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BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

### TWLF: University Dragging Its Feet

#### By SOE MULLIN

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### Artistic Endeavor Trashed!



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# **Artistic Endeavor Trashed!**



DAILY CAL STAFF/ROBERT TERRY

ARTIST L.G. WILLIAMS (left) and art director Zante River with a recreation of Williams' art project, a crate of Corona. The original was mistakenly recycled before its planned unveiling. See News in Brief, Page 2.

## Well-Meaning Janitor Accidentally Recycles Art

An empty 12-pack of Corona beer bottles was scheduled to make an appearance at a local art exhibition before the work was accidentally recycled by a custodian who thought that it was trash.

The sculpture, "Party Down," was created by L.G. Williams, a Berkeley resident and an instructor at the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland. Williams made the sculpture for a faculty exhibition at the school's Oliver Art Center Gallery.

Williams said he was inspired to make the sculpture when he visited his hometown of Chicago.

"All my friends do is drink," he said. "They even have a whole refrigerator dedicated solely to storing beer. I wanted to do an artwork that reflected that."

He said the empty bottles by themselves do not constitute art. Instead, the art requires the process of drinking the beer.

"I had to do it myself," Williams said. "Man, I think I've lost some brain cells." Since the incident, Williams has created a replica but he said that it is not yet art since he poured out the beer rather than drinking it.

"It's a drag because it took me a whole afternoon last week to drink all those beer bottles," said Williams, who also teaches at UC Davis. "I had quite the hangover the next day. Obviously, I just don't want to rush over to the liquor store and go through all that again just to replace lost art."

Williams, who prides himself on doing artwork that is simple, direct and ordinary, said that he is familiar with having his work mistaken for common items.

At an exhibition this summer in New York, a piece titled "the Commercial Mop" was used to clean up a baby's diaper accident, Williams said.

During a San Francisco exhibition last year, a homeless person tried on a black boot that he had put on display, he added.

- LINDA SHIN