizamo, Freddy Rodriguez and Debra Messing headline an all-star cast in the humorous and heartwarming story of one unforgettable family holiday from award-winning director Alfredo De Villa. It's Christmastime and the far-flung members of the Rodriguez family are converging at their parents' home in Chicago to celebrate the season and rejoice in their youngest brother's safe return from combat overseas. In the course of one eventful week, traditions will be celebrated, secrets revealed and major life decisions made.

Co-sponsored by UCI Humanities Center, UC-Cuba Multi-Campus Research Program, UCI International Center for Research in Writing and Translation, UCI Department of Film Studies, UCI Department of Chicano/Latino Studies & UCI Department of Spanish and Portuguese