

## PEACEFUL PRAYER

# MONKS BRING ART FORM TO CAMPUS

By Walter E. Staton  
STAFF WRITER

Sitting on blue and teal pillows, a Tibetan monk draped in a maroon robe leaned close to the ground to touch up a yin and yang symbol the size of a thumbnail.

The symbol is a tiny detail in a colorfully intricate sand art piece called a "mandala" that 11 monks are creating in the UofA Bookstore.

Tsewang Dorje took a break from working on the mandala and sat behind the information table, dispensing literature to curious onlookers.

The group has been traveling in the United States for six months. It has visited universities and high schools in 18 states so far, sharing its culture and traditions with people across the country.

The monks take turns working on the sand mandala so they can rest, eat and staff their information and gift tables.

"Your back gets very sore from leaning over," Dorje said, as he rubbed his lower back. "We must also breathe slowly and be careful not to sneeze."

It will take the monks five days to finish the dinner table-sized art. Then they will destroy it.

Creating the mandala requires patience, Dorje said. Up to four monks work on it at a time, bent over to meticulously place brightly colored sand on a blue platform. The design was sketched onto the platform when the monks began their work Tuesday.

The sand is poured through long, narrow funnels called "chakpurs." The monks each use two ridged chakpurs to pour the sand into place. They fill one chakpur with sand and



RANDY METCALF/Arizona Daily Wildcat

Four Tibetan monks lean over a Mandala, an ancient form of sand art that symbolizes peace and healing, in the UofA BookStore Tuesday. The monks will be on campus through Sunday demonstrating ceremonies and rituals as part of a tour across the United States to share Tibetan culture.

rub it with the other, causing a small amount of sand to trickle out.

Dorje explained the mandala is created for the Buddha and for healing.

"Everybody needs peace and love," Dorje said.

The monks meditate while they work, reciting prayers and scripture. Dorje described the mandala as a palace for meditation.

Sometimes they briefly chat with each other in Tibetan while they refill or change sand colors. Otherwise, the only sound coming from the mandala is the rat-

tlesnake-like noise of the chakpurs rubbing together.

Dorje, along with the other monks, studies at the Drepung Gomang Monastery in Southeast India. They spent the past year learning how to make sand mandalas for their trip to America, Dorje said.

Drepung Gomang was the largest monastery in Tibet before the Chinese occupied Tibet in 1959 and destroyed the monastery, Dorje said. Many monks were exiled to India, where they have rebuilt the monastery.

Dorje, now 28, joined the

monastery when he was 9 years old. He had never traveled to America but is enjoying his experience here.

"It's amazing. You have great roads and continuous electricity. It's very nice," Dorje said.

He also said he likes eating at McDonald's and Burger King. "We always look for the big yellow M," he said.

Behind the monks and Mandala is the technology store in the bookstore.

"We are doing ancient technology next to modern

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# Center hopes to promote diversity

By Walter E. Staton  
STAFF WRITER

Social justice, diversity and multiculturalism make for murky waters, but one center on campus intends to clarify these issues.

The Multicultural Leadership Center was founded last fall to promote diversity on campus and reach out to minority students. And now the center's director, Michelle Espino, is envisioning something bigger.

"There is a fear out there in talking about things like ethnicity and sexual orientation," Espino said. "What has not happened on this campus is an opportunity for dialogue between communities."

The MLC, located on the fourth floor of the Student Union Memorial Center, is not much larger than a room in a residence hall, but the issues Espino wants the center to address reach every corner of campus.

Espino's primary concern is social justice, and she wants the center renamed the Social Justice Leadership Center.

"We are trying to get people to support issues of social justice, because in the end, it affects everyone," Espino said.

For Espino, the term "multicultural" doesn't fully represent the underlying ideals of the MLC. People usually only associate concepts like race or ethnicity with "multicultural."

Social justice is more inclusive, emphasizing issues like class, ability, gender, sexual orientation and privilege, Espino said.

Students and administrators alike are excited by Espino's vision, saying they share her passion for social justice issues.

Sandra Taylor, executive vice president for Campus Life, supports the center's new direction. She said the center is doing something different on campus by moving the diversity

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# Students show off research projects



EVAN CARAVELLI/Arizona Daily Wildcat  
Marisol Badilla, an art and Spanish literature junior, discusses her photography and the effects of neo-liberalism in Mexico her artwork, yesterday during the Undergraduate Research Forum.

By Jessica Lee  
STAFF WRITER

Standing next to a colorful display of artwork inspired by a summer in Chiapas, Mexico, Marisol Badilla turned pages in her photo album that depicted the effects of neo-liberalism in the town of San Cristobal de las Casas.

"Here is a wealthy couple, with lighter skin, eating at a Domino's," Badilla said, as she pointed to the black-and-white photos. "And here are the indigenous children eating the leftovers."

Badilla, an art and Spanish literature junior, was one of 32 students selected by the Honors College last year to conduct an undergraduate research project. The students presented the results of their research yesterday at the 17th Annual Undergraduate Research Forum in Bear Down Gym.

"I got experience doing lab work and learned a lot about sound waves," said Heather Watson, a German studies junior. Watson investigated the possibility of detecting defects in underground pipes by studying the changes in ultrasonic sound waves. When the Kinder Morgan gasoline pipeline broke in Tucson last summer, Watson's research became locally relevant.

"This will hopefully be a more efficient way to test pipelines, which will prevent breakages," Watson said.

To do her project, environmental hydrology and water resources junior Erin Gleeson wanted to get out of the lab. Her research on a herbivorous land crab flew her to Costa Rica. By boat and by foot, she traveled to the Corcovado National Park to study the effects the crabs

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# Proposed law addresses state nursing crisis

By Bob Purvis  
LEGISLATIVE CORRESPONDENT

PHOENIX — A nurse advocacy group says legislation that would delegate nursing home duties to less skilled workers rather than registered nurses will threaten patients' safety and make it harder for UA nursing students to find jobs.

The Southern Arizona Nurses Coalition is opposing bills introduced by Rep. Deb Gullet, R-Phoenix, which would create a pilot program allowing certified nursing assistants to administer medication to nursing home patients, and allowing minimally trained workers to assist feeding at the homes.

Gullet said the programs are simply a response to a statewide nursing crisis, and that they could potentially

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God

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# Valentine's battle of the sexes

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