



Search Archives

Full Text Search

## HOME

▶ Archives

▶ News

▶ Sports

▶ dB Magazine

▶ Viewpoint

▶ Science & Health

▶ Your Health

▶ Finance & Economy

▶ Week in Photos

▶ Interactive Special Features

Online Forums  
Video / Audio  
Newsletter

What's Bruin  
View Print Edition  
Corrections  
About the DB  
Contact Us  
The Staff

DB Alumni Site  
BruinClassifieds

Search Classifieds

BruinClassifieds

BruinWalk.com

## On-campus communist support appalling

### Two campus centers should refrain from sponsoring such lectures

By David Lazar

This week, the Daily Bruin ran an interesting series of advertisements that scream in huge, all-capital letters, "Socialism is much better than capitalism, and communism will be a far better world."

The purpose of the ad? To plug a lecture by Raymond Lotta, a leader of the Revolutionary Communist Party.

The ad declares that "Socialist revolutions in the Soviet Union (1917-56) and China (1949-76) and Mao's Cultural Revolution accomplished great and unprecedented things."

It is unlikely that the ad refers to the brutal murders of millions of people – a conservative estimate puts the number murdered by the brutal regimes in the Soviet Union and China at 20 million and 40 million, respectively.

In addition, the ad misrepresents the historical record. Russians suffered communist oppression until the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, not 1956.

But of far greater concern, the bottom of the ad proclaims that the event is sponsored by the César E. Chávez Center and the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies.

This is no typo – two of UCLA's academic departments have cosigned this Marxist (and Maoist) lecture that seems to tout the supremacy of communism over capitalism and tyranny over freedom.

Few people outside of academia view communism as anything other than a failed theory that led to the murder of countless innocents.

These centers nevertheless imply that murder on an appalling scale – in every country in which communism was introduced – cannot serve as an example of its failure in practice.

The original rationale for the creation of these two centers was for academia to truly represent a diverse population.

But this advertisement suggests that this was merely a sham and we've all been had. Rather than accurately represent the larger population, the rhetoric regarding representative responsibility vanishes and is replaced by Marxist dogma as these groups seize power.

Anyone not yet convinced about the absurd state of centers may look no further than its members' single-minded devotion to naming the department after César E. Chávez.

This dedication to commemorating a union leader through an academic department reveals a profound flavor of partisanship at the core of the effort. Imagine the uproar if faculty members sought to dedicate the political science department to George W. Bush.

The main pretense for the department's creation was seen as a civil rights struggle;

Printable Version

[Click here for a printable version of this article.](#)

Contact Us

Email Viewpoint at [viewpoint@media.ucla.edu](mailto:viewpoint@media.ucla.edu) for questions or concerns about this article.

ADVERTISEMENT

massive protests, including hunger strikes and vandalism totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars, characterized the demands for recognition as a viable field of study.

But the calls for consensus end at the department's creation: Over 40 percent of Hispanics voted for Bush in the 2004 election, yet this substantial percentage finds no voice in these departments.

Their opinions have been essentially hijacked by a campus discipline purporting to speak on their behalf.

Academic freedom will not be served until these two centers either regain a sense of legitimacy, or risk being replaced by departments that do not dedicate themselves to historical revisionism and ideological hegemony.

---

*Lazar is the vice chairman of Bruin Republicans.*