

FEATURES

Campus Greens spreads awareness about Coca-Cola

By Cheryl Scott
A & E Editor

Campus Greens' fight against Coca-Cola products will culminate at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

The club will meet with the Dining Services Committee and ask them to remove Odwalla products from the cafeteria, Campus Greens member Tony Massih said.

Odwalla is a product of the Coca-Cola company, Massih said.

"Although we have a Pepsi contract, the contract allows Dining Services to carry other competitors' products when Pepsi does not have a comparable product," Director of Dining Services Kim Nickelberry said.

Campus Greens believes that Coca-Cola has been hiring paramilitaries to threaten, kidnap and sometimes even kill union workers at Coca-Cola plants in Colombia, according to Massih.

However, on the Coca-Cola website, it states that their employees, "deserve equal treatment under our policies governing compensation, advancement, health, safety and other aspects of workplace life."

Coca-Cola policy also states

that it is important for them to have a "highly motivated, healthy and productive workforce that achieves business success," according to the Coca-Cola website.

Yet Campus Greens still questions Coca-Cola's actions.

Campus Greens member Chris Bonifield wrote a letter to the Dining Services Committee and asked them to remove Coca-Cola's Odwalla smoothies from the Cafeteria.

After two weeks without a response, Campus Greens decided to set up a table in front of the Cafeteria to educate people and have them sign petitions to rid the Cafeteria of Coca-Cola's Odwalla products, according to Massih.

"The petitions were aimed at telling Dining Services that Coke products will not be tolerated, so they should remove Odwalla in solidarity for the Colombian workers," Massih said.

Adviser Keith Yearman, and members Massih, Ellen Rebman and Todd Bogin managed the table.

"By the end of one day of petitioning, we had gotten close to 80 signatures and comment cards filled out," Massih said.

After tabling, Campus

Greens had several meetings with Nickelberry, in which she accepted the petitions and comments and agreed to review their request, according to Massih and Nickelberry.

Coca-Cola has a "commitment to conduct business in the right way," according to its Code of Business Conduct on its website.

However, Campus Greens continued to educate people about their beliefs on Coca-Cola by having Luis Cardona, a former Coca-Cola employee from Colombia, speak to the group on Monday. The group will also encourage people to go to the Coca-Cola protest downtown, which starts at 5:30 p.m. at St. Pious Church, 1901 S. Ashland, in Chicago.

For more information, contact Massih at socialsight@yahoo.com.

Former Coca-Cola employee speaks out

Luis Cardona, who worked at the Coca-Cola plant in Carepa, Colombia for 12 and a half years, spoke with Campus Greens at their meeting on Monday.

Campus Greens adviser Keith Yearman translated what Luis Cardona said after each sentence.

Because Cardona noticed

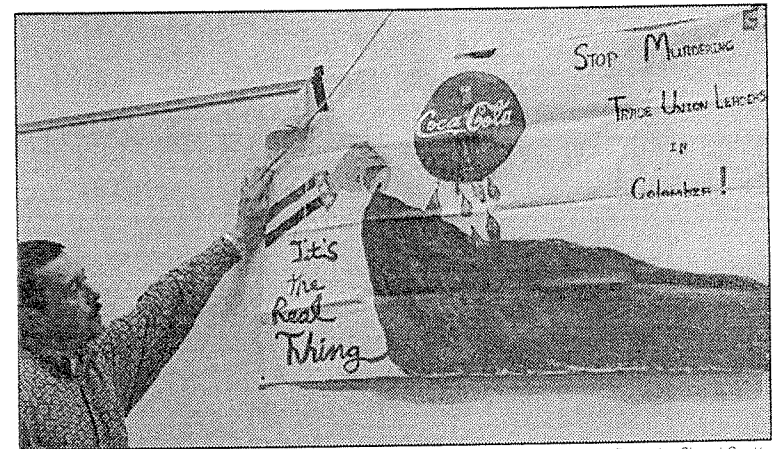


Photo by Cheryl Scott

Luis Cardona, former employee at the Coca-Cola in Carepa, Colombia, explains the banner that trade unionists from Colombia Action Network created.

workers facing discrimination at his Coca-Cola, he joined Sinaltrainal, the union of food and bottling workers in Colombia.

Despite Cardona's claims, Coca-Cola's policy states that it fosters "an inclusive environment that encourages all employees to develop and perform to their fullest potential," according to the Coca-Cola website.

Coca-Cola also takes pride in its trademark, which represents the company's "honesty and integrity," as stated in Coca-Cola's Code of Business Conduct.

When Cardona started to get active with the union in

1986, he noticed "strange notes left under the door at night, anonymous phone calls and threatening phone calls," Cardona said.

Union members began disappearing, receiving threats and a few were even assassinated by the paramilitary, according to Cardona.

Cardona continued working with the union until an experience that changed his life.

Cardona was kidnapped by the paramilitary on Dec. 5, 1996 at 2 p.m, he said.

The leader of the paramilitary asked him several questions and told him to get into a car, according to Cardona.

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Since he thought the paramilitary was going to kill him, Cardona decided to run away, zigzagging among crowds of people to avoid getting shot.

The police helped Cardona get to his house safely. However, that night, the paramilitary raided the union hall of Sinaltrainal and burned down the building, Cardona said.

On the same day that Cardona was kidnapped, the paramilitary also assassinated Isidro Segundo Gil, Secretary General of Sinaltrainal in Carepa, as he negotiated about the worker's rights in the plant, Cardona said.

On Dec. 12, 1996, the paramilitary went to the Coca-Cola factory at 7 a.m., lined everyone up and said that they had until 4 p.m. to resign from their union positions or they would be killed, according to Cardona.

The union members fled, including Cardona, who went from city to city with his family to avoid paramilitaries, he said.

In January 1997, Cardona's wife and daughter received death threats, so Cardona fled to the United States with his family and filed an application for political asylum.

As for the numerous abuses against union members at Coca-Cola plants, "Sinaltrainal had to take their case to the international level because of impunity in Colombia," Cardona said.

Three major meetings were held in Atlanta, Brussels and Bogota, Columbia on July 22 to discuss the issues involving Coca-Cola, Cardona said.

July 22, 2003 marked the first day of the international boycott against Coca-Cola.

Cardona hoped that his speech would create awareness about the situation in Colombia with Coca-Cola, which is similar to conflicts going on in Guatemala, India and Pakistan.

Cardona suggested that Campus Greens should get involved in protesting Cola-Cola by writing letters to the Colombian government, sending postcards to Coca-Cola, signing petitions, putting awareness stickers on Coca-Cola vending machines and by going to protests.

Campus Greens members thanked Cardona several times after his presentation.

"It's pretty much a miracle that he's with us today," Yearman said.

Starving Artist



Michelle Sinks, 19
Elmhurst
Fine Art



Artistic hobbies:
drawing, painting, working with pastels

How long she has been interested in art:
since grade school

Initial inspiration:
her grandfather

Why she likes art:
"Drawing and sketching is my way of expressing myself when I don't have words to explain how I feel."

Art classes she has taken at the college:
Drawing I and II, Ad Design 125, Intro to Watercolors, Computer Art 266 and 267

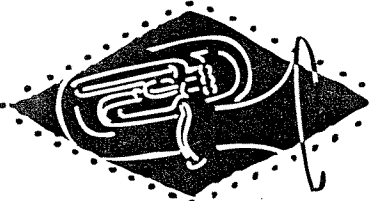
Accomplishments:
Sinks submitted her high school portfolio into the college and received three college credits for it. She also designed the Student Activities Program Board (SAPB) T-shirt for Oasis shows. The shirt states, "Free show" on the front and lists the dates of Oasis events on the back.

Favori
Julia
Favori
Shel
Favori
A.F.J
Other
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Favori
Salv
Alexar
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Sink
to be h
going
to be a
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Where
Carc

fall concerts



**College of DuPage
Student Performances**
Refreshing, affordable entertainment



DuPage Chorale
Sunday, Dec. 7
7:30 p.m., \$12/11
Bach and Son
Mainstage

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