

Student spends summer on farm

BY ERIN MCKEE
Staff Reporter

Senior Hannah Hemmelgarn returned from an internship this summer in Canada with a whole new respect for gardening, the food industry and 56 varieties of tomatoes.

Hemmelgarn spent her summer interning at an organic farm in Quebec, Canada, learning a new mode of farming, as well as a different dialect of French.

"I was just thrown in there," Hemmelgarn said. "I got off the train, I was in a place where I knew no one, didn't really understand the language."

An organic farm is a farm that uses few, if any, chemicals on the produce, she said. Organic compounds are utilized, but pesticides are not used under any circumstances. Different methods for controlling pests are used on an organic farm, she said.

"Cauliflower and beets, if you grow them next to each other, because of their chemical interaction, actually protect each other against different bugs and different diseases," Hemmelgarn said.

Hemmelgarn said the reason behind the use of so many pesticides and fertilizers comes from farms being pressured to produce more.

"You're just going to degrade the soil," she said. "It's actually harmful for the soil. We could just be using compost. This is compost that's going into the trash — into landfills otherwise."

Hemmelgarn said her duties on the farm were basic. She arrived in the middle of transplanting season, so her job consisted primarily of transferring seedlings, composting, digging and planting. She said her farming background consisted solely of some gardening at home and a couple vegetable gardens in her family's backyard.

"It was a really new experience for me and a really healthy one, I think, to understand where my food and the actual quantity it comes into the grocery store," Hemmelgarn said.

Unlike her experience as a foreign exchange student in Paris during her sophomore year, Hemmelgarn said she did not have the ease of staying with fellow foreigners or in some sort of supervised environment. Although many organic farms offer on-site habitation for full-time workers like Hemmelgarn, she said she instead chose to stay with one of the other farmers in a basement apartment about a five-minute bike ride away from the farm and close to Montreal, she said.

"There's a music festival in Montreal every weekend," Hemmelgarn said. "I managed to make it down there for the International Jazz Festival, ... and I met up with a friend from Truman."

Amid the weeding and planting on the farm and the trips to Montreal, Hemmelgarn also had the opportunity to relax, she said.

"I spent a lot of free time outside taking it all in, reading," she said. "I had a lot of

"Before, I had these big, lofty goals. After, I think I realized that I need to be focused on bettering myself and bettering my more direct community. And then larger change can grow from that."

Hannah Hemmelgarn
Senior

All eyes on Hannah Hemmelgarn

"I spent a lot of free time taking it all in, reading. I had a lot of reflecting time."



Photo Submitted
Senior Hannah Hemmelgarn, pictured center, spent the summer living and working on an organic farm in Canada. Her jobs included composting, digging and planting.

reflecting time." Hemmelgarn said she is involved in many environmentally centered clubs and organizations on campus that reflect her dedication to the environment and to making food safer and healthier for everyone. This year she is the Student Senate Environment Committee chair, as well as the Food Issues chair of the Environmental Campus Organization.

Hemmelgarn said she thinks her experiences in Quebec and on the organic farm will help her in the future with her long-term goals.

"Before, I had these big, lofty goals," Hemmelgarn said. "After, I think I realized that I need to be focused on bettering myself and bettering my more direct community. And then larger change can grow from that."

Shwayze leaves much to be desired in new album

BY STEPHANIE HALL
Reviewer

All the buzz about "Buzzin," rappers Shwayze and Cisco Adler's debut album, has dissipated, leaving fans with an album with quality and depth that mimic the MTV reality show. Hit songs like "Corona and Lime" and "Buzzin" filled the desperate need for a last summer anthem, but the rest of the album leaves much to be desired.

The album presents an unlikely duo of rapper Shwayze, the self-proclaimed "only black kid in Malibu," partnered with friend and producer Cisco, the long-haired alternative rocker you may or may not remember from the band Whitestarr. It was the uniqueness of the group, and Cisco's previous fame, that lead to the creation of "Buzzin," the MTV reality show. The show, which premiered a month before the album's release, centers around the creation of the album and Shwayze and Cisco's misadventures along the way.

The popularity of the show served as the perfect advertisement for a debut album. But once listeners got past the "buzzin" from the "Corona and Lime," the album turned out to be a slightly narcissistic tribute to a life of weed, women and the quest for lazy days in the California sun. Shwayze's empty lyrics combine with shoddy production to create a blur of indistinguishable

songs that leave fans in a state of MTV comatose.

Most songs open with the supposedly sexy crooning of Cisco followed by Shwayze's meaningless rap all set to a similar strumming beat. Songs like "Hollywood" and "Lazy Days" have a maddeningly slow, methodic beat, and most of the other songs never deviate far from his comfortable, easygoing rhyme.

Lyricaly, Shwayze seems to have three things in mind: sex, drugs and chillin'. According to Shwayze, "Hollywood is no place for lovers anymore," but most of his songs are dedicated to just that: his many lovers. In many of these songs it's evident that he thinks highly of himself with lyrics like "I'll bless you with a text soon" and "you're hangin' on my sleeve like I care that you're crying."

Drugs are another heavy influence on subject matter for the album. Shwayze cites Cheech from the "Cheech and Chong" movies in two of his songs and boasts how he "hit it three times a day." The songs "High Together" and "Mary Jane" seem to be the quintessential stoner chill rap songs delivering no subtleties or allusions.

The entire album sounds like it was recorded during an after-party on the beaches of Malibu, complaining about hardships and reminiscing about good times. All in all, Shwayze is the story of melodramatic Malibu boys who sound content to just spend their lives enjoying the California sunshine chasing weed and women.



Brian O'Shaughnessy/Index
Students and professors push to add local food education into classrooms through banquets consisting of strictly local foods, internships and discussion in classrooms.

LOCAL | Local food effort still in motion on campus, in community

Continued from Page 9
going to do the following kinds of things," he said. Kelrick added that students have enormous roles to play in their education, and pursuing the topic of local food is perfect for exploring what that means.

"What better way to be thinking about their practices toward their own well-being than to think about how they eat?" he said. "It's probably one of the most fundamentally determining activities that you do. It's ground zero in many ways for who you are. People say you are what you eat, and that just is so dead-on true. It is a political act to eat."

Senior Dan Fister, an ECO member and also the current student intern for the Compost Project, helps divert food waste from residence halls to a composting facility at the University Farm.

Each intern must come up with a project relating to compost, Fister said. He said the specifics for his internship still are in the works, but he intends to grow food at the University

Farm using compost and then distribute it to local restaurants and potentially to residence halls.

Fister said he would like to spread awareness about local food because people in the U.S. no longer are connected to what they eat.

"Currently, I think our nation in general has an unsustainable food system where people are really distanced from food production when it's ... been an essential part of human life forever," he said. "I think projects like this are important to me [that] reconnect people with their food systems that sustain them because ... people with a better connection definitely treat the land and its people better."

Fister said that in addition to interning for the Compost Project, he also tries to eat food from local farmers and encourages friends who sell goods at the farmers market.

"I'm trying to do as much as I can here now," he said. "I hope in the future people are inspired to continue local economies — both food and otherwise — and realize it's a good thing for people, the planet and the universe."

What's on your iPod?

Junior
Kate Richardson

"Short Skirt, Long Jacket"
Cake

Sophomore
Kayleigh Johnson

"Sexy Back"
Justin Timberlake

Senior
Jason Qualls

"Gray Gardens"
Rufus Wainwright

Design by Andrea Bailey/Index