


THE MULTICULTURAL CENTER'S

CULTURAL TIMES



Weaving Our Voices:
From
Fragmented Perspectives
to Integrated Solutions

Humboldt State University Spring Semester 2004



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Associated Students of Humboldt State University.





Editor's Voice

Although this is only my second newsletter for you, it is also my last, at least for the time being. I plan to attend the University of Nevada, Reno this fall through the National Student Exchange Program. Whether I am here or not, I know that HSU is a place where I have a voice. There are so many things that I want to use my voice for, weaving it into the song, the dialogue, that we have going on in the world. Regardless of my impending absence this year, the past two years have given me more than I could have ever hoped for. I have made mistakes, learned from, and enjoyed the beginning of my college experience.

This semester I learned a lot about race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, history and all of the things that help to define and redefine my identity and the identities of those around me. I am so glad that the MCC provides a place for us at HSU to explore all of our fragmented voices so that we can become one whole person, a complete person. Recently I have been experimenting with my identity by wearing a cowboy hat, a privilege that I didn't know I had. Some people don't get to choose what they would like to wear for fear of prejudice or ridicule. I also learned that who I am doesn't fit into a box, even if I have to write in one. "Please check one," is a phrase that limits my dynamic abilities.

I learned more about community this semester and how things that are supposed to be negative can become strengthening and bonding. I have seen courage, bravery, and laughter amongst my coworkers and fellow students. I have seen that our society has imbedded forms of oppression that maintain systems of power.

I want you to know that the most important thing that you could take away from your college education is the ability to educate yourself. I learned about the Zapatistas, the indigenous peoples of Oaxaca, the discriminated, and the marginalized. I have become more aware of all the things that exist around and beyond me. I do not know exactly what they are, but they are there. I have learned and will relearn many times how to listen.

With Open Ears,
Brandi Miller

Attention HSU students!

The 3rd Annual Qross Cultural Queer Film Festival will be offered as a one-unit course Fall 2004!

Call the MultiCultural Center at 826-3369 for more information.

Best wishes to all of our graduating seniors!

Welcome, Baby Jillian!!



To the Staff,
Thanx!
You Rock!



Diversity Conference



The 10th annual Diversity Conference was a huge success because it was attended by approximately 150 people, not including the staff and volunteers and **voices were heard**. People who participated said many wonderful things about the conference. I felt that this year's event was special, not because I was a coordinator, but because the people were involved in the conference. There was energy and excitement, and everyone worked hard and made an effort to bring their perspectives to the workshops. The keynotes, Kip Fullbeck and Val Kanuha, were very important and had valuable information to share from different perspectives. I think the conference performed the title and its purpose very well. It was also a new experience for me, to see the audience's energy and willingness to step outside their comfort zones. It was incredible and unforgettable for me. As a coordinator I felt like all the hard work and dedication that Alexis [Lewis] and I put in was really showcased and honored.

Alexis and I worked together well and I would like to extend a thank you to her for her dedication and for sharing in this experience with me. To the MultiCultural Center Staff, both professional and student, thank you for your diligence and patience. To all of the workshop presenters, thank you for your creative ideas and prepared presentation; they were very diverse and enjoyable. To be a part of this conference has changed the way I think about teamwork and communication: you can never have enough and must always be consistent---this is what I have learned aside from many conference experiences. There is a writer, Nelly Fuller Jr., who states, "The fear, frustration, malice and confusion caused by racism, retards or prevents all constructive activity between the people of the known universe." But I think on March 5 & 6, 2004 we created valuable constructive activity & broke down some of that fear, frustration, malice, and confusion.

Reginald Thomas II
2004 Diversity Conference Coordinator



Diversity Conference

Quilt



ARE



WE



HERE!



Lunar New Year



Chasing Evil Spirits

By: Jonathan Guerrero

With the sound of thundering drums in rhythm and the clanging and clashing of gongs echoing from the Kate Buchanan Room a giant lion parades around the crowd. This was the scene at the Annual Lunar New Year Celebration put on by the Asian Pacific American Student Alliance. In addition to the troupe of lion dancers, there were martial arts demonstrations, performances by Humboldt State students including dances, songs and traditional foods welcoming the New Year, the year of the monkey.

Each spring semester APASA hosts the Lunar New Year Celebration at Humboldt State University bringing in good luck for the upcoming year and celebrating the passing year with fellow students, faculty, staff and the community. The free event, sponsored by Associated Students, the MultiCultural Center and APASA club fundraising, is open to everyone and offers an exciting window into some of the intricacies that exist within the many groups that make up the blanket term of "Asian."

In addition to entertainment, APASA members discussed the various cultural traditions that shape the coming of each New Year. Hmong, Chinese, Japanese, Cambodian, Filipino, Laotian, and Vietnamese students came together and presented their feelings about their own New Year experiences and explained the impact it had on their personal identity and culture. With a changing venue each year this event is a wonderful chance to gain some insight into new cultures and chase out bad spirits with a giant dancing lion.



International Cultural Festival

On February 21, 2004, HSU experienced vibrant color and delightful aromas. It was the International Cultural Festival. Over 400 people came to the event, including members from the community, faculty, staff, and students. The first part of the event was the country displays, organized in the Karshner Lounge. There was a very colorful showcase of many countries and food samples from: Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Tunisia, China, Korea, Panama, India, Malaysia, Honduras, Nicaragua, Japan, Scotland, Vietnam, Philippines, El Salvador, Colombia, Costa Rica, INSERP Club, Germany, Switzerland and the Hmong community. From German cake to Korean beef and Colombian Yucca root fried bread, the flavors, smells and music filled the Lounge and welcomed the audience. Flags, flowers, balloons and cultural items made the perfect backdrop.

The second part of the event had two hours of fun filled shows. We also had the participation of President Rollin Richmond to open the presentations.

The Humboldt Folk Dancers integrated live music with international dances and everybody in the audience, including President Richmond, joined the dances. Humboldt State University's very own Ballet Folklorico de Humboldt was also present at the event with a vivid and energetic performance. Rhythmically Challenged Swing Dancers is a swing dance performance group that participated for the first time at the festival with six dancers, their four songs, and many good moves that captured the crowd. Next the songs from Vietnam were very touching. Several children shared their first songs in Vietnamese under the warm direction of Bich-Ngoc Do who is originally from Vietnam but is visiting from Germany. The Japanese skit "The Straw Millionaire" continued the tradition of having several Asian students from Humboldt State work with students from the International English Language Institute (IELI) in a short theatrical production for the festival. For our grand finale we had Shoshanna and the Lailaa Chandani Dance Ensemble perform several songs including solos and choreographies with swords. The performances were alternated with a trivia contest, and the master of ceremonies was Paul Woodland, local storyteller. We're all very happy to have shared in this positive and culturally diverse event.

By Maje Hoyos
Intern for International Students



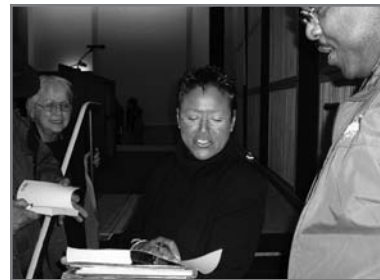
Black Liberation Month



“Freedom Now....”

By: Jonathan Guerrero

A feeling of wonder and a steady din of nervous chatter filled the Kate Buchanan Room as the audience anxiously awaited the first, and only female, with a leadership role in the Black Panther Organization. The keynote speaker, Elaine Brown, was one of the opening presentations to Black Liberation Month at Humboldt State University hosted by The Black Student Union, Sista2Sista, Residents of Color Council and The MultiCultural Center.



In an evening full of heated discussion and insight into issues ranging from educational advancement, economic potential, the plight of African American organizations in recent decades and the ongoing struggle for racial equality, all in attendance were given a glimpse into the mind of a person whose influence spanned the tumultuous years of the Civil Rights Movement, to the present era of Black Hip Hop celebrities and sports superstars.



Toward the end of her presentation, Elaine Brown concluded by firing out a challenge for all to continue on with social evolution and advancement that she and many others had struggled with for over a lifetime. As the crowd mingled, people filed out and others exchanged thoughts and smiles, her vision of a brighter future seemed much closer.

CINCO DE MAYO:
CELEBRATE
FREEDOM BLOCK
PARTY
MAY 5, NOON TO
2:00
MCC PARKING LOT



Soul

Soul Food Soul Food

Soul

Soul Food

Soul

Dinner

Soul Food

Soul

Quotes gathered by Aunjellique Meráz

Soul

"It's more than just food. It makes you happy; it's a blessing." ~Isaac To'o



"Soul food is my heritage, my culture. The seasoning and flavor is how we express the richness of who we are." ~Enisha Clark



Soul



Soul

"My favorite soul food dish is cornbread because it fills you up. It's the perfect example of making a great meal for a low price. My grandfather makes the best cornbread. He puts his foot up in that cornbread." ~Melanie Shaw



"Soul food is great because it reminds me of some of my friends' cooking at home. Cam's food is just 'da bomb.' You don't get that a lot up here...I appreciate it." ~Juan Mendez



"Soul food is tradition. Soul food means family and usually it's on a Sunday. Soul food is a meeting of the soul and it's usually fried." ~R.W. Hicks

Soul



"Soul food means getting together with the people you feel you have a close bond with. Filling up with the same food and receiving the same nourishment. I've never been to one [at HSU], but I do know that there will be a lot of food. It should stick to your ribs. That's why we call it soul food." ~Maurielischia "Molly" Eaton



"I'm here [at the soul food dinner] to be supportive of students and communities, and to enjoy some really good food. Our campus lacks the opportunity to come out and enjoy a good meal and communicate with each other." ~Gretchen Kinney-Newson



CROSS CULTURAL QUEER FILM FESTIVAL

David Bracamontes has worked with MCC in many different aspects, from his work with the Asian Student Alliance (now APASA) on campus to his current role as the Queer Community Coordinator. He is twenty-five, black curly hair, with mysterious eyes, Mexican-American, Queer, funny, intelligent and single! (Inquiries can be sent to the MCC.) After graduation this May he hopes to fulfill his personal dream of living on the East Coast. He thanks the current and past MCC staff for helping him to understand and respect the person that he is. "The pride that I have in being Mexican as well as being Queer has come from the people that I have worked with at the MCC - THANK YOU! To all of you I will miss you."



2nd Annual Q-FEST

The 2nd Annual Cross Cultural Queer Film Festival, (Q-Fest), took place on March 25, 26, and 27 and was a "fabulous" sensation. This three-day event brought an awareness of the unique interconnection between being queer as well as being a person of color to HSU students, faculty, and community members. All of the participants were allowed to break down cross-cultural queer stereotypes to look at history, love, relationships, friendships, and family. The MCC Community Coordinators as well as Hazel Lodevico and Marylyn Paik-Nicely, who worked hard to find films that covered an array of cultural groups as well as representation of queer life, planned the event. From films that dealt with political issues such as, "Chocolate Babies," a group of HIV positive transvestites in New York who felt they were being blacklisted by the government, to "Strawberry and Chocolate," a film that explored the friendship of a gay man and straight man in communist Cuba to films like "Miguel/Michelle," "Everything In Between," and "The Potluck and the Passion" people's eyes were opened to every day experiences of what has been called "LGBT of Color". This year's film festival deepened the educational level by turning the event into a class as well as a community event. In an effort to enhance that experience for those students, all of the films were followed by an in-depth and thought-provoking discussion. Special appreciation is due to Barbara Curiel, Ken Nakamura, and Marlon Sherman this year's faculty facilitators who added invaluable insight, history, and cultural context to all the films.



CROSS CULTURAL QUEER FILM FESTIVAL

This year's staff also took on the challenge of integrating Arcata High School. In the fall of 2003 the Gay Straight Alliance, (GSA), at Arcata High asked if they could be apart of this year's Q-Fest. The staff had a strong desire to bring this type of education to the Arcata campus, but was fully aware of the past issues that this school and the community at large has had around talking about sexuality, race, and gender especially combined with youth. Over eighty participants attended the double feature screening. The students of the GSA worked hard to bring Arcata high students to the event, but there was a small turnout from their students. However, this was an excellent step in the right direction for future efforts that will continue to bring diversity issues to the Arcata High School campus.

Q-Fest was topped off with a film and keynote address at the Minor Theater in Arcata. "Dangerous Living: Coming Out in the Developing World" is an amazing film by director John Scagliotti who exposes the case of fifty-two gay men who were arrested in a gay discotheque in Cairo, but the film goes beyond that by exploring queer life in general in the global south. The film gave a historical and personal look into the love and challenges of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, and transgender people from Egypt, Honduras, Samoa, India, Vietnam and other countries.

The film included an interview with the Felipa de Souza Human Rights Award recipient Maher Sabry, and the Q-Fest was honored to have him as this year's keynote speaker. Maher Sabry is an Egyptian human rights activist who was instrumental in activating the queer community in Egypt through Internet forums and plays. Since some of the men arrested were friends of Sabry, he gave an emotional and thought-provoking speech. Speaking from his heart he gave the audience a better understanding of the laws and political nature that lead to the raid in Cairo.

In the fall of 2004 the MCC will bring you the 3rd Annual Q-Fest. We hope that the attendance as well as the experience will supercede this year's event. All of this is in the hope that people can learn and explore themselves and how they fit into the idea of Cross Cultural Queerness.



**THE MCC CONGRATULATES THE
GRADUATING CLASS OF 2004!
PLEASE BRING YOUR FAMILIES
AND FRIENDS TO
THE MCC OPEN HOUSE
AFTER EACH GRADUATION ON
SATURDAY, MAY 15.
RELAX AND ENJOY MCC
REFRESHMENTS!**

CELEBRACION LATINA



By Claudia Tello



Growing up in the big city of Los Angeles, I realized that it was time for me to experience something different, to explore new horizons. After graduating from Bell Gardens High School in 1999, I knew the sacrifice and risk of leaving my family of five girls for a higher education in northern California. Though not only did I drive more than 700 miles up north to study at Humboldt State University initially for only 2 years, but I also flew half way around the world to study at the Complutense of Madrid in Spain for one academic year. Before I could fathom, those 2 years quickly turned into 5. The MultiCultural Center was one of the main reasons why I never returned to my hometown to study and graduate from Long Beach State University as I had once planned. The MCC filled my life with a unique and valuable experience that I would not trade for the world.

One of them was the pleasure of meeting and working with many different people in which they gave me the opportunity to learn from diverse cultures. Each year that I was involved with the MCC, the people whom I met gave me their indispensable support and encouragement. They all have enriched my college life in every aspect. As an incoming freshman at HSU, I quickly explored various pathways including my involvement with the MCC as a staff member. Then suddenly I also became an active M.E.Ch.A member, a Diversity Conference Coordinator, a Latino Community Coordinator, a workshop presenter, a study abroad participant and finally an HSU graduate.

I've taken all my rich full experiences from HSU and the people I've met along the way. I greatly appreciate all the support and empowerment that I've received with a special thanks to Marylyn Paik Nicely, Jerry Jones, Hazel Lodevico and everybody who has been involved with the MCC since the fall of 1999.



CELEBRACION LATINA



Celebracion Latina was a huge success with the help of the MCC, Mecha, Latinos Unidos, Puentes, Lambda Theta Phi, and Gamma Alpha Ommege It took place from March 30th through April 11th

We started the events on Tuesday, March 30, with a Cesar Chavez rally that took place at noon at the University Center quad. Students marched from the quad to the MCC holding up poster sign with famous sayings of Cesar Chavez like "Si Se Puede" (Yes we can). We distributed red arm bands to all who participated and wore them to signify, "One race, the human race". HSU students joined the march to the MCC where we introduced Celebracion Latina, Latino cultures and heritage. We welcomed everyone with some music and poetry readings.



On Friday, April 2, we had a Quad event where the graduating Latinos had a quesadilla sale and Puentes of the YES house, had a bake sale in support for Celebracion Latina. This event was accompanied by a DJ who played a variety of great Latino music for all those who were out enjoying the beautiful sunshine of the day.



The rest of the events throughout the following week turned out great. We held a variety of workshops, film showings, a fabulous keynote speaker, Aurora Levins Morales, and ending the celebration with a delicious Purposeful Dinner where different Latin dishes were cooked by our own students representing a wide variety of foods.



The workshops presented were very educational. They provided much information on celebrating and bringing awareness to others on the different issues concerning different parts of Latin America. Our keynote speaker spoke about diversity and community and how to incorporate it into team leadership. Her words were inspiring and knowledgeable to all.



These two weeks were a great success and we hope that everyone who participated took a small piece of Latin culture into their lives.



Asian Pacific Heritage Celebration



By Isaac To'o

When choosing a college, I was looking for a place that was far away from home as possible. Humboldt fits the description; it was as far as I could go that was in state. I knew racial climate would be different, but at the time I did not care just as long as I was not living at home. But as time went by I was feeling home sick. The small town environment being isolated from everything else and the lack of diversity on campus was taking its toll on me. I wanted to transfer to another school, a place that was closer to home, and a place where I didn't feel like the only minority on campus.

One time when I was walking through campus, I heard about the Asian Pacific American Student Alliance (APASA) and my initial reaction was, "Wow, there are other Asians at this school besides me." At first I was kind of hesitant to go to the club's meetings. Slowly I started to attend and became involved in APASA. The members in APASA welcomed me with open hearts and became like a second family. By being in APASA, I was introduced to the MultiCultural Center. Marylyn Paik-Nicely and the entire MultiCultural staff were very welcoming, I felt like I was at home because I was able to relate to everybody working towards a common goal of creating a diverse atmosphere here at Humboldt. APASA became my family that was sorely missed and the MultiCultural Center was my second home. APASA and the MCC helped me feel at home during my years at HSU.

I would like to thank APASA and everybody in the MultiCultural Center for creating an atmosphere that made me feel at home. I will always cherish the laughter and memories of my time in the MCC and APASA. Thank You.

One of the events that I will have the pleasure of working on as Asian/Pacific Community Coordinator is the 2nd annual Asian Pacific Heritage Celebration presented by Asian Pacific American Student Alliance (APASA), the MultiCultural Center, Asian /Pacific community of Humboldt County and the Associated Students, which is being held from April 26 – May 2. The celebration includes events, activities, cooking demos and workshops that are devoted to honoring and educating others on the diversity of Asian and Pacific Island cultures.

On April 27, is the highlight of the week. Helen Zia, the nation's most recognized Asian American activist will be speaking at the Kate Buchanan Room at 7 p.m. Over twenty years ago Helen Zia burst into the activist scene, when two white men beat Vincent Chin, a Chinese-American, to death because they thought Chin was Japanese. As a result, the two men received a mere \$3,000 fine for the murder of Vincent Chin. Helen Zia organized rallies and protests demanding justice for Vincent Chin and his family, and at the same time brought together the large and disconnected Asian Pacific American community. Helen Zia helped give Asian Pacific activism a loud voice to be heard.

The Asian Pacific Heritage Celebration also includes a special performance by Nicole Frantilla, a Filipina performing artist, called "Para Sa Isangmahal (For One Who Is Beloved)" on April 26 at 8 p.m. in the Fulkerson Recital Hall. Frantilla gives a powerful performance that traces 300 years of Filipino history while exploring her Filipino-American identity and heritage.

On May 1 at the bottom floor of the J, starting at 3pm is the Ho'o Lau Lea , a Polynesian Fair. Included is a live performance by the Island Serenaders, a Polynesian music group from Southern California. Authentic Hawaiian food will be served. Please stay tuned for the 2nd Annual Asian Pacific Heritage Celebration.

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU
 THANK YOU
 THANK YOU



Diversity Conference 2004 Supporters and Helpers

The MultiCultural Center would like to thank all the campus offices, organizations, and individuals who have contributed to the Diversity Conference. We couldn't have done it without you! Thank you so very much.

- HSU Diversity Program Funding Committee
- Associated Students
- Educational Opportunity Program
- Office of the President
- Office of Student Affairs
- Office of Academic Affairs
- College of Professional Studies
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- Tiffany Wallace
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- Mike Kittredge
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- Sam Oliner
- Jack Shaffer
- CCAT
- Krystal Rogers
- Jessica Viernes
- Jennifer Taylor
- Melanie Williams
- Melissa Hoodlet
- Kim Barden

**Celebracion Latina
 Would like to thank:**

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- Claudia Tello
- Isaac To'o

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- Marlon Sherman
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- Minor Theater Corporation
- John Scagliotti
- Maher Sabry

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Regi, as he prepared for the Diversity Conference sighed, "I can't wait to get this over with; it makes me stress so bad. Susanna!" Then along came Marques saying, "Yo Regi, have a cup of tea, you'll feel better." That night Alexis thought, "God that cup of tea I had was great, but damn this conference and those pesky keynote speakers!" Meanwhile, Kip thought, "Why on earth did I agree to give a speech in a place colder than Santa Barbara? I could be surfing or making another movie that reconfirms I have ADD!"



Saturday morning comes all too quickly for the MCC and the events continue on into the evening...all of the staff are quickly fading and being thankful for the good food. Everyone is in the KBR listening to Val speak, when suddenly Nam, in an effort to relieve stress stalks up on Michelle....Michelle does not experience less stress after she is surprise attacked by a Chinese lion. Carlos and Claudia, tell them to quiet down, "Nam you can relax, we made just enough to cover the cost of the keynote speakers!"

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