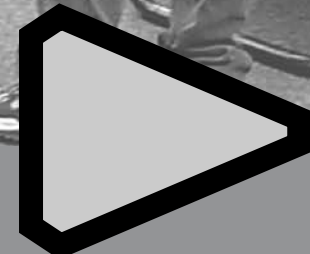




# DIVERSITY CONFERENCE 2001



# The Cultural Times



The Cultural Times  
Editor  
Precious Yamaguchi

Photographs  
Sarah Lindley  
Sou Saephan

Contributors  
Lorena Oliva  
Priscilla Zuniga  
Ryan Mann  
Anne Serene  
Brian Lee

Director  
Marylyn Paik-Nicely

Office Manager  
Lily Goloyugo

MCC Staff  
Felicia Ellis  
Sou Saephan  
Claudia Tello  
Liz Huaynate  
Solana Foo  
Priscilla Zuniga  
Marvin Rodas  
C.C. Sayasit  
Elizabeth Smith  
Mo Abdulfetah

Hector Sandoval  
Mandene Thomas  
Ryan Mann  
Precious Yamaguchi  
Jackie Therien  
Veronica Robles  
Daniela Molina  
Gabby Ahmadia  
Katya Amina  
Brian Lee  
Anne Serene

The Cultural Times is the official newsletter of the HSU MultiCultural Center. It is funded by the Associated Students of Humboldt State University. The views expressed in the content of the Cultural Times are not censored or reviewed by the Associated Students. The Cultural Times invites students, staff, faculty, and community members to contribute work and to share experiences and points of view. All correspondence regarding this publication should be sent to:

MCC Cultural Times  
HSU MultiCultural Center  
1 Harpst St.  
Arcata, CA 95521

Copies of all correspondence should also be sent to: Associated Students of Humboldt State University.

## A Thank You

The MCC Staff and volunteers would like to thank Fidel Lara for the four years that he worked at the MultiCultural Center. We wish him the very best in his new job in the Bay Area. Fidel was the MCC Office Manager for four years, and he worked at HSU for eight years. Fidel enjoyed working with students and was very supportive of their organizations and activities.

Good luck, Fidel!

## graduation

### La Raza

Rosalinda Larios

The 5th Annual Raza Graduation will take place in the evening on Friday, May 18, 2001, at the new Arcata Community Center. Members of M.E.Ch.A sponsored the first Raza Graduation five years ago. The initial purpose was to honor and celebrate the Raza students, as well as their family's accomplishments and sacrifices, in a bilingual setting. The graduates have always worked very hard to organize this event and to make it honorable for our parents. This event is intended to honor us, but more so to honor and thank our families who have guided us through our spiritual and educational growth. We are very proud to be the sons, daughters, sisters, and brothers of La Raza.

The Raza Graduation has grown over the years and will continue to grow. The graduates are recognized for their hard work, perseverance, and commitment to earning a bachelor's degree. Our families are acknowledged for their inspiration and struggles in helping us succeed in higher education. We would like to thank all of our friends, staff and faculty who have continually supported us during our years at Humboldt State University which we will never forget.

The following is an almost complete list of the 2001 Raza Graduates: Julio Medina, Claudia Tirado, Margarita Tores, Clara Dooley, Juan Carlos Diaz, Adahli Arevalo, Alysia Cervantes, Annette Hershey, Brianna Salazar, Florentino Herrera, Francisco Moreno, Hazel Vivas, Jennifer Gonzales, Manuel Andrade, Manuel alfar, Marisa Mauriscio, Nancy Lawless, Olivia Corona, Rosalinda Larios, Ryan Mann, Cuauhtemoc Carbon, Veronica Alcaraz, and Veronica Robles. We apologize if we have left anyone out. Please contact the MCC (826-3364) if you are a Raza Graduate and your name is not listed above.

### Black Graduation

Folkerson Recital Hall, May 18th, Friday 6:30

### Indian Natural Resource, Science, & Engineering Program (INRSEP) Graduation Banquet, Friday, May 18, 2001

The annual Indian Natural Resource, Science, and Engineering Program (INRSEP) graduation banquet and honoring ceremony is traditionally held the Friday evening before commencement. In keeping with this custom, this year's banquet is Friday May 18, 2001 at the Bayside Grange. Social begins at 5:30pm, with the evening festivities starting at 6:00pm. This year's keynote speaker is Dr. Tom Windham, director of the SOARS program at the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado. Program students, their families, and friends of INRSEP are invited to attend this celebration. Please call the program at 826-4994 for more information or to reserve a table.

### Graduation Open House

The MCC invites all 2001 Graduates, their families and friends to our annual Graduation Open House on Saturday, May 19. There will be an Open House following each commencement ceremony. Refreshments will be served, and a relaxing atmosphere will be provided! Bring your families by to meet Marylyn and the MCC staff. Share with them your home away from home here at House 55. Congratulations Grads!

### Indian Teacher & Educational Personnel Program (ITEPP) 2001 Graduates

Sonya Ariston (Teaching Credential)  
Davita Copeland (Masters in Psychology)  
Robert England (Masters in Psychology)  
Will Einman (Teaching Credential)  
PennElys Handwerker-Droz (B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies)  
Kishan Lara (B.A. Native American Studies)  
John Rivera (B.A. NAS)  
Kevin Simmons (B.A. NAS)  
Christina West (Teaching Credential)

### American Indian Alliance (AIA) 2001 Graduates

Undergraduates (All NAS Majors)

Marlette Jackson  
Ki-shan Lara  
Johnathan Rivera  
Kevin Simmons

Post Baccalaureate

MS Credential Candidates  
Sonya Ariston  
William Einman  
Edward Palmer  
Christina West

MA Psychology

Michelle Blankenship (Academic Research)  
DaVita Copeland (Academic Research)  
Robert England (School Counseling/School Psychology Emphasis)

## Exploring the Key to Life

Keion Morgan

Some people always asked me of all the colleges in this country, why did I decide to come to Humboldt State University? Since 1996, I embarked on a journey that has led me to the Humboldt Experience. Once I entered behind the "Redwood Curtain," I discovered on how to become a student, a leader, and a mentor. What I did not expect from this journey to Humboldt was a life similar to Inglewood, CA. This situation made me decide to bring people within my community to a place where they can also receive the same education and experience of growing up and experiencing life.

I definitely enjoy working within the residence halls and been lucky to work three years within the Residence Life program at HSU. This position has placed a vision within my life towards of building strong communities for people (whether it be residents or my friends) to learn about ones about heritage, culture, gender, and history-herstory. One of the goals I wanted to accomplish while attending HSU was to support everyone who wanted to challenge themselves on getting educated on issues of racism, prejudice, poverty, sexism, or discrimination. I have participated on the Real Men program, where the objective of the program is to show awareness about gender roles in society and ending rape, prejudice, and discrimination. I have also volunteered with the Multicultural Center at their Diversity Conference where I taught a Hip-Hop and Social Justice Workshop in the 7th Annual Diversity Conference. Once educated about these matters, we can spread the knowledge of what it means to being a global citizen.

Working as a mentor was a huge part of my Humboldt experience. I gave knowledge towards building the minds and heads of 100 summer bridge students. These students are low-income, first-generation, college students who may not think college is suitable for them. For the students to see a student as myself who is first generation, low-income, inner-city student and see that you can managed to take care of business while in college was a great moment in my life.

I enjoy working with the community and with students and hopefully I can continue to work with HSU students if given the opportunity to work within the area.

I love the environment and must say thank you to all the professors, staff and faculty members, Vice President Butler, Randi-Darnell Burke, R.W. Hicks, The Multicultural Center, The Yes House, EOP, Residence Life Department, UPD, Joe Leeper, Steve Starnes, Rakin Hall, Issac Carter, Colleen Clancy, Ben Ostiguy, Cory Scarbaro, HOP, Lael Washington and many more people and organizations that have help me with my education and involvement while getting the Humboldt Experience.

Communicating with students who may believe in many stereotypes and also those who come from diverse backgrounds has been a huge part of my everyday interaction. Some of these students may feel left out or may have low-self esteem. Some might need someone to listen to their issues or problems with life. The one thing I truly found while attending HSU is the love of everyone who has changed my life and the knowledge from people who are similar in making a difference is today's society, while some of them are different in skin color compared to myself. The only thing I am trying to achieve now is just making sure that once I have graduated and moved on from HSU that someone will know that they always had the Key to their dreams, aspirations, goals, and heart.



SP2001

## Spring



is the season when flowers bloom, sunny days begin and creatures of all kind become wildly attracted to each other. What better season to graduate from Humboldt State University than spring, the season that leaves the chilly days of winter behind to start a new cycle of growth, where new endings become new beginnings. Our 7th Annual Diversity Conference was a remarkable event that took place last month that gave the opportunity for all types of people from HSU and the community to come together and discuss topics dealing with race, gender,

social issues and unity. The Diversity Conference included guest speakers, workshops, food, entertainment and games. A very popular workshop that was held by Winnie LaNier was "The Game of Life," where students such as Jerome Warner were placed with a different identity and had to go through "The Game of Life" experiencing life through the eyes of someone who was a different race, gender and social class (pg 6). The Diversity Conference was two days long and ended with HSU's Ladies Step Squad.

One new event that took place was a holiday that entered the academic calendar, Cesar Chavez Day, not only did it give students a day off from school but was the foundation for the many events that took place to commemorate this man's achievements towards humanity. After Cesar Chavez Day was HSU's first celebration of Latino Week, a full week dedicated to the different cultures and people of Latino heritage. This gave students at Humboldt "A New Voice, a New Week" to educate and to learn from each other (pg 3).

Still to come is Asian History Month, a month where Asians of all different backgrounds and generations, share and celebrate their history or as Danny Lee puts it, "Asianness" (pg 7).

With all these new beginnings that have been established through the dedication of students and faculty, there are exciting endings to come as well. Many seniors who we have shared wonderful times with and have learned from, will be graduating and taking the journey further down the path of life. Their achievements and contributions to HSU, the students and the clubs and organizations will not be forgotten. Hopefully such establishments of events such as Latino Week and other activities that were made or encouraged by these graduating students will be carried on by the future graduates who will follow and pave their own path towards leadership and change. From the MCC, we send lots of luck, best wishes and love to all the graduates, who we know will make the best of their lives to come.

With so much going on, be sure to remember, it's spring time! So while we get our last papers turned in, finish our semester with finals and say goodbye to our friends, don't forget to take the time to smell the flowers, appreciate the growth around you, and oh, let's not forget, it is mating season!

Your Editor,

Precious Yamaguchi

SP2001

## A New Voice, a New Week

Priscilla Zuniga

The first annual César Chávez day, this March 31, 2001 marked a very special day for a lot of Latino heritage people and all people. César meant a lot to many people. To me, it marked only the beginning of a weeklong event. Liz Huyante, Vice president of Latinos Unidos of HSU, came to me with a beautiful idea, to have a weeklong event of workshops and presentations to explore the many differences among all Latino communities. Our focus as students was on activism through education.

The week was a great success. For the first time in the history of HSU, the MultiCultural Center, Latinos Unidos of HSU, MEChA, and Gamma Alpha Omega, pg, came together to celebrate Latino communities. The week began with a MEChA Teach In on César Chávez during the AS rally on March 31, 2001. What was so impressive is that all of us came together to educate ourselves as well as other students. I worked under the MCC on this project. But most importantly, I worked with Lorena Oliva, president of Latinos Unidos of HSU, Obdulia Ortega, president of Gamma Alpha Omega, pg, and with Francisco Moreno, president of MEChA. These leaders were able to pull a great team, and along with

the MCC staff, we were able to present to the campus the first annual Latino Week.

Planning began on February 15, 2001, and by Spring Break the entire week was really to go. With the great cooperation of staff and faculty, and responses from a variety of departments on campus, the calendar of events was as diverse as night and day. I'm proud to have been a part of this event. The support from everyone was great.

As for the calendar of events, the diversity of each workshop was apparent from "El Bolero: El Canto del Amor" presented by Prof. Zulema Moret--visiting professor to HSU--to "Fidel: 40 years of Cuban Revolution"-- presented by graduate student, Rachel Bruhnke-- this was appealing to all the students of HSU, and we can only provide more education and explore all "el sabor de la raza." This week provided all students an opportunity to come together in this massive collaboration, and it provided us all with an outlet to express our voice. It can only grow in the years to come. QUE VIVA LA RAZA!

## A New Future for Ethnic Studies

Priscilla Zuñiga

With the recent Ethnic Studies and Modern Language Department merger, many believe that the merger will cause the Ethnic Studies Department to deteriorate. On the contrary, the ES department will become stronger under the wing of Modern Language department chair, Rosamel Benavides-Garb. Recently, the ES department has been interviewing candidates to bring for the fall of 2001. Professors such as Barbara Curiel, Wurling Bao—current chair of the Ethnic Studies Department—and Rosamel Benavides-Garb along with students such as Luis Rincon, Claudia Tello, and Rosalina Larios have participated in the selection committee for the ES position. Now, the decision has been made, and Ramón Sánchez will come to HSU to teach Ethnic Studies for an entire academic year.

Prof. Sánchez will come to Humboldt State University from Olivet College in Michigan where he has been teaching Literature and Interdisciplinary courses since August 1997. He has earned a MFA in Creative Writing at Bowling Green State University. In 1989, he earned a PhD in American Studies. The classes he will instruct are as follows: ES 105: Introduction to Ethnic Studies; ES 336: Poetry for Social Change in a Multicultural Society; ES 480: 500 Years of Chicano History; ES 480: Chicano-Latino Film Seminar. Be sure, to check the class schedule to find the times of these interesting courses.

(cont. on page 7)

## Cultural Confusion

Precious Yamaguchi



Growing up in the diverse city of Los Angeles, one would think it would be obvious for me to see which group of people I would identify with the most, the Japanese of course right? Not necessarily, when the only Japanese people I really knew were my own family and one other girl. Being a fifth generation Japanese-American girl whose parents grew up in South Central Los Angeles, I always felt it was impossible to satisfy the expectations of how people thought me to be, based upon my appearance, ethnicity and race. When people made assumptions of my ethnicity, some would commonly guess Chinese or Filipino, one person even came up to me and asked, "habla espanol?" Many people think I am multiracial, though both of my parents are full Japanese. Throughout my life, I grew up in a very diverse environment. The neighborhood I lived in had a high Latino population, thus my first best friend and many more to come were Latino. On weekends, I spent time at my grandma's house in South Central Los Angeles, a mostly all African-American neighborhood, getting to know many of the people in her neighborhood. I attended a medical magnet high school that was populated with people of all different back grounds such as African-American, Native American, Middle Eastern, Latino, Asian and Russian. Going to such schools, I was able to associate myself with students of all different cultures who became my friends. It wasn't until I came to college that I was struck with the question of who I was culturally?

From being with all different types of people in Los Angeles, I was used to having people get to know me without making a big deal about our cultural differences or similarities. This way of interacting with people all changed when I came to Humboldt. Attending a college without much diversity, I all of a sudden realized that I truly was a minority!

Throughout my life I have had friends of all races, ethnicities and backgrounds. Although my two best friends (who are bi-racial) never gave me a hard time about my culture, some of my Asian friends would. My friend, Cheryl, who was second generation Chinese, once told me, "You're family is the whitest family I know!" Of course my family has never tried to be "white" or hide their ethnicity or culture from my brother or myself, just from years of living amongst all types of people (African Americans and Latinos mostly), Americanization occurs. Also, I believe some of my traditional Japanese culture got lost somewhere in the dust of World War II when Japanese American citizens such as my grandparents were put into relocation camps and pretty much forced to Americanize. Although I am in a very different setting than Los Angeles, I sometimes get similar reactions. People who have not encountered many Asians usually expect me to act a certain way, but become very surprised when they find I am not good in math or are amazed to hear my grandparents speak perfect English.

Through all the questions and assumptions I have encountered from people who have not had much experience being around people from different cultures and races, their lack of knowledge does not anger me, because I know that I have lots to learn about people as well. At times it takes effort to break down the stereotypes, to show that people of all races and ethnic backgrounds have different life experiences that cannot be generalized or simplified. However, from being in such drastically different environments I have been able to appreciate growth of my own knowledge of my culture as a Japanese-American, from seeing how people may perceive me so I can explain to them who I really am.

Though to some my looks may be deceiving, my Asian history has been created through many generations and many life experiences, each one that is very different and grows within time that has created who I am today.

## “Asian-ness?”

Danny Lee

What does it mean to be Asian. “Asian” is a vague word and can have many meanings depending on the perspective of the individual. People from various groups tend to prefer their own cultural identity, not to simply be pooled together as Asian. My perspective is different in that my blood line consists of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean heritages.

My Korean grandfather lost touch with his family during the war, and settled in Japan with my grandmother. The Chinese side of the family, my Mother’s side, immigrated to Japan, where she was born. My parents’ generation was the first to experience multiculturalism.

I think that being first generation Asian American is an interesting position to be in, in that it involves the mixing of different worlds. As a child I spoke both Japanese and English, and would go back every year from the time I was born, until I was 15 years old to see my extended relatives. In my family, I practice different cultural traditions. I eat long noodles during Chinese New Years for longevity, and I practice the Japanese tradition of washing my grandfather’s grave, offering fruit, and lighting incense. Asian culture has many mediums such as food, language, and customs.

Last year, I was so happy to find out that HSU had an exchange program to China. Since I am half Chinese, I’ve always yearned to speak with my grandmother in her native tongue; even though she speaks Japanese and English fluently. While eating dim sum with my grandmother last January, we met a man who turned to me and said, “When you go to ‘Zhonguo’, you will know that you are Chinese!”

At first I was nervous to go to China since my language skills were minimal. But everyone I encountered was so kind and accepting of me. And as my communication level increased, I really felt a connection to the Chinese people and learned more about the culture of my family. It was interesting to see similarities in the cultural values passed through my mother’s side, yet many of my personal beliefs and values are genuinely American.

Asian has a particular meaning for me because my cultural identity is a combination of different Asian

cultures as well as American culture. It is important for me to retain my traditions and languages; and I wish to eventually travel to Korea to learn more about the language and culture. But speaking another language is not necessary for being Asian. Many families settled in America generations ago, and may not speak another language. Culture is also experienced through food, customs, and just the commonality of being of the same race as someone else

Although some of my beliefs and values are different than that of my family in Japan, we all understand each other’s perspectives. I also find that there are parts of my personality that are distinctly Japanese and Chinese; that only come out when I interact with people of those cultures. Being Asian has very different meanings depending on what generation you are, languages, you speak, and traditions practiced. But in America many Asians have an unspoken connection to people of the same race as well as a connection to the American society.

(cont. from page 3)

Ultimately his goal is to interact with the community, which he states as the students, faculty, parents and the community at large. His vision is to broaden the courses at HSU to provide a forum for other and all Latino cultures to express themselves and their cultural experiences. He stated and I quote “I’m willing to work on that.” His great sense of humor completely through me off guard, his wit and easy-going personality made our conversation a pleasure.

Beyond that, Prof. Sánchez had an opportunity to meet some of his prospective students. I asked for his overall opinion of Humboldt students. He liked the students, their activeness and their “fruitful” rapport. He sees all the students working together to make HSU a better place. What I see is a great promise to us all, I look forward to working with Prof. Sánchez this fall.

## Blooming Path

Tien Tai

There, enchantingly the starry glimpses  
Glitter in this tranquil night  
Soon, the mists come from no where  
Conceal the winking eyes in the sky

Tides wash off the footprints  
I left there on the sandy beach  
All my sorrowful memories  
Were carried away by the tender wind

Behind the mountain, the sun rises  
Bring the world its merry light  
Paint the mists into a golden lace  
Take me into its modest embrace

O! the morning of early April  
My heart is no longer dreadful  
The painful path I have been through  
Is now carpeted with joyous blooms

## So You See

Ryan Mann

Pity the poor populist prophets that practice  
patience under pressure,  
for in the idle times so does danger dangle,  
death descends and despair denotes the dawn of the  
demoralized days that do follow.  
Debilitating then deleting the forecasted foundations  
for filthy rich formations,  
fantasizing about fornication.  
Leaving frightened farts to fight the  
fallacious fantasy of fascist freedom.  
Rejoice in reasoning for redemption is at risk.  
The rabid rapacious rats will not relinquish  
the roles reserved for real redeemers  
In the end the systematic salivation of man  
and his nation  
shall scorn the souls of  
those seeking surreal sensations of salvation

## Borike

Ryan Mann

El cantar de Borike se oye a leguas  
Es el sonido orgulloso de un coqui borincano,  
Cantando su son diario.  
Huyendo el sol ardiente busca refugio bajo las hojas del platano,  
en la sombra de la palma y en los frutos del mango;  
verde que cubre el monte y envuelve el horizonte,  
Hasta llegar al agua turquesa que rodea la isla.  
Es el hogar de la familia taina ya fallecida  
Reemplazada por la combinacion Espanola, taina y africana  
Que no ha podido, ni querido, descifrar el dolor y destruccion  
Causada por nuestras manos a la tierra que nos ha dado tanto  
Isla que ha escuchado todos nuestros llantos  
De revolucion, rebellion, invasion y ahora, yace olvidada  
Sus hijos talando los montes, cubriendolos con cemento,  
carreteras y hojalata con ruedas.

Borike corre bajo el salpicar de la lluvia calida tropical.  
Dejando huellas por su Hermosa tierra que solo hormigas  
podran observar  
Ha recorrido desde Humacao a Mayaguez  
Desde El Yunque hasta el Monte del Estado  
Observando, cantando y alertando, de dia y noche, bajo lluvia y sol  
Desde hace dias llevaba escuchando cuentos  
De un temblor que resonaba en los montes,  
un fuego ardiente que se aproximaba y consumia sin perder auge  
Por sus compadres en Vieques escucho la noticia  
Que de Nuevo caian bombas en la pequena isla

Borike,convoco a sus hermanos.  
Les pidio cooperacion, para poder retomar su nacion  
Ya bastaba del abuso , ya no quedaban muchos.  
Heridos por los hijos ingratos de esta isla  
Que pensaban en usar, forzar y destrozarse  
Seducidos por el dinero yanqui y el mal  
Sin pensar que habran otros que en estos montes querran llorar.  
Lagrimas de origen celestial

## Now That the Dust Has Settled

Elizabeth Smith and Mandene Thomas



(top) The Diversity Conference staff conducting a massage train.

(right) Kne Nakamura's "Turning Japanese"

Now that the dust has settled and the 7th Annual Diversity Conference is over, it is time to reflect on the experience. It was great working with such a motivated and inspiring team. Everyone was eager to be involved, from creating the concept of the theme, to recruiting presenters, and finally making sure that everything and everyone was in place. Anytime you bring over fifty people together, you can expect to have some disputes. We were fortunate and pleased to come away from this experience unscathed and enriched. The two keynote presenters, Elliott Lewis and Winnie LaNier, had us laughing, learning and lusting for further understanding of ourselves, each other, and our environment. We couldn't have hoped for more influential and inspiring speakers!

Many have asked what we'll take away from our experience in organizing this event. Quite simply, the confidence in knowing that we were able to bring people from all walks of life together to accomplish one goal-presenting the issues of diversity in a non-threatening, inclusive, and informative setting.

We would like to thank everyone who helped in this venture. To the staff and volunteers, without you this conference could never have come to fruition; to the presenters, thank you for your endless support of this event; to the students, for wanting to further enrich your Humboldt experience by indulging in something that we seriously lack here, diversity, and giving us the honor of leading; to the community for continuing to lend support; and finally, to Marylyn Paik-Nicely, for being a teacher, mentor, friend, and ally throughout this whole endeavor.



## The Game of Life

Ramar Henderson

The "Game of Life" was one of the highlights of the Diversity Conference. The Game of life was hosted by Winne Elston an advocate for racial equality throughout California. The Game of Life illustrated how people exert certain stereotypes towards various cultures. For example, African Americans had bad credit and were constantly harassed by the police. Asian Americans were treated as if they were immigrants who spoke bad english. Homosexuals and disabled people received no respect. Furthermore, the Game of Life illustrated how stereotypes will diminish the golden rule of society, and that is to treat people how you want to be treated.

### The Winner of The Game of Life: Jerome Warner

The Game of Life was a very interesting experience for me. I was the first one in the door and the first one to finish the game. When I walked in, I was greeted with a packet of tiny papers with amounts of money paper clipped to them, and a ruler. The ruler scared me because there were only four of them on the table. I found out that the ruler was a handicap such as a wheelchair and I would need help to get into certain places because they didn't have wheelchair access. As I started my life, I went to get an apartment first, then got an education, which I received a PhD. in Business and then I got a job. I was a CEO of a company and got a salary bonus of \$10,000. I bought a 2001 SUV and finally I got a marriage license. I was finished with the Game of Life!

No matter where I went, it seemed as if I was a superior human being and I had no flaws. I received top-notch service everywhere and I had no problems of getting anything. At the end I found out that I was playing the identity of a white upper class female with a handicap. At the beginning I figured we were going to have roles but I thought since I had a ruler my role was going to be difficult. But as I went a long I saw that the whole thing was fixed because people were willing to help me. It was a fun and interesting game. After I finished the Game of Life, I went to the "Kickin' It 24/7" spot and observed how other people were having problems. I was about to watch and see how life is actually very similar to the game and not very easy for most.

### May Day Block Party

Marylyn Paik-Nicely

The MultiCultural Center will host the annual Spring Block Party on Tuesday, May 1, from noon to 2:00. The campus and community are all invited to this multicultural May Day gathering. There will be music, food, mask-making, and possibly Salsa lessons and Hawaiian music by our very own Hawaiian virtuoso, Johnathon Rivera. This will be the MCC's last event for the 2000-01 school year.

May 1 or May Day is a significant day in many countries. In Namibia, Japan and many Latin American countries May 1 is Labor Day. For me and other people from Hawaii..."May Day is lei day in Hawaii!"

It has been many years since I celebrated May Day in Hawaii, but my childhood and high school memories are still so vivid because it was such a festive celebration. May Day always meant a new muumuu, a Hawaiian dress, that my Aunty Michi sewed for me, and later I sewed myself. My friends and I would spend hours picking flowers to make leis to wear or to enter into the Lei-making Contest. Every school had a May Day Program where all the classes would learn a new hula or a new mele (song), and we would perform these numbers on the school lawn with all of our parents in the audience with their cameras.

May Day during my high school years took on another meaning. For some "couples" May Day meant a new muumuu with a matching aloha shirt for a boyfriend, or the boyfriend would give the girlfriend a beautiful double carnation lei or if she was really lucky, a 7-strand pikake lei, one of the most fragrant flowers on earth!

We will celebrate May Day at the MCC Block Party on May 1 at noon. We invite you to wear a muumuu or Aloha Shirt, make a flower lei, and bring your smiles to the MultiCultural Center parking lot! Aloha!