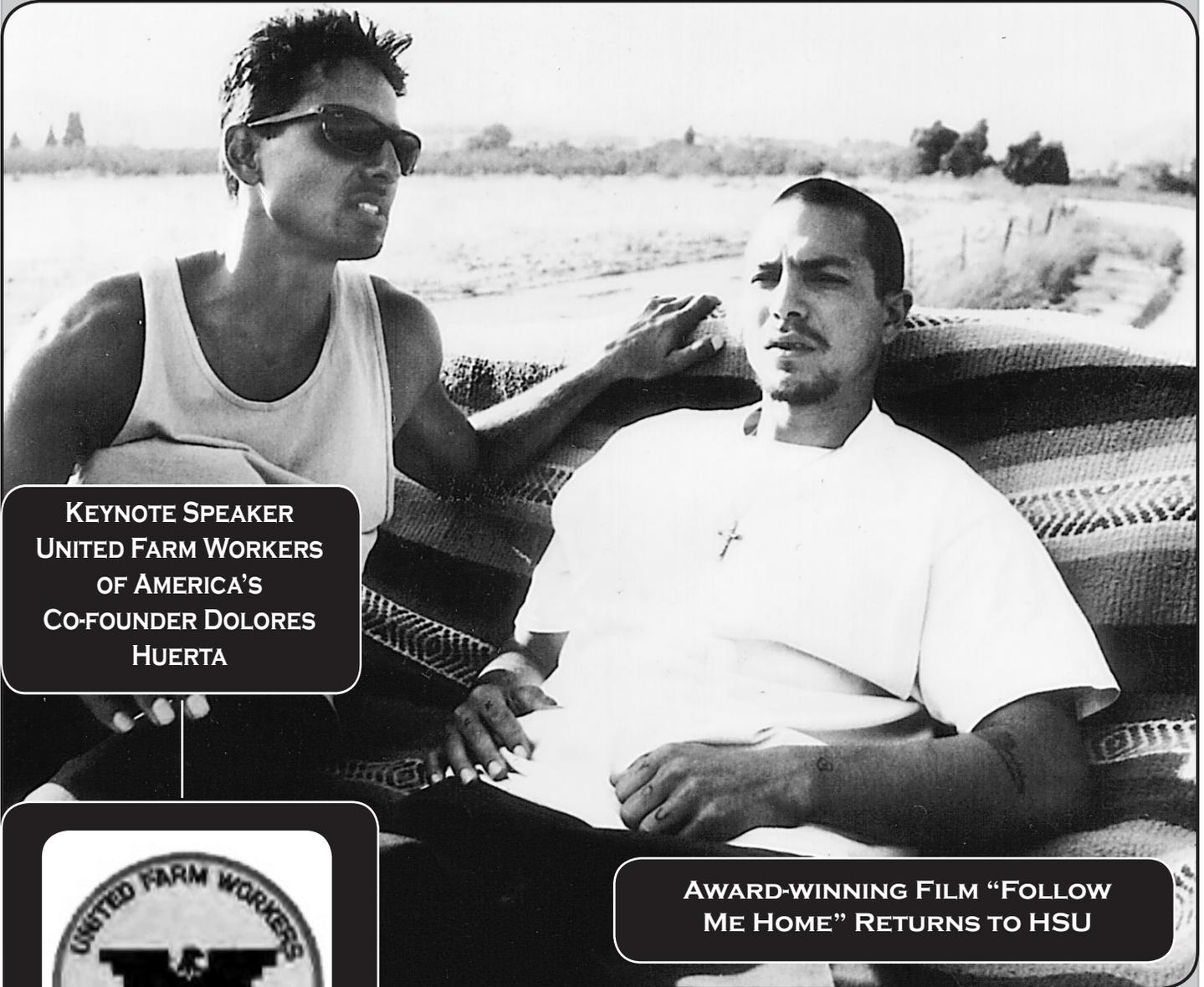


THE MULTICULTURAL CENTER'S

# CULTURAL TIMES

THE 8TH ANNUAL DIVERSITY CONFERENCE

SPRING 2002



KEYNOTE SPEAKER  
UNITED FARM WORKERS  
OF AMERICA'S  
CO-FOUNDER DOLORES  
HUERTA

AWARD-WINNING FILM "FOLLOW  
ME HOME" RETURNS TO HSU



DIVERSITY CONFERENCE 2002  
FROM MARGINALIZATION TO INCLUSION:  
REVOLUTION OR EVOLUTION



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The Cultural Times

Welcome back to school! The Spring semester has taken off with no delay and there are several exciting events to look forward to this semester such as the Diversity Conference, Black History Month, the Lunar New Year and many more activities put on by the MCC.

The MultiCultural Center's 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Diversity Conference 2002 is taking place this semester. The theme of the conference is **From Marginalization to Inclusion: Revolution or Evolution.** This is an excellent opportunity for people of all ages, sexes and cultural backgrounds to come together, exchange knowledge with one another and learn about each other as well as learn more about ourselves. Peter Bratt's award-winning film "Follow Me Home," will open the Diversity Conference on Friday night (pg.7). On Saturday, co-founder of the United Farm Workers of America, Dolores Huerta will be the keynote speaker. She is a woman known for dedicating her life as a labor leader and remaining persistent on her struggle for justice (pg.6). If you would like to attend this worthwhile event on March 1-2, 2002, there is a registration form located in this newsletter (pg.9).

As important as it is to discuss present day issues, it is also important to commemorate the achievements of people who have contributed to the lives that we live today. February is Black History Month. This is a month that is to be celebrated by all people to remember and to focus on the great accomplishments made by African-Americans that have effected all of our lives (pg.4).

Hopefully, school has not worn you out already because the Lunar New Year is almost here and celebration and enjoyment for this holiday are a requirement. Celebrate New Years day all over again with the APASA club and the Lion Dancers on February 18, 2002 (pg.3).

This semester is definitely going to be a productive one, made by all the efforts of the people who have contributed their time and efforts in creating such projects that will bring us all together! Have an excellent semester everyone and thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter.

Your Editor,  
Precious Yamaguchi

# The Asian Lunar New Year

By Hazel Lodevico



In many Asian countries, it is the time of starting anew, of forgetting the troubles of the past and greeting a fresh, new start. It is the Lunar New Year, and the Asian Pacific American Student Alliance (APASA), in collaboration with the Multicultural Center and Associated Students, will be celebrating the welcoming of the New Year with a day of festivities.

The Lunar New Year goes by the cycle of the zodiac, introduced by Chinese Emperor Huang Ti in 2600 BC, thus the start of the Lunar New Year is based on the cycles of the moon. Because of this cycling dating, the new year can fall anywhere between the end of January and the middle of February.

According to legend, the Lunar New Year began thousands of years ago, when a village in China was terrorized by an evil monster one Winter's Eve. The next year, the monster returned to wreak havoc on the little village. Finally, before the monster would return again, the villagers devised a plan to scare the beast away. They hung red banners everywhere, for red is the color which protects against evil. They also set firecrackers, played drums and gongs to scare the monster away. The plan worked, and the celebration lasted for several days, during which people danced and exchanged gifts.

Today, New Year traditions include the Lion Dance

– a dance to scare away evil demons- and eating of sweets which is to signify the release of bitterness.

Countries such as Vietnam, Korea and Japan also celebrate the Lunar New Year in very similar ways, each of them emphasizing starting anew, forgetting the past with hopes and wishes for abundance and wealth in the new year.

This year, the new year falls on February 12, and on that day, a small celebration is planned at the Multicultural center. However, the real celebrating will begin on the Monday, February 18, where lion dancers from the Bay Area are scheduled to perform in the University Center Quad at noon and at 3:00 pm on the first floor of the Jolly Giant Commons. There, people can taste various treats and try their hand at Asian-style mock gambling. Planned speakers and presentations are also scheduled for the day.

"The Lunar New Year is a huge deal in the Bay Area," says event coordinator BoMee Rutte, "And we wanted to replicate that same kind of celebration for the Asian population at the University as well as have the opportunity to share the celebration with everyone else."

For HSU student, Solana Foo, the celebration will offer her a chance to celebrate an old family custom again.

"When I was younger, my family used to get together at my grandmother's house," says Foo, "We would hang out play cards, and eat lots of Chinese food...It was very much a bonding experience. Now that me and my cousins are older and are in college, we aren't able to celebrate the event anymore."

Says Foo, "It's nice to be able to be a part of that again."



The Year of the Horse

# What Black History Month Means to Me

By Natalie Dawley

Black History Month is a month to appreciate and educate everyone on the talented, innovative, and social movements that African-Americans have made. Many of these accomplishments by African-Americans have influenced and made an impact on all people, not only African-Americans. I feel we should not only reflect upon these influences for one month but we should take these achievements with us always and uphold them as inspiration for our future.

"When I think of Black History month I think of Power, Prestige, and Unity," states Keion Morgan Coordinator of Programs and Outreach at the Multicultural Center. "The sad thing is, it is the shortest month on the calendar but I am honored to take part in Black History Month because I am a black male and I get to catch up on the history. Most importantly the history [of blacks] helps me focus and grow as a black male and learn more in detail on the black woman."

Although a month is dedicated to black history, many are still unhappy and feel a type of discrimination toward the once a year recognition of blacks.

"We should not have just one day or month to celebrate one's accomplishments. It should be acknowledged year round," says Claudia Tello, HSU student. "People will often forget about the accomplishments made if only celebrated once a year. But I guess something is better than nothing at all."

Frantically searching for a true opinion from someone on what black history month means to them other than my circle of colleagues, I visited an opinion poll online. I finally found a woman revealed as "stockings" who had all the time in the world to talk about her feelings on black history. She simply felt black history is a plot made against blacks, "It is something to make us happy and to keep us from pushing to have it studied like any other history." But the history of Blacks is so deeply rooted why should these accomplishments only be acknowledged once a year? Some feel it is a disgrace to

only celebrate and educate those on black history month once a year. Some feel that we should be glad we have something to commemorate the aspiring works of blacks.

Behind all of the controversy of having the history of blacks revealed once a year, Black History month should be a motivational not only for me as an African-American female but for everyone. Black History has showed me

that inspite of all adversaries; anything is possible to accomplish. Harriet Tubman did not let the words of her slave master stop her from getting her freedom. Just think if Tubman or any other person of color did not make that decision to rise against their adversaries how would society be for us today? To have come this far in society to where I am able to sit in the same classroom as my white colleagues, something was accomplished. I will never take for granted anything blacks have done. Even though the history of blacks is once a year we should all carry it with us and celebrate it everyday and appreciate this one month dedicated to us. This month will remind us that we are able to wake up and come to school safely without seeing signs saying,

"No blacks allowed or "Colored entrance only." It might be said silently but legally we have the right to be in the same place as the "majority."

Something was definitely conquered for not only blacks but all people of color to have come this far in society. Don't get me wrong, there is still underlying discriminations we need to triumph over, but we should look deeper into just this one month given to appreciate black history and cherish the history of our people. We should carry them with us always and we will definitely feel motivated to make a change. Maybe the change can be seeing black history taught in schools worldwide year round. Remember that we can make a difference like our people have done in the past, and that is what makes black history month meaningful to me.



## MCC Events

### Black History Month Highlights

- Feb. 18 - Video screening and discussion: "Black Is, Black Ain't" a Film by Marlon Riggs  
5:30 - 7:30, Art Building 102
- Feb. 19 - Black History Chronicled Through the Hip-Hop Music Experience  
6:00 PM, Founders Hall 163
- Feb. 21 - Video screening and discussion: "A Litany for Survival: The Life and Work of Audre Lorde"  
12:30 - 2:00, Siemens Hall108
- Feb. 22 - Poetry Slam  
7:00 PM, The Depot
- Feb. 23 - Soul Train Dance  
9:00 PM, 1st Floor of the J
- Feb. 24 - Annual Soul Food Dinner  
6:00 PM, Old Arcata Community Center  
(15th & D)

### Cup O' Culture-Spring 2002 By Brent Matlock

Last semester housed two very successful Cup O' Culture events and we here at the MCC are looking forward to an exciting line-up of events for this semester. These events are absolutely free and beverages will be served, so please come and join me and the rest of the MCC staff for these wonderful events throughout the semester.

#### John Singleton's **Baby Boy**

Facilitated by Keion Morgan  
Date: Monday, 2/18/02, 7:30 p.m.  
Location: Siemens Hall Rm. 109

#### India's Bizarre Subculture

Facilitated by Rishi Nakra  
Date: Wednesday, 3/13/02/ 6:30 p.m.  
Location: Siemens Hall R,m.109

#### Puerto and Vieques: A Struggle for Decolonization

Facilitated by Ryan Mann  
Date: Wednesday, 4/3/02, 6:30 p.m.  
Location: Siemens Hall R,m.109

#### A Night of Local Native-American Storytelling

Facilitated by Geneva Shaw  
Date: Monday 4/15/02, 6:30 p.m.  
Location: Siemens Hall RM109

### Frida Kahlo Comes to Life on March 6

Teatro Milagro will present "FRIDA, un retablo" an original play about legendary artist Frida Kahlo on March 6 at 7:00 PM, first floor of the J. Intertwining the life and art of one of Mexico's most acclaimed artists, "FRIDA, un retablo" is a visual story of a complex human being and a statement of the importance art plays into the fabric of humanity. This is a "magical journey into the juxtaposition of art imitating life/imitating art."

The extraordinary Frida Kahlo is a sorrowful heroine whose obsession with death provided her with an unquenchable thirst for life. Born a Mestizo of European and Mexican parents, her dark braided hair and distinctive bird-wing brows

are immortalized in over 200 self-portraits. Art became a retreat from polio, a bus accident and innumerable surgeries that left Frida in constant pain. Via imaginary friends and artistic passion, Frida escaped the miseries of her reality. Her work became her life as she reinvented herself into a timeless persona that was mirrored in her art.

"FRIDA, un retablo" will be presented on Tuesday, March 5, at noon at College of the Redwoods and on Wednesday, March 6, at 7:00 PM, first floor of the Jolly Giant Complex on the HSU campus. The HSU performance is funded by the Associated Students and the MultiCultural Center.

# Dolores Huerta: A Lifetime Championing the Rights of Farmworkers and Social Justice

By Claudia Tello



Dolores Fernandez Huerta, co-founder and First Vice President Emeritus of the United Farm Workers of America, will open the Saturday session of the Diversity Conference at 9:00 AM in the Van Duzer Theater. For over thirty years she has dedicated her life to the struggle for justice and dignity for migrant farm workers. Huerta is the most prominent Chicana (Mexican American woman) labor leader in the United States.

In the late 1950's, Huerta met Cesar Chavez through her work with the Agricultural Workers Association, a community interest group in northern Calif., and their common work in the Community Service Organization (CSO), a Mexican American self-help association founded in Los Angeles. Chavez and Huerta both shared a deep interest in the plight of the farm workers and were unhappy with the CSO's unwillingness to form a union for the farm workers. In 1962 they branched off to found the National Farm Workers Union, which came to be known as the influential United Farm Workers (UFW) in 1972. Huerta and Chavez would shape and guide the UFW through strikes, protests, boycotts, and other non-violent strategies for change. In 1975 Gov. Jerry Brown signed the Agricultural Labor Relations Act, the first bill of rights for farm workers ever enacted in the United States. This allowed the UFW to be a legal entity that would negotiate with farm owners for better wages and working conditions.

"I think we brought to the world (the USA, anyway) the whole idea of boycotting as a nonviolent tactic," Huerta once said in an interview. "I think we showed the world that nonviolence can work to make social change."

The MultiCultural Center and the HSU community are honored that legendary activist, Dolores Huerta, will be a keynote speaker at the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Diversity Conference, "From Marginalization to Inclusion: Revolution or Evolution?" She will speak on Saturday, March 2, at 9:00 AM in the Van Duzer Theater on the HSU campus.

Suggested reading:

**La Causa: The Migrant Farmworkers' Story (1992)**

By Dana Catharine De Ruiz and Richard Larios

**Delano: The Story of the California Grape Strike (1976)**

By John Gregory Dunne



# Peter Bratt and “Follow Me Home” Opens 8<sup>th</sup> Annual

By Marylyn Paik-Nicely



The award-winning film “Follow Me Home” and writer/director Peter Bratt will open the Diversity Conference on Friday, March 1, at 5:00 PM at the Minor Theater in Arcata. This film is a defiant and poetic story that explores race, ethnicity, culture, and identity in America. By weaving together the traditions of Native, African and Latin cultures, “Follow Me Home” tells the story of four street artists and their journey across the American landscape. Their goal and destination? To paint a mural on the White House... “Putting our colors and our images on the wall of La Casa Blanca.” (Tudee)

The inspiration for the characters and content of “Follow Me Home” came from writer/director Peter Bratt’s desire and commitment to explore stereotypes, racism and the dysfunctional behavior that often plagues urban ethnic communities. He wanted to begin the dialogue about the “soul wound” that manifests itself in communities that have been oppressed and marginalized throughout history.

“The soul wound is a result of the perpetration that was committed against the Indian people of the Americas, and also the Africans, who were brought here as slaves,” said Bratt. This soul wound is passed down through the generations.

Bratt also wanted the film to reflect his experiences

growing up in the midst of San Francisco’s cultural diversity and in particular the Native American community. His mother, Ely Bratt, is a South American Indian from Peru who, with her five children, took part in the occupation of Alcatraz Island in 1969. Bratt was born into activism.

Award-winning actress Alfre Woodard, who plays Evey, was pulled to the film project by its politics. In an interview after the 1996 Sundance Film Festival, Woodard said, “This film is about the honest way we look at each other. I think that one of the things that needs to take place in this country, even more than healthcare reform, is a national dialogue on race. This film contributes greatly to that dialogue.”

Following the viewing of the film will be a 45-minute Q & A session with Bratt. This will only begin the dialogue about marginalization and inclusion. A dialogue with Peter Bratt will continue in a workshop setting on Saturday, March 2.

- Film Awards:
- Best Feature Film Audience Award – 1996 San Francisco International Film Festival
  - Official Selection – 1996 Sundance Film Festival
  - Best Director – 1996 American Indian Film Festival, San Francisco

**Tim Miller’s  
“Glory Box”**

Comedian Tim Miller will present his critically acclaimed one-person play “Glory Box” on Saturday, March 2, at 8:00 PM in the Van Duzer Theater. Through laughter and tears, “Glory Box” explores one of the most controversial topics in America: same sex marriages. This performance is free to HSU students and \$5 for the general public.

Miller will also present a workshop at the 8th annual Diversity Conference.



# Diversity Conference Workshops

By Priscilla Zuniga

The 8<sup>th</sup> annual Diversity Conference is well on its way. The theme, revolutions. The title, "From Marginalization to Inclusion: Revolution or Evolution?" The interest, widespread. Back in November when the theme was announced, many people expressed interest in the conference, as the time approached, and workshops started to trickle-in, we knew that we had a great conference in our hands. Slowly, the revolution that was to begin in 'our own back-yard,' was ranging from children's literature to social justice in hip-hop, to more historical perspectives of peoples being marginalized by the mainstream culture.

The components of this conference are as widespread as the workshops happening on Saturday, March 2, 2002. The presenters range from student-panel discussions to professors on our campus. Among our workshops this year, we find conference veterans, such as Isaac Carter, Dr. Wurlig Bao, and the Human Rights Commission with a variety of interest and workshops. Also, we find students with research projects, such as Marvin Rodas, presenting with Dr. Steve Stamnes. Other workshops range from 3<sup>rd</sup> wave-feminism, to performance workshops, to transgenderism to the non-profit organization, Roots of Knowledge.

This year the conference has definitely attracted many presenters, ideas, ideologies, and experiences. We are very happy to begin this revolution with so many people in our corners, we understand that sometimes the struggle can get diffused, but in this year's conference it's interesting to note that the struggle expands through cultural lines, economic lines, and it transcends through age, sex, and ability. The "revolution will not be televised" was the line in a song, guess it won't be televised, but it shall begin in HSU, with student's who genuinely care about change. It's the peoples' struggle; it's the struggle that most continue to persist in order to make change. So join us, don't raise arms against the struggle, raise knowledge, whether it be through the children, literature, uniting bystanders, and paying attention to the ignored peoples, join the revolution that is beginning in our backyard.

## Diversity Conference Schedule

### Friday, March 1, 2002

- 10:00am –3:00 pm • Pick up conference packets and sign up for workshops  
Karshner Lounge, UC Center
- 4:30pm –5:00pm • Registration and conference packets at Arcata Theater
- 5:00pm –5:30pm • Instruction for participants receiving academic credit  
Arcata Theater
- 5:30pm –8:15pm • "Follow Me Home" and Q & A with Peter Bratt (Free to conference participants)
- 8:30pm • "Follow Me Home" for general audience (\$3/HSU students and other students; \$5/general)

### Saturday, March 2, 2002

- 8:00am –8:45am • Registration, workshop selection, continental breakfast  
Karshner Lounge, UC Center
- 9:00am –10:30am • Opening @ HSU Van Duzer Theater  
Keynote speaker: Dolores Huerta
- 10:45am –12:15pm • Concurrent Workshop Session I
- 12:15pm –1:30pm • Lunch
- 1:30pm –3:00pm • Concurrent Workshop Session I
- 3:15pm – 4:45pm • Concurrent Workshop Session III
- 4:45pm –5:45pm • Afternoon snacks & Closing @ Van Duzer Theater

**DIVERSITY CONFERENCE 2002  
FROM MARGINALIZATION TO INCLUSION:  
REVOLUTION OR EVOLUTION**

HSU MultiCultural Center  
8th Annual Diversity Conference  
GENERAL (Non-credit) Registration Form

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIPCODE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\$15.00 CONFERENCE FEE FOR HSU/CR/HIGH SCHOOLS**

**CIRCLE ONE: HSU STUDENT HSU STAFF/FACULTY CR STUDENT CR STAFF/FACULTY**

**HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT / NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL:** \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to HSU  
Send registration & check to:

HSU MutiCultural Center  
1 Harpst Street  
Arcata, CA 95521-8299

# My Journey From Ignorance to Understanding

By Brent Matlock

When I first came to Humboldt State University, I was just another ignorant white boy from a small town. I was not a racist or a bigot, but I lacked knowledge and understanding of cultures and lifestyles different from my own. There were only a handful of non-white students at my high school, so it is needless to say that my hometown was not very culturally rich. We did have our two-week lessons in elementary school about the peace-loving Indians and how they helped my European ancestors have the first Thanksgiving, and also a small section about slavery that included some clips from the film "Roots," but that was the extent of it. Everything was shortened, condensed and sugar coated to make me feel good about myself and my country. Little did I know that soon after leaving that place, I would see just how ignorant I was.

During my first month here at HSU, I met somebody that changed my life forever. This person was so nice, beautiful and full of knowledge, respect and understanding of different cultures. That person is Precious Yamaguchi. Precious is Japanese, and grew up in Los Angeles, (not the suburbs), where she had the wonderful opportunity of being around and interacting with people of countless different cultures and lifestyles. Those real life experiences gave her the upper hand when it came to being compassionate and understanding of people. Lucky for me, she was

kind enough to put up with my ignorance at first, and to help me not be so ignorant.

Precious encouraged me to take an Intro. to Ethnic Studies class with her my second semester here. That class opened my eyes to a whole world that I knew virtually nothing about. It gave me a new thirst for knowledge that compelled me to take four more ES courses and obtain my Ethnic Studies minor.

I can not even begin to tell you how good I feel now, walking around knowing that I am no longer that ignorant person I was only three short years ago. I feel so happy and content having knowledge, understanding and compassion for all types of people. I understand that there is still so much I do not know, and am eager to know more and to help others understand what I now do. I feel that in today's world, it is ever so important that people make a conscious effort to embrace the differences between people, or at the very least, co-exist without issues of race or lifestyle choices being a barrier between them. To help you understand the way I am feeling about myself now, I would like to share a quote from the book [The Art of Happiness](#), by the Dalai Lama, in which he shares his ideas of what true happiness is:

"So, let us reflect on what is truly of value in life, what gives meaning to our lives, and set our priorities on the basis of that. The purpose of our life needs to be positive. We weren't born with the purpose of causing trouble or harming others. For our life to be of value, I think we must develop basic good human qualities—warmth, kindness, and compassion. Then our life becomes meaningful and more peaceful—happier."

The point I am getting at is, please, please, take an Ethnic Studies course at least once during your college career, especially if you have grown up in an environment similar to the one I grew up in before I came to HSU. You will be amazed at what you don't know, and I promise, you will learn some very valuable lessons. Right now, with the ES department and the Native American Studies departments struggling, it is even more important to show your support for these vital parts of this institution. Some ES and NAS courses count toward GE requirements so you have nothing to lose, except some ignorance!



## Untitled

By Ryan Mann

A piece of candy would satisfy me  
For these hands ache from squeezing,  
Slowly expelling the life from your body.  
Yearning to snap the neck,  
So as to detach the head, and keep it in my  
bed.  
There I'll watch you join the land of the dead.

One piece of candy to suck for a while,  
It makes me forget the things I revile.

You have lied, cheated and slowly defeated,  
Each barrier of life that kept me sane.  
Living with an endless fear of your transfor-  
mation,  
To that beastly minded mutation.  
Beaten, insulted, assaulted,  
Your love, wife, child's mother.  
Who only sought to please and appease,  
Each desire that your cold heart required.

Two pieces of candy, from the corner store,  
Will soon make me forget you called me a  
whore.

words that leaves my lips, Are met with  
insult.  
Each attempt at attention is countered by  
damnation.  
How much more must I take, how much  
longer can I fake? Wont you tell me you love  
me, acknowledge you care.  
But it seems you're caught up in your mid-  
night affair.

Am I not beautiful, is that not enough?  
Have I not, cooked, cleaned and sucked,  
Washed, ironed and fucked  
Every time you needed, every time you beck-  
oned.

Three pieces of candy from the bathroom  
pantry.  
I suck then swallow, many more will follow.

Every lie you've told, I have believed.  
Every slap you've given I have received.  
my dreams lie broken, I've been deceived.  
stand alone, battered,  
clothes torn and tattered, having lost all that  
mattered.  
Because of who, no one but you.

Four pieces of candy, gelatin capsules of  
sleep,  
Taking control as I sit here and weep.

Yet the image of child, so innocent and wild,  
Would not choose to dissipate  
This life I would resuscitate  
Without your hands holding me back Or  
expecting another attack

This child will be a real man  
Unlike his father that beats a woman.  
I've been given another chance,  
To go against this putrid romance  
No more candy, no more pain  
mother and son have finally won  
Their freedom to live

## Only Time Will Tell

By Rory Smith

*Time a wasting seconds decreased and past, minutes  
fullerbustered our hour wasn't meant to last. My  
emotions  
unwinded my darkness wrapped along the future's  
outerline,  
where the second don't budge the past I can't  
rewind.  
Tic...tic...tic... the old man speaks of a vision trans-  
parent  
to the formation of where time lies. A stilled  
wooden box  
stood a statue six feet tall with the strokes echoed  
in the  
hallways with the sound that boomed and cried.  
To my  
attention it tries to call me to see a light but, when  
I look  
darkness falls. Into the hallway my soul dared to  
peep,  
I opened my eyes for the first time, and saw in the  
dark the light that creped.*

## Untitled

By Ryan Mann

***World awaits in hopes of change Mis-  
sion to influence the conscious spirit  
That rises with the full moon, Diffi-  
culty lies in the method not the prod-  
uct,  
What guidance to seek, what obsta-  
cles to topple,  
Which ones to leave standing For  
others to attempt Seems every time I  
have an answer, 2 more questions  
arise,  
that others may live, is my desire  
Destruction is a tool to forget  
In conserving we remember And soon  
the demons will topple, the celestial  
plan  
rerouted  
Drifted senseless for too long, Time to  
seek guidance in our ancestor's songs.***

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