

THE MULTICULTURAL CENTER'S

CULTURAL TIMES

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HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

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Cover photos: 1st MCC Intercultural Leadership Retreat, MCC Open House, Quad Events & Fern Canyon Trip



Editor's Note



Every single moment in time, we are all constantly changing as individuals, as a population and as a universe. Change is inevitable and is not always within our control. However, change is important, it is what helps us to progress, grow, discover and learn. This Fall semester the MultiCultural Center, as well as Humboldt State University has been undergoing major changes. A new member of HSU's administration, President Richmond is an example of one of the most significant changes that has taken place. He has plenty of plans to change HSU. To learn more about him and his thoughts and ideas to create more diversity on

campus, you can read an interview with him on page 15. Social change is a very important goal that the MCC strives to work hard for. With such events as the Week of Dialogue (page 4) and the upcoming annual Diversity Conference (page 7), the MCC has been keeping busy to create ways that students, faculty and the community can grow and obtain knowledge together.

College is a time where many people have new experiences, make important decisions, focus on their interests and grow through self-discovery. Whether students learn about themselves through their hobbies such as dancing (page 12), playing football (page 13) or traveling (page 14), this development is significant to our growth in individuality.

There are many changes that occur in life that may seem to be beyond our control; yet there are just as many changes that we can make individually and together to help benefit ourselves as human beings and each other. What we decide to do in our own lives affects our future and the lives of the people around us. This semester, let's take notice of the changes around us and participate in changes that are beneficial. Making a positive change will not only help us unite, become stronger or more educated, it will help us become better individuals, and isn't that a lot of what life is about, becoming a better person?

Thanks for reading this newsletter. If you would like to write or participate in the creation of future newsletters please contact the MultiCultural Center. It may be the start to a new positive change in your life and in the lives of others!

Sincerely,
Precious Yamaguchi



Interview with Ryan Mann, Coordinator of Outreach and Community Development

By Precious Vida Yamaguchi

The MultiCultural Center takes pride in its many recent positive changes that we have been pursuing. One of the changes within the MCC that has taken place is the creation of the new staff position, Coordinator of Outreach and Community Development. This position is filled by Ryan Mann, a graduate student who is no stranger to the MCC. He has been involved with the MCC for over three years and is now assisting clubs, students and the community as a member of the MCC professional staff team.

Precious: How does your position here at the MCC relate to the students at HSU, the clubs and the community?

Ryan: My title here is Coordinator of Outreach and Community Development, which means working with the clubs, the community and the different departments here on campus. Part of my job is to bring the activities forward. I also try seek collaboration with different departments, clubs, communities and organizations in creating events and networking to help coordinate events such as the Week of Dialogue, the 9/11 commemoration events, the International Non-violence Week Against Women and next semester we have Black History Month and Latino Week.

Precious: Can you explain what the purpose of the UTD organization is?

Ryan: We also have UTD, United Through Diversity, here at the MCC, where every two weeks, representatives from different clubs that are part of the MultiCultural Center meet and discuss issues that pertain to all the groups.

Precious: As a person who has worked at the MCC for such a long time, what do you think are the most significant qualities and experiences students can gain from working or volunteering at the MCC or participating in clubs through the MCC?

Ryan: I think growth is the main quality students can benefit from being a part of the MCC. You are allowed to grow

as an individual, to look at different cultures and different aspects of various cultures, you are also allowed to gain a lot of knowledge which is really not just out there in the general public. The MCC is a place where one can feel comfortable being themselves and expressing their own views, and more than anything, it's a safe haven for students to gain information and knowledge.

If students are interested in receiving knowledge on cultures, this is the place for them to come.

Precious: The position that you have working here at the MCC, do you see it as a stepping stone to goals you would like to pursue in your future?

Ryan: I worked here at the MCC as a student for three years, and now I am back working in a staff position. I enjoy working here with the people, programming the activities and being able to supply a bit of diversity to HSU. I see this as in-tune to what I would like to do with my future. I'm getting my Masters in Environmental Systems with a focus on working with rural communities utilizing appropriate energy technologies, such as solar panels, to help these communities out. What's important about any community project is the community involvement and the people behind the project. My work with the MCC allows me to work with a lot of people from different cultures who have a lot of different good ideas. I enjoy putting those together and being able to communicate with different people, and I see it as a stepping stone to my future endeavors which is based on the concern and action of community development, organization and support.



The Week of Dialogue on Race

By Hazel Lodevico

November 1 through 8 marked HSU's campus wide Week of Dialogue on Race, a week for voices to be heard and stories to be told, a week to erase stereotypes and promote understanding through the power of the spoken word.

It was seven days of workshops, films, shows, discussions and presentations- a multitude of different facets of expression and communication.

"This year went really well. I think it's the best one yet," Marylyn Paik-Nicely, director of the MultiCultural Center, said. "The events were really well attended and the participation was great."

She credits the week's success with what she called excellent collaboration and funding support from different departments and programs such as RHA, Counseling & Psych. Services, Office of Diversity & Compliance, Housing, Pres. Richmond, and many more.

The Residence Hall Association coordinated the Tunnel of Oppression, which exposed people to different scenarios depicting racism and discrimination.

The week kicked off with the Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Costume Party and Dance, bringing people together with the grooving salsa beats of Kachimbo.

The following day, acclaimed writer and filmmaker Ruth Behar shared her film, "Ado Kerida/ Goodbye Dear



Love," an in-depth look at the Cuban Sephardic people at the International Literature Festival, sponsored by the international student group Global Connections.

Some of the bigger successes included the Small Group Dialogues where students, faculty and staff came together and talked about various issues such as race and discrimination.

"It was such a diverse group, and there was a great flow of energy," Paik-Nicely said.

At the panel titled, "What Does it Mean to Be Asian?" a group of Asian students and staff came together to share their stories of growing up as Asian Americans.

"I think that was the beautiful part - people coming together and sharing their individual stories," Paik-Nicely said.

The key-note speaker of the Week of Dialogue was Pulitzer Prize-winning Native American writer, N. Scott Momaday. Despite a power outage which cut short Momaday's presentation, Paik-Nicely said his presentation signified what the Week of Dialogue is about. "(Momaday) told his story and I think he encourages all to tell their stories," Paik-Nicely said. "We all need to talk about our stories, to express ourselves in whatever form that takes. Because it's that dialogue which begins to break down oppressive barriers."



The International Literature Festival Winners

First Place: Hazel Lodevico

Brown Paper Bag

Missy Emerson's mother
Packed her PB&J
The crusts cut off
With care.
Amanda Wilson's mother
Packed her string cheese
And a bag of cookies.
Sarah White showed off
Her napkin
With her mother's pretty
"I love you"
Written in lovely red.

I sit hunched over
In my desk,
Clutching the wrinkled,
Brown paper bag
To my chest,
Trying to break it
With my hands until
Nothing is left.

But Sister Carol Marie,
With her beady eyes, magnified
Behind black horn-rimmed glasses
Spots me,
Scolds me,
Tells me I should be ashamed,
Because,
"There are starving children in Ethiopia.

I slowly open my
Brown paper bag
Crying because
Their stares sting.
I reveal
For all for them to see,
What my mother packed
For me-
Pancit noodles, rice and
A piece of mango
In a Ziplock bag.

Missy Emerson leans over,
Her pretty white face
Pinched in disgust,
Points at my limp noodles
And squeals,
"They look like worms!"



Second Place: Dustin John Micheletti

.Lyrical Expulsions.

With a simple kind of blue
 I tend to wax melancholy
 Sip breath to survive
 Slice time into gentle moments
 Of calming hibernation
 Punctuated and violated
 By red and bruised laughter
 Engulfing my thoughts
 Invading the far reaches of my shadow
 Have you ever searched the depths
 For your very own private demon,
 Raping, killing, spending,
 Breathing
 All for 499 plus tax
 And I'll throw in a waifish Barbie
 To send you into the dark, oily, dreadful abyss
 Unable to save myself for all the lies
 Lies, lies, lies
 But it's all relative based on current perspective
 Kill a savage, burn a rainforest, breed cloned fetuses
 For spare parts
 Don't things decay for a reason?
 This time the moon sets for good
 Casting the sunless eternity into abysmal terror
 Why lie
 I find a smile to the taste of these words
 A sick and inhumane gesture
 A wink
 A handshake
 The deal cast in blood, the devil satisfied
 But have you read the small print?
 Afraid I haven't
 Sighs creak through windpipes
 Severed cords mean broken homes
 Oaths forsaken...what?
 Can I please spare a dollar?
 If you wouldn't mind, of course I do
 A helping hand laced with false altruism
 As I crouch behind McDonald's
 Whiskey burning tears from my vision
 The silence of a multitude
 The strength of a crippled soul
 Take me to your leader
 A monkey with his finger
 Gripped tightly on a trigger
 Fuck Enron, this is politics

Another handshake
 Another wink
 Sweep the dirt under the carpet
 Lay down sweet child
 For your village has been incinerated
 Lay down sweet child
 For rich folk need their security
 Can you even imagine?
 But it's just a daydream
 Of reality
 Shattered blade driven repeatedly
 The gentle heart of pain
 Crying out for justice
 No stops to spare the time
 Save a life, spare no other
 I smell death
 A rotting leaf
 A quiet storm
 The crust that resides below a corpse
 Is this scream filling the wilderness
 Yet never reaching any ears?
 Is that possible?
 Is that worthy of a second of your time, sir?
 Sir, yes you God.
 I am talking to you.
 What do we have to say for ourselves,
 Or is this part of the plan?
 Brambles tear at my flesh too,
 But I know I die only for myself
 Selfish and righteous
 Pitiful and ugly
 My reflection never ending
 Lasting but a stone's throw away
 The movement at the edge of vision
 The presence felt but never
 No, never
 Quite understood
 Live to see tomorrow
 A blessing taken with a pound of flesh
 My hair bristles with a raging river of wrath
 Seeking to devour the earth
 And shit it out of my infuriated rectum
 Aren't we pleased with ourselves.



Uniting for a Purpose

By Marchette Stamps

One person can make a difference. Many leaders such as Dr. Martin Luther King, Malcolm X, and Cesar Chavez have clearly proven this timeless statement to be true throughout history. Their inspirational stories have caught on, leaving everyday people truly believing they have the power to implement change if they have the will to do it. So if one person can make a difference, what kind of difference could two people make? Three people? What about a whole group of people? On this campus, we have many clubs and organizations, all united for a purpose, creating environments for common interest, networking, community building, and some with the purpose to make changes on campus or in the community. But let's take this a step further. If two or more of these groups got together, just think how much of a bigger difference they could make.

I am speaking about coalitions: two or more groups uniting together for a purpose, to make a change. These coalitions are not foreign to Humboldt State. Some years ago, a group of students went to the school administration demanding them to create an Ethnic Studies department, which they were successful in doing. Another coalition, United Through Diversity (UTD), has resurfaced on this campus a year ago. It is made up of student leaders from each of the individual clubs within the MultiCultural Center, who come together to share upcoming events, activities, and ideas.

The 9th annual Diversity Conference, which will be presented on March 7th and 8th, will focus on building coalitions for the purpose of making changes on this campus, and there are many to be made. The use of funds on campus, the lack of diversity within the student body, as well as staff and faculty, and the crumble of our Ethnic Studies program are just a few of the areas that many students want to see changes being made. Unfortunately, many of us sit back and assume things will be done without our involvement, and that is where the problem lies. Activism requires action, and action requires participation from everyone.



Now is the time to get involved. If we wait and do nothing, nothing will be done. But if we put our minds together and unite for a purpose, we just might surprise ourselves of what we can accomplish.

For more information on starting or getting involved in a coalition, I invite you to this year's Diversity Conference, taking place in the spring. E-mail me at mls45@humboldt.edu.

"When you have people who believe in something very strong- whether it's religion or politics or unions- things happen."
– Cesar Chavez



A Letter from Diversity Conference Coordinator: Rishi Nakra



Dear Friends,

Every year around March, the MCC puts out an event that leaves an impression on its students that can last a lifetime. It's no surprise that our turnout increases every year. In case you were wondering what event we're talking about, it's the Diversity Conference. In the upcoming semester, it will be the 9th year we will be having this event. One thing for sure is that our success in the Diversity Conference could not have existed without the support of the many students, faculty and community members. We want to make sure the upcoming conference will be something worth your

while. Perhaps you will learn something new, or change your perspective on a particular issue.

The theme and title for the 2003 Diversity Conference is "Coalition Building: Uniting for Change; Communicating to Make a Difference."

Have you ever felt you were stuck on a dead end road and there was no one to help you? It gets lonely doesn't it? You just wished you had someone who felt the exact pain you did and gave you a helping hand. Whenever we wish to make a change in something, whether it's personal or social, it can be really frustrating when trying to do it alone. With the support of groups to back you up, the process can create dramatic change.

Coalition building plays a key role in multicultural issues. To have a coalition is to get an alliance of different parties of people to work together and create a difference. Here at the MultiCultural Center, we have a diverse group of students and organizations that are working hard to bring students together and share our differences. Many times, working with these students can be rewarding and enlightening.

We hope that as you read this, you look forward to attending this conference. Future meetings to plan this event will be announced, so if you have any ideas you would like to share, please stop by. Your input means a lot to us. If you can't make it to these meetings, get a hold of either Marcee or myself, and we'll talk. We're here for you.

Sincerely Yours,
Rishi Nakra
rn3@humboldt.edu



Indigenous People's Week

By Elizabeth Johnson

As Indigenous People's Week (IPW) has evolved over the years, it has gained a diverse audience as well as a broad spectrum of themes and issues. However, the American Indian Alliance has attempted to preserve the most important goals –the provision of a forum for the local native community in which people can share and celebrate their culture and heritage, and the education of the campus at large of historical and contemporary issues facing indigenous populations worldwide.

The first day of IPW falls on Columbus Day, and Christopher Columbus is almost always the opening topic for the week. This year, following tradition, we kicked it off with a rally on the Quad on Monday, Oct. 14, where Native American Studies professors and AIA members facilitated a dialogue in an attempt to dispel the myths that have grown over the centuries about the infamous explorer. These "myths" are still taught in history classes at any educational level today (including college, sadly enough). We were honored by the participation of a Taino woman whose child struggles with what he knows to be the truth about Columbus and his own people (the Taino were the first in this hemisphere to be touched by the devastating and lingering effects of colonial exploration), which is in direct opposition to what he is taught at his elementary school. A young Native Hawaiian man who expressed his frustration over the exploitation of his culture by the tourist industry added another dimension to the dialogue.

Opinions among AIA members regarding IPW's successes range from the frybread sale Wednesday afternoon, set to the inspiring music of Trinidad Goodshield, to the Cultural Sharing Potluck Friday night. For the club's president

Joe Hostler, however, the highlight was the frybread-eating contest Wednesday afternoon, the club's first in what will hopefully become a long tradition. The prize for the contest, a T-shirt extolling the virtues of "Frybread Power" on the front, with the line, "It's a good day to be indigenous," on the back from Sherman Alexie's movie *Smoke Signals*, was handed to a brave young man who managed to consume five large pieces in five minutes. It's also understood that the same gentleman left campus early with a proud grin and a stomach ache despite Joe's contribution of antacids!

Others believe that the panel on the current state of the Klamath River and the staggeringly high fish kills of recent weeks was the most successful event of the week in terms of attracting the highest attendance. Several keynote speakers from tribal fisheries and advocacy groups, as well as HSU Engineering professor Bob Gearhart, gave intensive presentations describing the impacts of the kills on the communities as well as defining several potential causes for the crisis and stating the various tribes' current positions in Federal Court. The speakers did an excellent job of raising awareness of the facts behind this tragedy and left attendees with information on how each person could participate in helping to resolve this situation.

In my opinion, I thought each event, even those which did not go as smoothly as they might otherwise have, was fantastic and that this campus was incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to experience the perspectives offered by each of the visiting speakers, performers and community members who graciously contributed their energy to make this week a memorable one. May next year be even better.

APASA's Asian Purposeful Dinner

By Precious Yamaguchi

In many Asian cultures dinnertime is one of the most important activities of the day. It is the time when family and friends put aside time to spend with one another, eat good home cooked food and take time out to enjoy one another's company. The Asian Purposeful Dinner, presented by the Asian Pacific American Student Alliance (APASA), was a big success with a turnout of over 250 guests who indulged themselves in eating various types of Asian cuisine and were spectators of numerous performing acts.

The Purposeful Dinner is one of the most important events that APASA produces. "I see the Purposeful Dinner," said APASA's advisor, Jim Daniels, "as an opportunity for the community, students and administrators to come together to meet the Asian students on campus and interact with our traditions, culture, food. It mainly gives us a chance for us all to get together."

Guest, Ray Mann, showed her appreciation of the food, when she said, "The food was good! I like good food, and I was going to try to sneak another plate of food out to take it home."

The food represented many different cultures of Asia. There were vegetarian egg rolls, Vietnamese noodles, pink rice and a whole lot of other dishes that students put a lot of time and effort into making. "We want to show the many sides of the Asian culture," said Isaac To'o, president of APASA. "We want to erase stereotypes, educate people about our heritage, and just come together during this dinner to celebrate diversity."





New Director of Academic Support Programs: Jim Daniels

By Hazel Lodevico

Although diversity may not appear to be very abundant at HSU, it is an issue very close to Jim Daniels, the new director of Academic Support Programs.

Daniels is the chief administrative officer who oversees programs that support students' success such as the Children's Center, Student Disability Resource Center, EOP, the Learning Center, the Testing Center and the MultiCultural Center. Much of these programs' personnel, budget and operations are greatly influenced under Daniels' administrative hand.

Dealing with a large number of students, Daniels realizes that he is also dealing with a multitude of different backgrounds.

"What I try to do is make sure that every student of every background is provided with the necessary services to achieve in their college careers," Daniels said.

Daniels came to HSU as the new director on Feb. 1, 2002, from Fresno State where he was the executive director of Student Life. Daniels said what drew him to the university was the university's distinguished reputation within the CSU system.

"What brought me here was the opportunity to do quality work," said Daniels. "HSU is a place of stability and a place which provides quality educational services to people."

However, coming from the large, urban community of Fresno, the small, natural Humboldt atmosphere was quite a change for Daniels.

"When I first came here, the first thing that hit me was that there were a lot of trees," Daniels said.

When Daniels joined the administrative staff, HSU was going through a transitional phase. With retirements and resignations occurring throughout the staff, HSU saw the changing of the guard in its leadership.

"When I came here there was much talk of the campus reinventing itself," Daniels said. "They wanted to carry on a tradition of growth."

Daniels said he felt the university is unsure of where that growth is heading.

"The growth of a university is not like a business where you have a narrow destination of going from point A to point B," Daniels said. "The growth of a university is like a community. It depends on a broad range of catalysts such as the environment, its leaders and its resources."

Diversity and the university's apparent lack of it has been a much heated, recent debate. Although the university has addressed the issue and has made suggestions to move HSU to reflect the same diversity as the rest of California, Daniels said he believed the university was moving in the wrong direction.

"Diversity is coming," Daniels said, "However, the university is not prepared for it, nor, I think, is the community."

Daniels said he felt the lack of a diverse faculty and staff population, and the lack of community resources was a factor in the rate of transfers of minority students to other universities after their first year at HSU.

However, for Daniels it's not the number of students of color that make up diversity.

"True diversity is the integration of human beings that not only exist together but share traditions, culture and meaningful experiences together," Daniels said. "It's not a matter of giving up who we are, but a matter of us integrating and bringing together the best and worst of who we are as people."

Daniels said he believes the university has the capacity to move in that direction, however the process will be gradual.

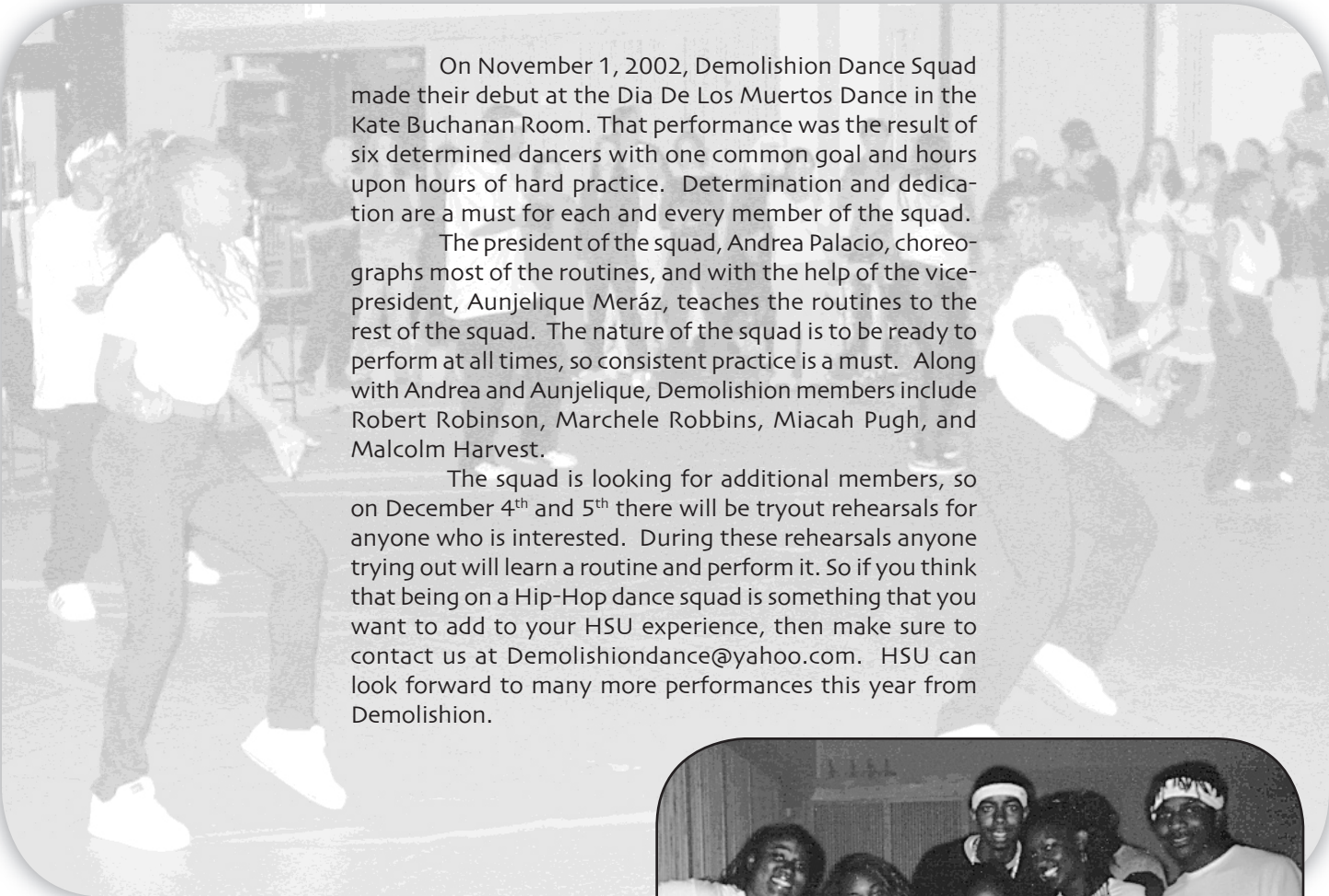
"We're not going to see the diversity here in Humboldt as you see in other urban areas any time soon," Daniels said. "You won't see it for the next five years, 10 years or maybe even the next 25 years. But it is coming."

Daniels said it is up to all those within a community to adequately prepare for an evolving community.

"It all depends on the community and the overall administration if this is what they truly want," Daniels said.

Meet The Squad

By Aunjelique Meráz



On November 1, 2002, Demolition Dance Squad made their debut at the Dia De Los Muertos Dance in the Kate Buchanan Room. That performance was the result of six determined dancers with one common goal and hours upon hours of hard practice. Determination and dedication are a must for each and every member of the squad.

The president of the squad, Andrea Palacio, choreographs most of the routines, and with the help of the vice-president, Aunjelique Meráz, teaches the routines to the rest of the squad. The nature of the squad is to be ready to perform at all times, so consistent practice is a must. Along with Andrea and Aunjelique, Demolition members include Robert Robinson, Marche Robbings, Miacah Pugh, and Malcolm Harvest.

The squad is looking for additional members, so on December 4th and 5th there will be tryout rehearsals for anyone who is interested. During these rehearsals anyone trying out will learn a routine and perform it. So if you think that being on a Hip-Hop dance squad is something that you want to add to your HSU experience, then make sure to contact us at Demolishiondance@yahoo.com. HSU can look forward to many more performances this year from Demolition.



Demolition Dance Squad



The views in the following article do not represent the views of the MCC or HSU. These are the thoughts and opinions of the author.

The Truth About Humboldt Football

By Corey S. Thedford

I consider myself a child of Humboldt State University. I believe this because I, unlike many other football players at HSU, have been here for all four years of my athletic eligibility. I have always held my head high with pride and dignity, knowing that this is my school. This is my school because I have been here since I was 18 years old. I am now 22 years old and ready to graduate. I wanted to look back and reflect about my time as a football player at HSU. I want to tell everyone about the TRUTH about Lumberjack football and some reasons to explain the lack of success of the teams in recent years.

Playing football for Humboldt is no easy task. I love the game of football, but it is hard to appreciate the sport when you are losing all the time. I come home many nights mad or frustrated. I am mad because I know that every team that we line up against I know we can beat them. I am frustrated because I believe in Humboldt's football team. I could have left this school a long time ago, but I stayed. I believed that I could change things around here, for the better. I did not abandon this team or this school, I stuck with it and it is the best decision I ever made.

Humboldt football gets diddly squat, as far as funding and money is concerned. You may be asking, what does money have to do with football? Well let me explain this, Lumberjack football competes against schools where full ride scholarships are given out. Humboldt has no true full scholarship players on the team. UC Davis, Western Washington, Saint Mary's, and many other universities all give out full rides. This means these schools are paying for the quality athletes. It is hard to get the quality of athletes that you want, if you can't afford them. I am not saying that I am a bad football player and everyone here is shitty, when you play against teams with better athletes you are automatically put at a disadvantage.

The funding problems are more extreme than the lack of scholarships. Being a Lumberjack, you get used to not being pampered. Yes we get catered to when it comes to weight-room hours or facility use, but hey, we are the football team what do you expect? We don't get all sorts of clothing and apparel, we don't get heavy sponsors that drop loads of money into the program, and we don't eat for free on campus. We are roughing it too. We struggle harder than most regular students because it's almost impossible to work during the season.

The facilities at Humboldt are good but they could be better. The football locker room needs a facelift; the training

room needs some improvising. I am happy to know that the new sports complex is opening in a couple of years. I will never have the opportunity to use it but I am glad that Humboldt will have a new look whenever I come back to visit. Through all this we play. We play hard and we give a full effort, sometimes it just feels like we are just a step away from winning. We literally can taste it coming; we are in spirit in every one of our games. Rarely do we really lose by huge margins. Even though we may lose often we never give up. We leave our mark, guaranteed.

The guts and fire that we have is given to us from our coaches. Our coaches do their jobs. I understand how much our coaches put in each week, day in and day out. Our coaches bust their asses to get the best game plan, practice schedule, players to play, drills to do etc. These men show up at 8:00a.m. and don't leave until 11:00p.m. or later. It is just as hard and frustrating to them when we lose on them as well.

Football players think that it is all about them. We are on the field playing so we feel like we are the ones who are affected the most, but more people put their necks out on the line than we actually know. I believe that we are understaffed when it comes to coaches. It is almost impossible to coach 15 guys at a position all by yourself at practice. So the coaches only focus on the ones that are ready to play, and if you aren't ready to play you pretty much have to wait for the off season before you can get some real individual coaching. Most of the coaches will tell you why you are not playing and hopefully they will tell you what to work on to get you on the field.

The truth about Humboldt football is, you play because you want to. You don't get big scholarships, the facilities are not top notch, and the coaching staff is solid but understaffed. We play because we love the sport of football. We play because we enjoy lining up between those hash marks every day and hitting other people as hard as you can. We play this sport because we are tough and that's what's being an American is all about. Coach Adkins says that football players are the last true gladiators in our time. We line up across the field from one another; we strategize and then, go and do our best. We are soldiers. I play for a greater cause than myself. I play for my brother, and that's what Lumberjack football is all about. Playing with a team of guys who all go out into battle, win or lose we are one, we are a team. That's the truth about Humboldt Football.

Self Discovery Through Traveling: My Summer in Greece

By Precious Yamaguchi



When I think back on my trip to Greece I remember the six weeks of intense heat, getting some foreign flu for a week, eating weird types of food, living in a small town for four weeks without hot water and modern day plumbing, being confused by the foreign monetary units, staying in old haunted hotels, being stung by a gigantic furry bumble bee and having my arm swell up for three days and riding in a small bus for several hours with fourteen other students. Was this trip what one might call a walk in the park? Not quite. Was it an experience of a lifetime? Absolutely! In fact it was an experience I will treasure all my life and I would do it all over again if I had the opportunity, despite the obstacles I encountered while traveling throughout Greece.

Traveling is a way of not only seeing some of the most beautiful and interesting places and people or becoming educated about the world around us, I have found it causes us to open our perceptions and to re-evaluate who we are as people, our values, goals and ways of living. This was the first time I had ever traveled outside of the United States and this trip truly opened my eyes to the different ways of life that I have never been exposed to. Through taking this trip, I learned about art, the Greek culture, some of the Greek language, met new lifelong friends and most importantly I gained a lot of self-discovery through traveling.

This trip to Greece was made possible by the art department here at Humboldt State University, where they took fourteen students, including myself, to Greece to study its historical and rich history, culture and art. Two professors, Demetri Mitsanas and Lou Marak, guided us through Greece and enhanced our education experiences. We traveled during the months of June and July through all the different regions of Greece, seeing various cities, small towns, the mountains, the different beaches and we even went to the island of Skopelos. We also were able to earn up

to 13 units worth of art-related workshops. After our classes each day, we would leisurely walk out of our class and spend the day at the beach, it was paradise.

When traveling to a different country, it is important always be ready for the unexpected. I felt like I had to adapt to being in this new country really quickly and everyday I encountered new experiences, no matter how miniscule they may seem that I will always remember. For example, I will never forget how everyday in the morning I was woken up out of bed at 8:00 a.m. by the watermelon man. When we were staying in the small town of Afissos for four weeks, there was a watermelon man who drove through the town with a megaphone and yelled right into the window of our bedrooms, "Watermelons!" as we were sleeping. Several of these trucks would go through the town daily and the town almost seemed to be dependent on the use of the megaphone. Even the church sermons were given over a megaphone. I will also never forget how at the Greek restaurants, not only would it take 45 minutes to an hour for our food to come, but the menus would have English translations of Greek dishes that were often misspelled. For example, instead of the menu saying, "lamb with lemon," it would say "lamp with lemon," French fries would be called "fried, fried," and there was even a dish called "fried arrogant," which I think was supposed to be "fried eggplant." One time I ordered "grilled cheese," thinking it was going to be a grilled cheese sandwich and they literally brought me a piece of cheese that was grilled in a pan. The unpredictability of just ordering food made the trip an adventure in itself.

I can't say that traveling to Greece or any foreign land is easy. In fact when I think back on my trip the most difficult times were actually the most meaningful experiences I have had. There were times when I felt like I was placed in certain situations where I didn't have much control over what was going on, especially since I didn't know much of the language or when I got really sick, but it was these times that I was able to learn about myself. Because of these situations, I feel like I have grown stronger and more independent and can handle practically any changes or situations that come my way in the future to the best of my ability. Traveling can offer people experiences and lessons in life that are priceless and no matter where you go, you will come back a changed person in either little ways such as coming back with an awesome tan or returning from your trip as a more confident person, which are both two changes I experienced a long with several others as well. Most importantly, traveling takes you out of your comfort zone and places you in another land where there is knowledge to explore from its culture, environment and people.



Interview with New HSU President: Rollin Richmond

By Precious Yamaguchi

Precious: How important do you think it is for students to be in an educational environment that has a diverse population of people of different cultural backgrounds?



Pres. Richmond: I think it is very important. I think we would be doing students a disservice if we didn't give them an opportunity to be exposed to a variety of cultures, peoples and perspectives. One of the reasons is that they are going to face and be working with all types of people when they are in the working world, if they haven't already. As you know California is the most diverse state in the nation, it's becoming more diverse as time goes on. In fact the United States as whole is becoming more diverse, and I think the strength of this country comes from the diverse origins of the people.

I'm an evolutionary biologist, and I know from studying other species that diversity, such as genetic diversity (phenotypic diversity), is extremely important for a species to be able to adapt to changes. I think the same thing operates in human cultures as well, that if you have a diverse range array of people, with different ideas and perspectives, society as a whole is more likely to be able to adapt to changes that come along. Finally, I would say it is important because I think we have an ethical responsibility as educators to present to students the array of cultural and ethnic diversity in the world and let them choose among them.

Precious: What changes here at Humboldt State would you like to see in terms of the university incorporating a more diverse student body and faculty?

Pres. Richmond: I'd very much like to see us develop a more diverse faculty and student body. We're working to do that

and you'll see that those initiatives will get a lot of support and encouragement from me, in terms of political support and financial support as well.

Precious: I know from meeting different students here, for some students, especially ones from small towns, going to school at HSU has exposed them to the most diversity they've ever encountered- which is actually not that much. How important do you think Ethnic Studies classes are for students and have you ever thought of making them a requirement in the curriculum?

Pres. Richmond: I think Ethnic Studies courses are very important. First of all, let me make it very clear that the president of this university doesn't have the authority to change the curricular requirements; that is something that the faculty does as a body. I don't have the authority to make the requirements, nor should I have, but do I think students would profit from taking Ethnic Studies courses? Absolutely!

Precious: Last, what was the number one most significant lifelong lesson you learned while you were going to college?

Pres. Richmond: Actually, I didn't learn this lesson while I was a student, I learned it when I first became an administrator. I was taught the importance of diversity in academic administration. I was trying to impose some system, I can't remember what it was now, within a college of arts and sciences, and a colleague of mine reminded me, "Aren't you an evolutionary biologist? You ought to know the importance of diversity, just because it's more convenient for you to do something in a uniform way, doesn't mean that uniformity is necessarily beneficial for the college as a whole." From this, I constantly remind myself of the importance of diversity. I want to try to focus on creating an institution that is not just convenient to one particular group of people but to a whole population.

Precious: Well said, President Richmond. We look forward to accomplishing these goals for diversity with you!

Spike Lee Visits HSU!

By Issac M. Carter

Spike Lee has been one of the most influential directors, writers, storytellers...artists over the past two decades. Through his vision he has woven together a complex tapestry of innovation, critical thought, passion and cultural expression. Illuminating the shadows in which we hide the controversial and iniquitous, taking the pristine shroud of "America" with which we cloak ourselves and placing the mirror of society (ART) closer so that we may see our true reflections, our stained and marred moral fabric. On September 29, 2002, the evening of Spike Lee's visit, I was ashamed, outraged, embarrassed and disappointed to see Humboldt's reflection, a reflection of ignorance, privilege, power and oppression. I was humiliated to see a part of myself in this reflection.

Throughout the evening the lack of knowledge concerning the body and scope of Spike Lee's work was at best laughable and at worse deplorable. Person after person stepped up to the mike uttering partial and inaccurate "truths" regarding Spike Lee's art. With each long winded, propaganda pedaling comment, followed by an even longer ridiculously worded question, I slouched further and further down in my seat attempting to avoid eye contact with Mr. Lee. I did not want to be mistakenly associated with or assumed to be a part of the barrage of ignorance directed at Spike Lee and his work. Until then, I had never witnessed such a critical mass of ignorance in the Humboldt community. For about two hours the audience inundated me with thoughts and behaviors which have since left me questioning the enlightenment and progressiveness of our community, my role in perpetuating the current system of thought and how can I make a difference.

The lack of awareness showcased by the audience is not the only reason why I am questioning our community. As I stripped down the lack of knowledge I found a deep-rooted layer of power and privilege. The majority of people who had the opportunity to speak seemed to come from either a place of superiority or inferiority. In either case, the privilege of not understanding the issues because they do not affect you on a daily basis or the privilege of knowing the issues but lacking the belief and understanding that you are a part of the solution as well as the problem, incenses me. How can a community of educators and the educated

be so unaware? Walking around blindly, day after day ignoring or not willing to acknowledge oppression we benefit from, promote and sustain. More importantly, how can we as a community become aware of not only the problems in our society, but our responsibility to be advocates for change, equity and justice?

We had a unique opportunity to engage ourselves with an artist who stimulates our minds, our hearts and our spirits in such a way we are compelled as a society to take notice. But instead of embracing Spike Lee and his art, we poked and prodded him, not realizing we are the reflection of his art. We are the racists, the homophobics, the patriarchs, the classists...the oppressors. In every way we find fault and take exception with the characterization and representation of individuals and ideas presented in Spike Lee's films; we should find that same fault and take that same exception with ourselves. We cannot look at Spike Lee's films as some type of panacea or salve that will cure the illness and dress the wounds of our world. Spike Lee did *Do the Right Thing* in 1989 and Black people are still being abused by police everyday. He did *Bamboozled* in 2000 and Black people are still being misrepresented in media and film. Spike Lee is not the answer. Movies are not the answer. Art is not the answer. We are the answer, but only if we question. We must recognize our individual and institutional power and privilege. We must take up the fight for justice in our own lives. We must be the change we want to see. How dare we ever ask or expect anyone else to do that which we are unwilling?





Life In General

By Thavisak Syphanthong

Life in general is like a bike in general
It goes forward and never looks back
It beeps the honk and is never relax
When the time comes to move on
It goes on and keeps moving
Obstacles come in the way
It swerves and turns
The wheels swivel and sway
But the balance is always
 Kept by the driver
When the driver tires
The tires go flat and
 There are airs that come out
Of every-which-way
This way and that way
And the journey continues
Until the driver sees the end
 Of the road---
But the end of the road is never forth-coming
For the end of the road is yet to be reached
When the goals set forth have not yet been met
So the net is set, but the new house will not be done
Until the weather is wet
With envy and with sorrow
The girl stands in front of the house and says
"I'll see you tomorrow!" (bye now)

Sea Borne

By Rory Smith Jr

All mangled, my thoughts asleep
being tossed and shoved in between oceanic ridges,
gently removing the flesh from it's layers.

Inside my darkness I search for my image
being severed like a sea lion's hide
while riding the spirit of the unknown,
a silent state being washed upon the shores.

Darkness getting thicker as the present volume declines,
echoes of whispers messaging my senses,
unable to engage in any conversation.

Numb as the sediments that suction my empty pores,
brushed up against the material that once formed life,
there when I realized the plasma that shown bright.

Through a small crack that allows light to squeeze through,
I saw my final act by the sea being consumed.

The City Limits

By Rory Smith Jr.

The way the color fades while waiting underneath the sun,
the way rooftops ascend through dark breaks
not knowing where the loose gravel comes from.

The way the silence escapes through urine stained on walls,
the musty smell of a homeless spirit, a face filtered with dirt,
the inside unable to fall.

The calling of irritated horns that beep,
the way smog dances in between solid and broken painted streets,
my patience beginning to swell.

The way faces stare without a trace of life,
the way people seem to be fast forward through day and night,
the act of being alive but not living.

The way sirens sing the way bright lights swirl in back of me,
my frown fitting a description.
The way zebras run wild, the way they trample any smile,
the format of how my brothers are kept down.

The limit somewhat prefixed,
the rules of the game altered in every way,
nothing but forks in this path the empty road closing off my lane.
Looking beyond, but can't go pass
did my soul try to race when I punch my foot on the gas,
and smoked the sign that posts my limit pace.

To The President

By Thanh Luong

Black-Hawk down!
Another remembrance of Vietnam
Then came 9/11
And all its bombings
We didn't learn from Pearl Harbor
Nor any other
Now we're asking for more
As our president needs the war
So he won't have to face the poor
And can still stay behind closed doors

Iraq, it's your turn
Comply or get burned
Disarm your weapons
Or it'll be a hard lesson
That George will need to learn
To mind his own business
And not say I don't trust this
'Cause Saddam tried to kill my daddy
Now he's got me real worried
Fearing that he might be out to get me

But if I threaten him
I'll make him see
That I'm nothing to mess with
For I'm the cowboy from Texas
I hope he won't be against us
But what if he doesn't listen
Will he fight back if we attack
Either way, I'll be in good shape
And be able to say
That he should be put away

It'll be a hard fight
But the many that die will prove me right
I'll come out as the hero
And everyone will forget about Ground Zero
Or how I accused Osama
The extra pain and drama
While all I found was his lama
Sure, some were killed
But the survivors did get their free meals
Priced at the death of the few"

Tell me now, George
When was your last trip to L.A.
Will you turn back to the United States
The pregnant teens and jobless fathers

Put them on welfare and not even bother
Give their kids an education
And everyone will be in good condition
All right, there'll be hard times
But they'll get through
It's all any president can do

You missed the point, George
'Cause while you're living large
Those kids are fighting to survive
Taking guns and carrying knives
They have to put school aside
And worry about staying alive
Didn't you notice the signs
Or the shooting at Columbine
How about Charles from San Diego
And the rest that followed

My last words to you, George
As you lay in your yard
Try to think real hard
And understand that your country
Don't function entirely on money
But also on pride and diversity
And all the love that let us be
I hope you'll get your priority straight
And not make another dreadful mistake
For your people need love, not hate

Let Me Sleep

By Laura Ceditillo

I am in peace-
only when I'm deep asleep-

The world no longer speaks to me-
And if it does I pay no heed-

My mind is silent
It thinks no more-
of thoughts that cause my heart to sore-

hunger ends
No war to bear-
But if there is
I do not care-

Let me sleep, oh, let me sleep-
For when bright eyes open
They'll care to see-
And caring causes misery.

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