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COVER

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Best of OC 2004: Part 5

CAROLINA SARMIENTO'S 6 REASONS WHY SHE LOVES LIVING IN SANTA ANA

Okay, so maybe Sarmiento—the 25-year-old president of Santa Ana's wonderful community space, el-Centro Cultural de México—isn't living in Santa Ana on a day-to-day basis anymore (attending UCLA's graduate program in urban planning kinda necessitates you dorm in Westwood, you know?). But Sarmiento still spends weekends and most weekdays in SanTana (pronounce it like the natives, por favor), her lifelong home and where she plans to remain forever. While the rest of the country might crap on her city—biggest dump was a September report by the State University of New York's Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government deeming Santa Ana the United States' toughest city in which to live—Sarmiento nevertheless finds more beauty in SanTana than in the rest of la naranja.



Enlarge

1. Paleteros. "Those elderly men who walk around with ice-cream carts selling Mexican popsicles. Smiles, freshness and personal history—all for a buck."
2. That damn Rockefeller report. "So we're the youngest, most-Latino, most-Spanish-speaking, most-crowded big city in the country—good for us! That just gives us more of a challenge in changing this community."
3. The history. "You have people who have been living in Santa Ana for generations. My grandparents still live here, and they moved to Orange County from Texas back in the 1950s. And so does my Tío Arnulfo, a real-life pachuco from back in the days



6. Lenny's Auto Wrecking. Lenny—or as he's also known, Some Guy Who Answers the Phone—wasn't pleased when we called and asked how far back they went. The oldest vehicle here was made in about 1990—but if you need parts for that newish Chevy Cavalier, give 'em a try. After all, it pays to specialize. *1045 E. Sixth St., Santa Ana, (714) 541-7300.*

REALLY SMART PEOPLE WHO WORK AT UC IRVINE

1. Francisco Ayala. Evolutionary biologist who was given the National Medal of Science by President George W. Bush, a guy who thinks the jury is still out on the subject. So you know Ayala's got to be good. Also possesses a stunning philosophical mind that sees the big picture of science, humanity and faith—and it all fits together. It's easy to feel humbled in his gracious presence.



Irwin Rose: MMMMMM...Einsteinium!
(Photo by Matt Otto)

2. Ralph Cicerone. Just named the president of the National Academy of Sciences, which is, oh, just the most important scientific organization on earth. Unbelievable memory, stellar mathematician and chemist, and loves to put students in their places at UCI's annual Trivia Bowl. Played a mean quarterback at MIT, we hear.

3. Jonathan Feng. Theoretical astrophysicist who believes he's found the source of dark matter (he calls them superWIMPS), which is about three-quarters of all the stuff in the universe, and it goes way back to the Big Bang itself. He can explain this mathematically, and then tell you about it in a way your small mind can comprehend.

4. Elizabeth Loftus. You read about her in the *Weekly* a few weeks ago, so we'll just tell you this: named one of the 100 top psychologists of the 20th Century, and we're talking Freud, Jung and B.F. Skinner here. And she lives in Irvine. Think about that.

5. Irwin Rose. Rose was recently awarded the Nobel Prize for chemistry for the discovery of the major pathway through which cellular building blocks called ubiquitin proteins are regulated by degradation . . . which kind of bums us out because we'd been meaning to get to that. Known as Ernie to his friends, Rose is the school's third Nobel Laureate.

6. Michael Rose. Evolutionary biologist who believes humans can live twice as long as they do—and has proved it in laboratory tests. His book *Darwin's Spectre* is must reading for those who want to know about the revolution of natural selection.

7. F. Sherwood Rowland. Just happened to win a Nobel Prize for discovering how CFCs from aerosols destroy the Earth's protective ozone layer. Totally schools troglodytes like Representative Dana Rohrabacher on the evils of global warming, and he knows more about opera and baseball than you do. And to show the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, his daughter Ingrid is one of the world's great Renaissance art