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### El Leñador, April 2016

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# El leñador

abril 2016

Al servicio de la comunidad latinx del condado de Humboldt

Vol. 6 Edición 7



A silhouette of Andreas Tillman rapping and speaking to students, staff and community members in Humboldt State University's Green and Gold Room on Saturday April 23, 2016. | Sam Armanino

## Word on the Street

What song makes you feel empowered?

**Bevon Brye**  
Age: 23  
Major: Business Admin



Song: "The Last Man score"  
by The Fountain

"It has a melancholy tone but it motivates me to do more"

**Daisy Rios**  
Age: 22  
Major: Environmental Management Program



Song: "Eternal Sunshine" by Jhene Aiko

"It's a reassuring song to pause and reflect on. It gives me a more positive outlook!"

**Gabriel Aquino**  
Age: 21  
Major: LSEE



Song: "No One Said it Would be Easy" by Cloud Cult

"The quote " you were sent together by a tapestry of molecules and a million baby galaxies. It just makes you feel significant."

**Stephanie Castro**  
Age: 21  
Major: Business



Song: "Roses" by The Chainsmokers

"You can't get tired of it. It's very uplifting."

**Grecia Romero**  
Age: 21  
Major: Industrial Engineering



Song: "Touch the Sky" by Hilson

"It makes me feel empowered because the music has something that makes you feel better because God will always be there to listen to me. Its great to know that wherever I go I can talk to him. It's amazing."



# Community

by Monica Ramirez

En los Estados Unidos hay aproximadamente 65,000 estudiantes indocumentados que se gradúan de la preparatoria o high school. De acuerdo con el American Immigrant Council el 7.5 del porcentaje de aquellos que se gradúan continúan estudiando. Según la Institutional Research and Planning Fast Facts, en la Universidad de Humboldt State, a partir del otoño de 2015, el 1.6 por ciento de nuestros estudiantes son ‘Non Resident Aliens’ en otras palabras, extranjeros no residentes.

El 7 de abril, Carlos Perea dió una presentación para UndocuWeek o semana de los indocumentados, sobre el trabajo que realiza como el director del programa RAIZ que se localiza en el Condado de Orange. RAIZ representa “Resistencia Autonomía Igualdad Liderazgo”, que son ideas basadas como las de los Black Panthers y Zapatistas, ellos han entrenado a más de cien estudiantes en organización juvenil, defensa legal y educación popular para recordarles a la gente del poder político para proteger los derechos humanos y civiles.

“La gente tiene el poder político para poder cambiar la posición aunque uno sea indocumentado,” dijo Perea.

La presentación fue dirigido para informar a los estudiantes sobre la verdad de la inmigración y como el ICE, o Inmigración y Control de Aduanas de EE.UU., trabaja. Muchos de los que asistieron se sorprendieron sobre el hecho que Obama ha sido el presidente que ha deportado a más inmigrantes. Durante el transcurso de año, él deportó aproximadamente dos millones entre 2012 y 2013 o 450,000 al año.

“Necesitamos humanizar a las personas,” dice Perea, “ellos son seres humanos y deberíamos de tratarlos con respeto.”

Perea describe muchos casos el cual algunas personas son arrastrados violentamente de sus hogares y ni siquiera tienen la oportunidad de despedirse. Los llevan a unas instalaciones similares a cárceles privadas y no les dan el derecho de llamar a casa.

“No somos abogados,” dice Perea, “Mucho del apoyo que recibimos son abogados porvenir.”

RAIZ trabaja con al comunidad con el fin de ser la mejor ayuda para las familias. Ellos trabajan con los abogados para atrasar la fecha del tribunal, por lo menos un año, sobre su deportación. La mayoría de las veces, la persona que está a riesgo de ser deportado es la persona que es la persona con la principal fuente de ingresos, y ese año les da tiempo para prepararse. La organización usa todos los recursos que pueda encontrar de la comunidad y cualquier persona puede ayudarlos.

“Aunque usted tome dos minutos

## Indocumentados en el condado de Humboldt hoy

Que se está haciendo para ayudar a los estudiantes AB 540

de su tiempo para llamar a ICE o firma una petición, eso puede producir una diferencia,” dice Perea.

La organización ha trabajado, en su mayor parte, con adultos que están a riesgo de ser deportados a comparación con estudiantes, pero RAIZ está involucrado en con las leyes que afectan a los estudiantes. Ya que se acercan las elecciones, Perea dice que la organización no toma partido o candidato y no se oponen para que la gente vote, ellos creen que si uno tiene el privilegio y habilidad de votar, porque no participar.

El mensaje general que transmite Perea a los estudiantes con dificultades debido a su estatus migratoria es que no se olviden de dónde vienen.

“Estamos en un círculo vicioso, damos un paso hacia delante a la vez otro hacia atrás,” dice Perea. “Hay expectativas para los estudiantes, tenemos diferentes dificultades pero a pesar de aquello, hay resistencia.”

Los estudiantes bajo esta circunstancia tienen otra preocupación a parte de la aplicación de admisión a la escuela de sus sueños. El AB 540 es un término común que es para la persona con el deseo pagar la matrícula dentro del estado de California independientemente de su estatus migratorio de acuerdo con la pagina de web AB540.com.

Sin embargo existe también otra que es DACA o Acción Diferida para los Llegados de Infancia. Por la cual le da al estudiante el derecho de trabajar y asistir a la escuela a esos estudiantes que han vivido en los EE.UU. por la mayor parte de su vida. Algunos requisitos a este derecho incluye, no haber cometido algún delito y graduarse de la high school o estar reviviendo un GED o Desarrollo Educativo General y una tarifa mínima de \$465 cada dos años, de acuerdo con el sitio de ImmigrationEquality.com.

Karla Sánchez, una estudiante de psicología, se identifica como estudiante de DACA, que le ha dado la oportunidad de trabajar en el campus pero sin embargo no es suficiente. Sánchez dice que no hay suficiente apoyo disponible para estudiantes

indocumentados en HSU a pesar de que hay grupos como F.R.E.E. que trabaja para generar la conciencia con talleres como UndocuWeek o el Latin@ Center for Academic Excellence o el Centro para los latinos para excelencia académica, por lo cual es un recurso que ayuda a encontrar becas.

“Hemos luchado por Undocu Center [centro para los indocumentados],” dice Sánchez, “F.R.E.E. ha estado luchando por tres a cinco años.”

Otras universidades como la de CSU Long Beach tienen centros que se dedican en el apoyo de los estudiantes indocumentados y les ayudan con las dificultades de la renovación de sus aplicación de DACA. Sánchez dice que en cuanto se trata de estas situaciones se relatan al privilegio social porque es difícil de conseguir que la gente escuche sobre estos problemas.

“Si no te está afectado directamente, entonces no es de importancia para ti,” dice Sánchez. “Nosotros somos minoría en esta institución.”

Sánchez dice que cuando fue con un consejero de ayuda financiera en la Universidad de Humboldt, le dijeron que no se matriculara en la Universidad porque no iba a recibir lo suficiente fondos y sería mejor ingresarse a un community college o universidad comunitaria.

“Se me destrozó mi corazón,” dice Sánchez. “Ahora quiero demostrarle a la gente que yo me gradué de aquí.” Ser referida de una persona a otra es muy común en cuanto se trata de pedir ayuda de llenar los formularios. Sánchez dice que no entendía los formularios la mujer de administración que ella misma necesitaba ayuda por entender.

“Esta es mi pregunta para HSU, ¿qué están haciendo para nosotros?” dice Sánchez. “Se les paga y no están haciendo nada para ayudar. Nadie está dispuesto tomar la responsabilidad.”

Un estudiante de psicología, Rubén Méndez, enfatiza que son como cualquier otro estudiante, en apuros por mantener un decente promedio de calificación y trabajar horas suficientes para poder pagar la renta. También extrañan a su familia debido a la distancia de su hogar

e intentan de construir una comunidad en el campus de HSU.

“Uno quiere sentirse que pertenece. Nosotros ya estamos aquí y no nos vamos a ir. Somos vecinos, compañero de clases. Nos parecemos como cualquier otra persona,” dice Méndez.

Méndez dice que cuando la economía está en graves problemas, los estadounidenses de inmediatamente encuentran un chivo expiatorio en la gente indocumentada por cualquier situación. Méndez dice que es más fácil de encontrar culpa en otros y decir “son ellos,” los mexicanos simplemente por el hecho de que la frontera está muy cercana, aunque cualquier otra persona de otro país pueda ser indocumentada.

“Estas personas tienen sentimientos, han estado trabajando y el acto de que ellos no tienen papeles los están viendo como los otros, un grupos extraño.” dice Sánchez.

En general, los estudiantes como Sánchez y Méndez permanecen parte de la universidad de Humboldt State y son como nosotros. Ellos quieren que no necesitan que los rescaten, simplemente necesitan a alguien que esté dispuesto a que les ayuden a defenderse y luchar a su lado.

“No nos tengan lastima, fortalezcan a la gente,” dice Sánchez. “La lucha va a seguir.”

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### ◊ El leñador ◊

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## Latinos in the Great Outdoors

Latino Outdoors organization combines adventure and storytelling

by Katherine Miron

At one point in our lives we have heard the expression “take a hike,” perhaps misused as the literal term or as a dismissal. Evidently minorities have never taken the words seriously.

According to the 2013 Outdoor Recreation Participation Report, “participation in outdoor activities is lowest among African Americans, Hispanics and Asians and highest among whites.”

The report goes on to state that Hispanics are the one’s with “the lowest outdoor participation rates” and are also more likely to be “using technology more than any ethnicity or race, when engaging in the outdoors.”

In an effort to raise the number of Latinos participating in recreational activities, José González founded the

Latino Outdoor Organization. A national organization set out to close the gap between Latinos and the great outdoors.

On April 12 José González visited HSU discussed how his upbringing in Mexico led to him never seeing the outdoors as a “different or recreational space.” It wasn’t until he moved to the United States that he noticed how “different” it was and how separated Latinos were to recreational spaces such as hiking trails and lakes.

“We are building communities trying to demonstrate the ways in which [the] Latino identity is present in parks and outdoors spaces related to nature,” González said. “We plan activities whether it’s taking families for the first time to a nearby park to mountain climbing.”

In the events Latino Out-

doors coordinates families are encouraged to showcase their culture through storytelling all the while they are enjoying the outdoors.

Here in Humboldt County, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, “10 percent of its population identify themselves as Hispanic or Latino.” As a smaller community compared to other areas in California, Latino Outdoors still holds a strong presence.

With the help of Humboldt State Latino Outdoors holds events such as group hikes through Klamath River, Prairie Creek and sunset paddle boarding at the Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center.

Katherine Miron can be reached at el-lenador@humboldt.edu

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Corrections: Moral Attalah was featured on the front cover of our last issue, but was not acknowledged that she identifies as Latinx.

Photo by Javier Rojas



# Campus

## Q&A: Carlos Muñoz



El Leñador reporter Hector Arzate with Carlos Muñoz. | Briana Yah-Díaz

### by Hector Arzate

Intro: Dr. Carlos Muñoz, Jr. is a professor in the Department of Ethnic Studies Center for Latin American Studies, at the University of California, Berkeley. His work as a Chicano activist has been pivotal in documenting both the Mexican American political experience and African American and Latino political coalitions.

H: What was it like growing up in a completely different era compared to what we are living in today?

C: *It's a whole different world in many ways. And in some ways it remains the same too. History repeats itself but not necessarily the same way. For example, my generation had experiences going on that had to do with what was going happening at that time in history, at that time in the world, that impacted us. It made us aware of revolutions that were happening around the world. That helped us get radicalized and a more critical perspective of society. So now, you guys don't get exposed to that. You don't see revolutions, you see terrorism, it's a whole different ensalada. It's worse in the context of violence, it's a whole different onda. It doesn't inspire young people to get radicalized because they are too busy reacting to all this violence with fear. Today, there is a politics of fear in society and people are afraid to speak out and organize.*

H: How do you think our political power has grown since figures like Los 5 and La Raza Unida?

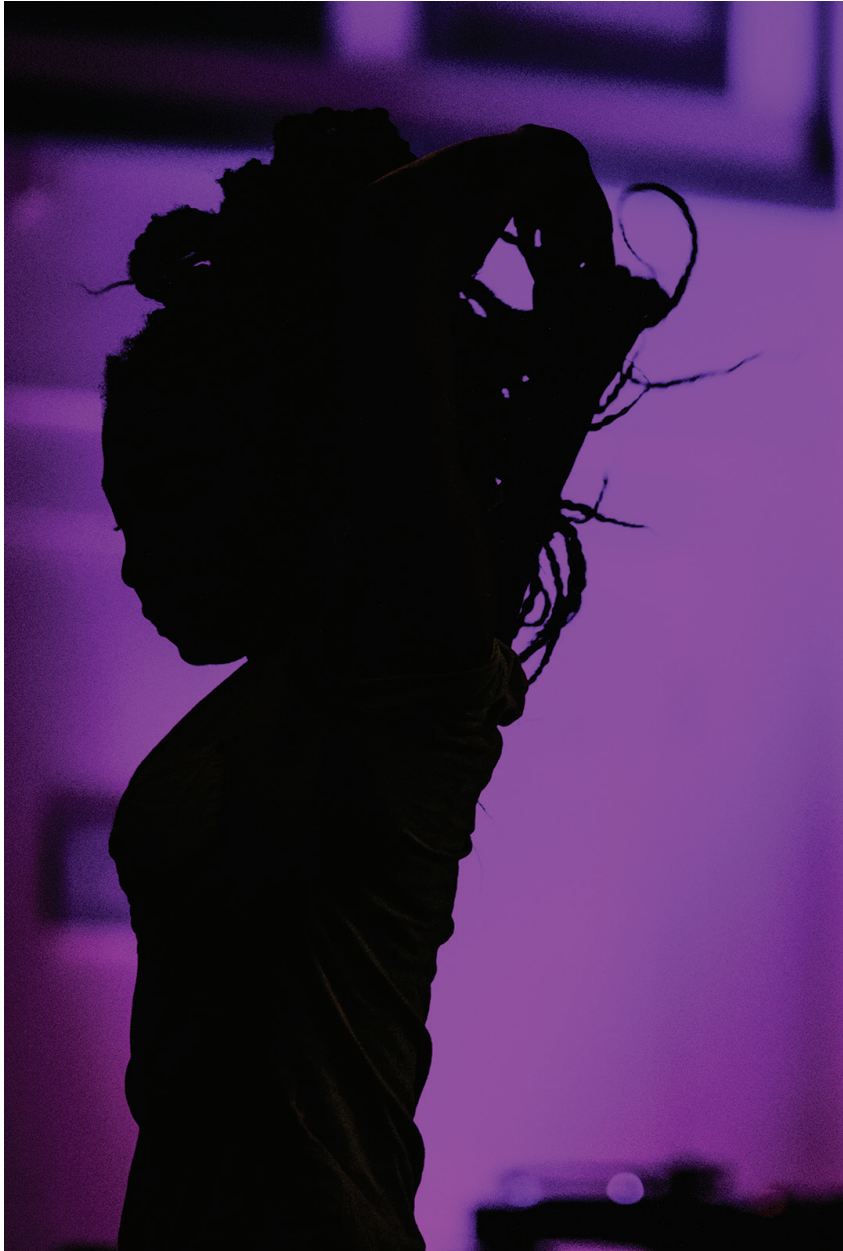
C: *It's grown a lot, but what kind of political power? Has that political power resulted in the benefit of our people? No, I argue. Lo que paso, we organized our own power because we came to the conclusion that the democrats and republicans suck. They are exploiting us. During election time they come to our barrios and say "yeah yeah, hablo espanol yo quiero su voto." Then the elections are over and forget it man, they not only aren't around but they aren't passing laws in our interest. What has resulted, when I was your age in the 60's we had one congressman from CA and one from Texas and one from NY. That's it, three congress people. Now how many do we have? Un monton, not as many we should, but there is a lot more. We don't have more political power, we have more political representation.*

H: 31 percent of HSU students identify as Hispanic/Latinx, what do you think it means at this school that primarily has a white/anglo culture?

C: *Well, it's, a como te digo, a complicated situation. Our feelings are complicated feelings. Because on one hand, it's great to see more latinos on this campus. You have what, more than 25 percent? That's better than Berkeley has. We only have 14 percent. But again, the question becomes one of, so what? Beyond having more representation here, are you getting more resources? I don't know about that. You got to look into that. At Berkeley, we don't have more resources but we got enough resources because our students keep fighting for them. I don't know if you have those type of organizations here.*

H: This year was the first year we have the LCAE and the AACAE.

C: *That's good but most other places don't have that. We are talking about in overall terms. You're doing good then. But you have to keep fighting, stay on top of it so what you have doesn't get taken away. Por qué cabrones los que estan aya arriba, they don't want to give you more.*



Britney Wright performs an interpretive piece for the biennial Hip Hop Conference on April 23, 2016 at Humboldt State University's Green and Gold Room. | Sam Armanino

## Filipina Poet Speaks to the Academic, the Artist and the Activist

### Conchitina Cruz shares her own personal and political realities

#### by Sarahi Apaez

After studying for four years in the University of the Philippines' accelerated course in medicine, Conchitina Cruz left the hospital for the Creative Writing Program in UP Diliman, where she graduated, magna cum laude, as the College of Arts and Letter's valedictorian in 1998.

The Filipina writer and activist read from her latest book There Is No Emergency as part of the English Department's Visiting Writer Series held in the Kate Buchanan Room.

The hour and a half event included Cruz's poetry reading and a Q&A with Dr. John Johnson, the director of the African American Center for Academic Excellence. Students were able to have a conversation with Cruz and gain greater insight to her writing.

#### From disaster comes epiphany

The Philippines is a country that is prone to disaster and hardest hit by climate change. Cruz said her writing and poetry directly responds to these events.

"Having survived the unthinkable or the unbearable after disaster and violence you're still breathing but your life has shifted," said Cruz.

Cruz spoke about how her poems came in the aftermath of catastrophe. She started out by writing how she felt but once she got older she realized it

wasn't just about her and that her writing had the power to transform the world.

#### A mix of personal and political realities

Cruz spoke on politics, human rights, and discrimination in the Philippines. She touched on topics involving corrupt politicians and how easily writers can be perpetually complicit to corrupt systems. She also spoke about her work in the Philippines, Cosmopolitan, and how she didn't like how they follow the status quo rather than empower women and that she would never take jobs like that ever again.

"It is important to be both the author and producer of your work when you're in a position to represent your culture," Cruz said.

In this powerful and timely lecture, Cruz spoke directly to students balancing different identities of academic, artistic and activist "to talk to each of your identities and make yourself a part of a community of different people with your shared convictions. This collective power is a powerful thing."

She discussed how important it is to band with others and your shared convictions to create change.

"If you have the heart and concern for it, go with that," Cruz said.

Sarahi Apaez can be reached at el-lenador@humboldt.edu

## Hip Hop is Not Dead

### HSU holds second biennial hip hop conference

#### by Carmen Peña-Gutierrez

It's normally something you hear through your headphones on your way to class. Maybe while you're in the car with your friends and the person with the aux cord understands that with great power comes great responsibility. If you're lucky, you hear it blaring through the open window of a car as you cross the street. But for three days, April 21-23, hip hop was highlighted, celebrated and talked about at Humboldt State.

The second biennial Hip Hop conference: Step into the Cipher and Grass Roots Pedagogies was an event that was put on by students from a class named Hip Hop and the Black Experience. Dr. Ramona Bell, Critical Race and Gender Studies professor, teaches the class.

A speaker kicked off the weekend then was followed by workshops put on by students that delved

into different aspects of hip hop culture. The last day students and community members gathered to share raps, poetry, an interpretive dance and participated in a cipher. The conference was a space where students were able to converse about a music genre that often seems to be ignored not only in Humboldt county but in the academic realm as well.

"Hip hop is a culture. So if we are gonna study cultures, why not hip hop culture? They study culture in anthropology, they study culture in history, they study culture even in geography and sociology," Bell said. "It needs to be a diversity and common ground and a GE credit which is not. Most students who take the class are in there because they want to be."

The first day of the conference welcomed Dr. Fernando Orejuela. Orejuela is an activist, senior lecturer at Indiana University, and author of

Rap and Hip Hop Culture. As the keynote speaker he took the time to talk about how hip hop is a form of resistance, specifically for black communities.

"The reason the n-word is strategically used is to make sure it's for a specific audience,"

Orejuela said. "Many of us have psychological prisons that rap helps alleviate, but we all can't enjoy the same."

Hip Hop studies is a form of activism where intersectionalities such as race, class, gender, sexuality and others can be discussed. Although rap music, which is an integral part of hip hop culture, is enjoyed by people of all races across the globe, it's target audience is the black community.

Carmen Peña-Gutierrez can be reached at el-lenador@humboldt.edu



The group of students, staff and artists who put together the Biannual Hip Hop conference. | Sam Armanino



# Campus

## Reel Love

### 49th Annual Humboldt International Film Festival Welcomes back the Minor Theater

by Estee Trevizo

Since 1967, Humboldt State University students have ran the International Film Festival and has become the world’s oldest student-run film festival. Entering its 49th year, the festival this year takes place at the Minor Theatre, which will close before officially opening again.

The Minor theater abruptly closed in February for renovations and will open specifically just for the four day event. It will close after the festival until renovations are done with the new theater.

“It’s a privilege to have [the Minor Theater] open for us, these guys have been working really hard and it’s great to have the film festival here because this is where it all started,” said Nairobiys Apolito, head of promotions for the film festival.

Apolito is a senior at HSU and said that events like the film festival are special because of the location and history of the event. The first ever HSU International Film Festival took place at the Minor Theater back in 1967.

“Our basic requirements are that it has to fit into our categories, it has to be 30 minutes or less, and there is a 20 dollar fee if you are not an HSU student,” said Apolito. “It has to be made in the last four or five years, and there has to be subtitles if it’s not in English.”

#### Behind the Numbers

Each day starting from April 20, they split the days into categories, showing animation/experimental the first day, documentary the second day, narrative on the third and finally on the last day, the best of the festival.

Every year, the festival receives submissions from all over the world and shows them to the public. The festival has found that its website is one of the easiest ways to submit a film.

Submissions include films that are experimental, documentary, animation and narratives. Apolito explains their most popular submissions are experimental films, and they usually have social justice themes and use different techniques that aren’t mainstream.

“This year we got over 225 films all over the world and we’re only

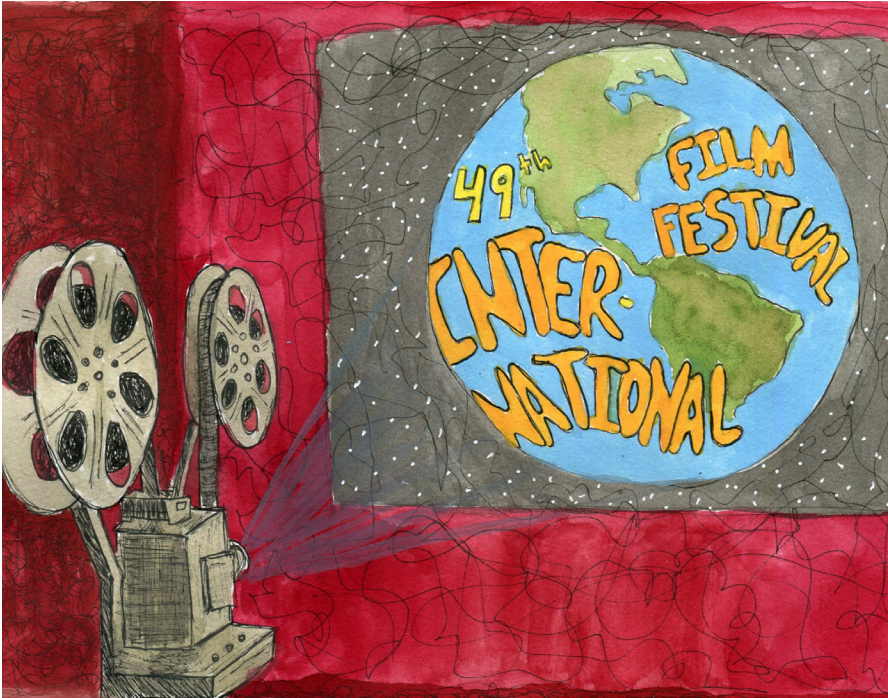


Illustration by Aren Fikes

going to be showing 10 or 20 each night,” said Apolito.

They have received 24 animation films, 69 experimental, 36 documentary and 96 narrative films.

“We recently got one from Bahrain, and we have a few from Spain, Australia and Taiwan,” said Kyrie Hood, co-director of the International Film Festival.

Hood is in charge of the entries that get submitted, as well as screening all the films that they receive. She is also part of the process that views the final best films.

#### The Youngest Film Maker

This year the festival has 12 International finalists, including youngest filmmaker finalist 12-year-old Emma Penaz Eisner.

“I started making films when I was six years old,” said Eisner in an interview with co-director Emily Hall.

Hall is an event planner, who helps the festival get sponsors and donors for the awards they give out. She is also a part of the film festival class, where they all pre-screen the films that get sent in and pick the highest rated ones to show at the film festival.

Eisner spoke about how she enjoys making experimental films and most of her ideas surface from dreams, mythology, memory and poetry. She expressed her love for creating with

moving images and art.

The International Film Festival is a great way to see independent films from around the world, that aren’t mainstream. Apolito expresses how the audience gets this different sense of social justice because a lot of the films go into depth with a lot of cultural issues.

“It’s really interesting to see how different countries make different films,” said Apolito. “They try to think outside of the box and create this different stylistic story without being nonlinear.”

According to the co-directors, every filmmaker has their own magical touch and their work, like Hall says, is left to your interpretation.

“They play with the convention of what film making is, for example we have this one film of someone just filming a bunch of rocks,” said Hall.

Starting out as a small group of kids back in 1967 that just wanted to show their own films, they have come far in expanding their films on an international base. Through this, they have also created great connections through multiple filmmakers and audiences.

For more information on how to submit a film to next year’s Film Festival, you can visit Humboldt International Film Festival website.

Estee Trevizo can be reached at el-lenador@humboldt.edu

## Humboldt State Applies for HSI Grant to Support Students in STEM

by Kevynn Gomez

What could \$6 million do for Latinx and low-income students in the science departments? It’s a question Humboldt State staff, administration and students might be able to answer next semester if HSU wins a competitive federal grant currently being written.

A team of staff members and one student make up the board writing the Hispanic-Serving Institution grant. The grant spans a five-year period and the average award is \$775,000 per year--or nearly \$4 million total--for use in science, technology, engineering and math.

The Latinx student population in the College of Natural Resources and Sciences increased from 19 percent in fall 2012 to 27 percent in Fall 2015, institutional data shows, and if HSU gets the money, it could be used to help this growing group of students.

The written proposal must be turned in by May 31. The intent of the grant is to help increase the amount of Hispanic students graduating in STEM fields by helping both freshman first attending HSU and transfer students moving through the system.

Radha Webley, associate vice-president of Retention and Inclusion for Student Success, says it is difficult to get the best proposal in by the May deadline.

All other colleges designated Hispanic-Serving Institutions can also apply, so the competition is high. The proposal to the federal Department of Education--the distributors of the grant money--needs to state what HSU would use the money for.

The grant proposal needs to be written very specifically for it to be accepted for consideration. This means the HSU board members writing the grant must show evidence of areas of success and specific ways the money could be used while following the rules the Department of Education gives. If awarded, the money can be used for a variety of projects, such as increased tutoring, adding or changing programs and possibly buying classroom or lab equipment.

Senior HSU student Alejandro Jimenez is more interested in putting money into things that all students can benefit from, like parking.

“Parking is a piece of shit,” Jimenez said.

Jimenez is a wildlife major. He said that even though he hasn’t had any problems getting classes or progressing, some of his friends have. Many science classes can be hard to get into, he says, and plant taxonomy is one of the worst.

“I’ve been in multiple classes where there’s 15 people sitting [as waitlisted students],” Jimenez said.

But he still thinks that money from the HSI-STEM grant should be put into things that are for all students--not just Latinx, low-income or science students.

“I feel [the use of grant money] is something that should be applied to everybody,” Jimenez said. “Just find the biggest populace.”

The federal grant has two major requirements that must be included in the written proposal to be applicable. The proposal must discuss use of the money for creating or improving tutoring, counseling, student service programs or instructional courses that are meant to keep students at HSU and move them through the academic system quickly. Secondly, the proposed programs or activities must try to increase the amount of Latinx and low-income students in the STEM fields.

Latinx students in STEM fields at HSU is already increasing. Matt Johnson, a wildlife instructor on the grant-writing board, says the Latinx student demographic is one of the fastest-growing groups of students at HSU. The amount of Latinx students entering as first-time undergraduates has quadrupled since fall 2008--from 155 in fall 2008 to 619 in fall 2015.

“That is hard for a campus that has a demographic (Latinx students) that is changing so fast,” Johnson said.

The grant proposal board seeks student input to learn where students would want to put the money. Good student input could be written into the proposal, so members hope to hear from students.

“We need to hear your voices or else we don’t know what your voices are expressing,” Webley said.

Johnson hopes HSU can get the grant money to create programs outside of the classroom for low-income and Latinx students.

“We need to help students feel welcome and supported in the community,” Johnson said.

One program Johnson would like to see created is something similar to the Klamath Connection program currently offered for freshmen. The Klamath Connection program takes freshman science majors on a four-day field trip, allows for early move-in to on-campus housing and gives assistance in picking appropriate courses next semester. It is meant to ease student integration into college and give them incentive to not drop out and graduate on time. But Klamath Connection is only for freshmen; Johnson would like to create something similar for transfer students, who he thinks are harder to assist.

Students can share their thoughts on what the possible award money could be used for with the board. If HSU wins the grant award, Jimenez thinks the board should figure out what students demand most and create programs based on that. Unfortunately for Jimenez, the award money could not be used for parking even if there was a large demand for it.

“I’m a science major so statistics are always on my mind,” Jimenez said. “Put the money where there’s the highest demand.”

If HSU does receive the award, the money could be used in fall 2017.

Kevynn Gomez can be reached at el-lenador@humboldt.edu

## Humboldt Beats from Tijuana Roots

by Martin Vargas

Alejandro “Coastral” Arredondo is an electronic producer from Tijuana, Mexico that now calls Humboldt County home. Having only attended Humboldt State for a semester now, Arredondo has made some waves in the local music scene playing shows at parties and even opening up for Thrift Works when they played at HSU. Coastral is a product of the underground electronic scene in Tijuana that has been making some noise over the years. Collecting experience since the age of 15 prepared him to grow as an artist now that he resides in Humboldt County.

“In Tijuana, people try to be more legit because that’s what they need to do in order to get

more exposure because there’s so many projects going on,” Coastral said. “I feel there is more creative flow here. I found it more beneficial for my own projects because that’s the concept I was going for.”

Musical roots stem from his father, who was a musician, and his older brother who exposed Coastral to the likes of electronic music when he was a teenager. The name “Coastral” as Alejandro puts it, mixes beach and space and it shows in his music. Some of his influences include Daft Punk, Gorillaz, his dad’s Jazz band and local DJ projects in Tijuana. Coastral’s music has a spacey and easy flowing feel that is made for relaxing.

“If I were to define it, it would be mostly experimental free music,” Coastral said. “I just let it flow, it’s constantly evolving. That’s what

I like about it, it’s not really one set sound.”

Moving to Humboldt County has helped Coastral find his sound and his sense of community. He’s been more inspired to experiment by connecting with local musicians and integrating his electronic sound with a live band.

“This [in Humboldt county] is the first time I got to collaborate with bands and integrate my electronic music with a whole bands set up,” Coastral said. “It’s like a live jam. I don’t think i’d be able to do that back home. I feel like there is more of a creative flow here”

Martin Vargas can be reached at el-lenador@humboldt.edu



Opinion

Huwag mo akong Husgan Dahil sa Kulay ng Aking Balat

Do not judge me for the color of my skin

by Charlotte deJoya

Ever since I can remember, I was complimented on my complexion. My titas would greet me with warm hugs, give my arms a loving squeeze and look me up and down. “Ganda ganda na, you’re so beautiful!” “You should be running for Miss

Philippines!” “Maputi ka!” I didn’t understand what it meant until I was older. Maputi ka means you are white, like cottage cheese. Why do they have huge smiles on their faces when they call me that? How do they expect me to say thank you when they familiarize me with something known for its curdled

quality? Why are they focusing on the porcelain quality of my skin rather than the quality of my thought process, my opinions, my accomplishments? My grandma said she was always taught it was a good thing to be called white. White was directly correlated with heaven and God, as if anybody who was white never did a wrong thing to the world. Not like the conquistadores that virtually annihilated native Filipino negritos were evil. Because the British who colonized India killed an estimated 1,000 peaceful protesters during the Amritsar Massacre in 1919 weren’t bad. Like these things would give them the ability to transcend those with darker complexions. “You didn’t want to be black.” Itim means black. If you were black, you weren’t seen for what good you can do in your neighborhood or your province- you were perceived like the devil was: bad. If you did something bad and you had dark skin, your skin color was to blame. “Maitim walang gawang magaling”. “They’re black so they don’t do good deeds.” I feel blessed for the skin I was born with. I’ve decorated it with ink, piercings, love, but that doesn’t mean my pigment should have any importance above someone blessed with dark skin. Many of the most important people in my life, my dad,

grandpa, my best friends, my cousins, have dark skin. I ain’t shit compared to them.

**A global pandemic** In many parts of the world, a person’s skin color is associated with their social status. Many cultures correlate white skin with the higher class, and the darker your skin, the lower you are on the social class system. Since when did being fair skinned mean you were more significant? Why are aunts and mothers offering their daughters skin lightening creams in Mumbai? Why did a prominent black musician bleach her skin in Cape Town? Why are there countless of billboards selling skin bleaching regimens lining the streets in Hong Kong? Why are actresses continuously getting their skin lightened in the Philippines? Why is a three-year-old trying to scrub off her black skin in Melbourne? In a BBC interview, Pinky Khoabane, a columnist for the Sunday Times in South Africa, said “...we had a white government that dominated black people. And the lighter you were the better the opportunities.” You know people of every complexion who have worked hard for what they have today. The derogation that comes with voiding someone’s accomplishments and strengths because


of their skin color is off the charts, and for those who see pigmentation as a bigger factor for job experience than what a person can offer, you’re no longer a person worth respect. Personally, I am embarrassed I’ve been grateful for being praised for my fair complexion. I did it out of ignorance, and now that I’m older, I know better. In many places in the world, I wouldn’t get a second glance by police. I would be able to walk around freely, get an “equal” opportunity to get the job or house I wanted. My friends, though, my many friends, are scared to walk alone at night because of their skin. My cousins have been told by their parents to stay out of the sun or else they’ll get dark. Why do we focus so much energy on something skin deep? Your skin color does not define you, it is not a curse. Your skin holds you together, it keeps your big heart and your vigorously thinking brain right where they should be.

Charlotte deJoya can be reached at el-lenador@humboldt.edu




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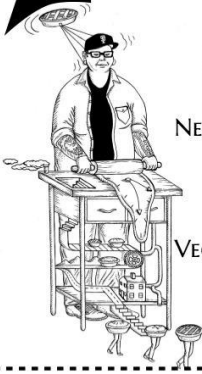




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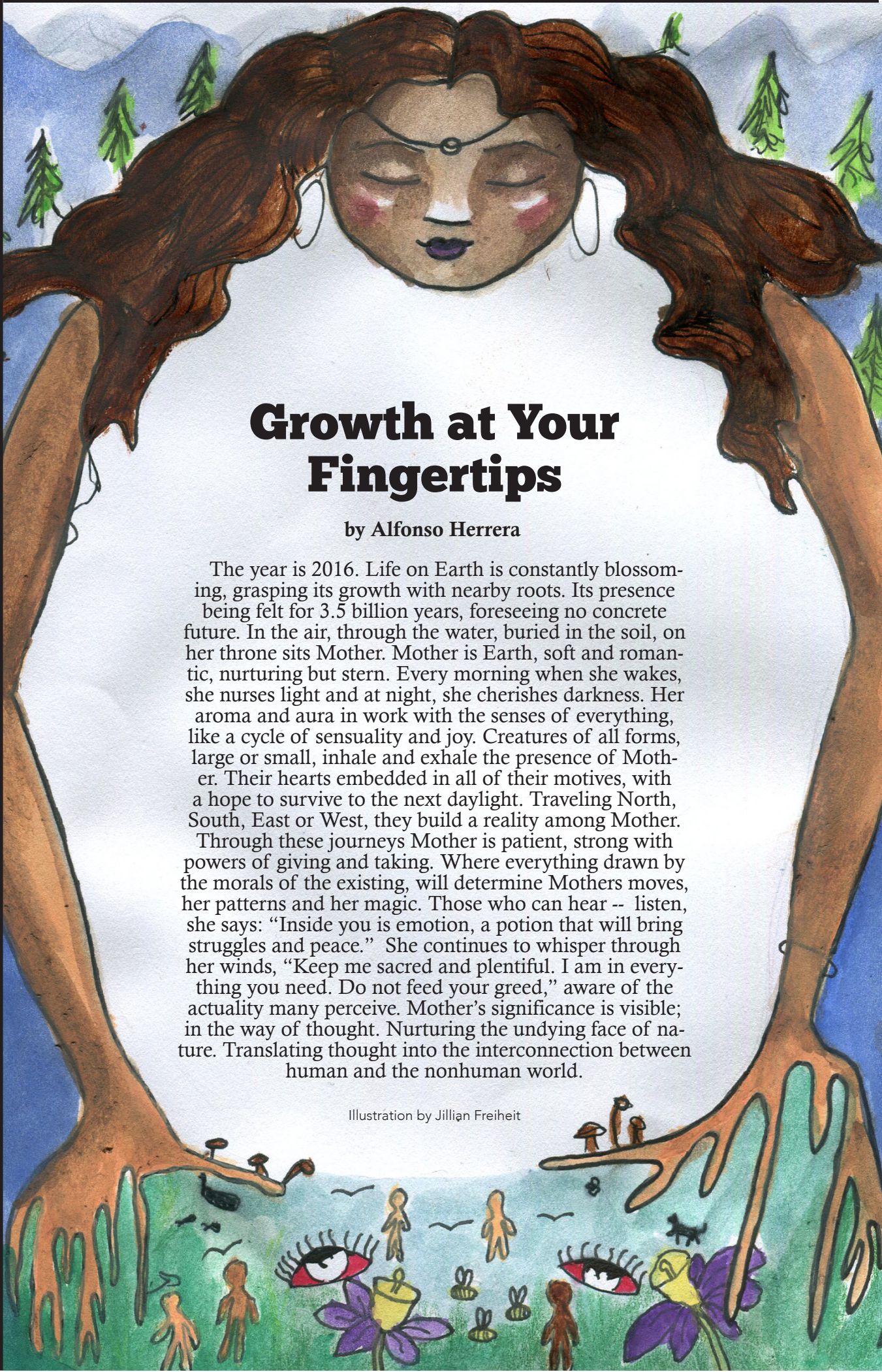


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MON - THURS 12PM - 10PM

FRIDAY - SATURDAY 12PM - 11PM

SUNDAY CLOSED



Growth at Your Fingertips

by Alfonso Herrera

The year is 2016. Life on Earth is constantly blossoming, grasping its growth with nearby roots. Its presence being felt for 3.5 billion years, foreseeing no concrete future. In the air, through the water, buried in the soil, on her throne sits Mother. Mother is Earth, soft and romantic, nurturing but stern. Every morning when she wakes, she nurses light and at night, she cherishes darkness. Her aroma and aura in work with the senses of everything, like a cycle of sensuality and joy. Creatures of all forms, large or small, inhale and exhale the presence of Mother. Their hearts embedded in all of their motives, with a hope to survive to the next daylight. Traveling North, South, East or West, they build a reality among Mother. Through these journeys Mother is patient, strong with powers of giving and taking. Where everything drawn by the morals of the existing, will determine Mothers moves, her patterns and her magic. Those who can hear -- listen, she says: “Inside you is emotion, a potion that will bring struggles and peace.” She continues to whisper through her winds, “Keep me sacred and plentiful. I am in everything you need. Do not feed your greed,” aware of the actuality many perceive. Mother’s significance is visible; in the way of thought. Nurturing the undying face of nature. Translating thought into the interconnection between human and the nonhuman world.

Illustration by Jillian Freiheit



# Un llamado a mamá y papá

by Jocelyn Lopez

*Esta sección de opinión es dedicada a las familias latinx que pasan por esta situación. He aquí unas cartas dedicadas a los padres de hijos que se identifican como gay o lesbianas. El amor de familia debería de ser más fuerte que las críticas y las normas sociales. (parte 1)*

Queridos padres,

Querida hermanita,

Al nacer mi hermana, yo me prometí quererla y apoyarla por toda la vida. Aunque ella me quitara el puesto de princesa en la casa yo sabía que ella era uno de los mejores regalos que me había dado la vida. Crecimos juntas, pero con diferentes ritmos hacia la vida. El día que ella les dijo que a ella le gustaban las mujeres, sentí miedo. No por ella, sino por ustedes. Ella había quebrado su miedo y lo tiró lejos con las creencias que ustedes le habían inculcado. Ella como mujer de esta nueva generación sabía que era fuerte y así se mantuvo. Sabía que como padres ustedes veían que su hija menor les iba a quebrar la vida idealista que ustedes tenían pintada para ella. Su manera de ser iba contra la religion que venía de generaciones anteriores, y que lo ideal para una mujer como yo y mi hermana era el pensar en el matrimonio y en ser madres responsables. Con su confesión mi hermana los dejaba en una situación muy lejos de lo normal, los dejaba en un abismo demasiado desconocido.

Después de esa confesión solo les pido algo importante para ella y para mi. Les pido que antes de que ustedes la juzguen por ser ella, piensen en el amor que ustedes sienten por ella. Dejen atrás las enseñanzas de su país, las enseñanzas de los abuelos, el idealismo religioso que dice que lo correcto es el amor entre un hombre y una mujer y solo se abasen en el amor que le tienen a ella, su hija. Parece mucho pedir, pero ella hija que vino de sus entrañas vale mucho más que sus costumbres.

Al pasar el tiempo creí que después de esto todo marcharía bien hasta que un día, tu mamá me pediste ayuda y me dijiste que hablara con mi hermana para saber porque mi hermana ya no quería comprarse ropa de mujer. No te respondí, ese no era mi lugar, tenías que hablar de eso con ella. Tu papá al igual que mamá no sé si es por no saber cómo manejar la situación, decidiste ignorar lo que pasaba con mi hermana y te quedaste callado ante la situación. Pero en realidad eso era lo peor que podías haber hecho, ignorar la situación. Mi hermana no necesitaba que la cuestionaran de lo que hacía con su vida, no necesitaba que rezaran por su salvación, no iba a darles una razón por la cual ella es como es para que ustedes quedaran en paz. Les recuerdo que la vida de ella no es de ustedes, es solamente de ella. Así que basta de tanta hipocresía, ella no cambiará y si, al principio suele ser difícil el aceptar que algo no va a ser como uno quiere, pero así son muchas otras cosas en la vida.

Así que como fin a esta carta, solo les pido que se informen mas en cuanto cómo apoyar a mi hermana. Hay tantos recursos que están dispuestos a ayudarnos a todos en la familia. Juntos los buscaremos, pero por ahora les digo que quieran a mi hermana, mucho más de lo que ya la quieren, creo que es lo único que en verdad ella desea de sus padres. Los quiero.

-Su hija mayor.

Illustration by Ariana Hendren

LATIN R&B AND HIP-HOP PLAYLIST

(Disclaimer: Listen to these tracks while chillin')

CURATED BY: DJ INDIOCHOLO

ALVARO DIAZ - "LA PISTOLA DE TU PAPA"

SPEAK! - "PLATINUM"

MC LUKA - "ORGULLO NACIONAL"

KID FROST - LA RAZA

FUEGO - "SE ME NOTA"

BIG PUN FT. FAT JOE - "TWINZ"

ZUZUKA PODEROSA - "AI VOCE GOSTA"

CHHOTI MAA - "AGUA CORRE"

MALVERDE - "HOMBRES PERSEGUIDOS"

CALLE 13 - "LATINOAMERICA"

PRINCESS NOKIA - "YOUNG GIRLS"

LIL ROB - "NEIGHBORHOOD MUSIC"

SLIM RIMOGRAFIA - "BEY"

KALI UCHIS - "ALL OR NOTHING"

SNOW THA PRODUCT - "SAME ONES"

SPM - "IN MY HOOD"

N.O.R.E. - "MATHEMATICS (ESTA LOCA)"

MIGUEL - "WHAT'S NORMAL ANYWAY"

AFTA-1 - "INTRO DREAM"

Play Me Music,  
Make Me Sway

by Amanda Walker

Play me music and make my hips sway,  
  
To the Dominican rhythm of Merengue.  
  
My moves are always sweet as the mango,  
  
When I sass my way with the Tango.  
  
Sweet and desirable as freshly made horchata,  
  
Play me next that sexy Bachata.  
  
Speed up the tempo with Salsa and Samba,  
  
I'll burn down the dance floor then cool it with Rumba.  
  
Cumbia will court me till the night is done,  
  
But I'll be kissing the new day with some Reggaeton.

Amanda Walker can be reached at el-lenador@humboldt.edu

abril/ mayo

CALENDARIO | CALENDAR

Compiled by Joanna Quintanilla

Welcome HSU Alumni: Dr. Salvador Vidal-Ortiz

Wednesday, April 27

Humboldt State University alumni, Dr. Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, will share insights from years of activism and community action research and his latest co-edited book Queer Brown Voices.

12-1:30p.m. | Nelson Hall 106

Queer Student Activist Lunch

5-6:30p.m. | Native Forum (BSS)

Keynote & Book Signing

Double Dare Ya! Presents: Dr. A. Breeze Harper: Recipes for Racial Tension Headaches: Critical Perspectives within the 'Post-Racial' Ethical Foodscape

Friday, April 29 | 5:30-6:30p.m. | AACAE (NHE 206)

Come meet Dr. Harper and enjoy some plant based foods.

7p.m. | Goodwin Forum

Dr. A. Breeze Harper has a Ph.D. in Critical Food Geographies. She is the creator of the Sistah Vegan Project and the editor of the ground-breaking anthology, Sistah Vegan: Black Female Vegans Speak On Food, Identity, Health, and Society.

Free Public Talks with John Powell: The Science of Equality: Addressing Racial Anxiety, Implicit Bias, & Stereotype Threat

Thursday, May 5 | 1p.m. | Goodwin Forum

You are invited to join Humboldt Area Foundation and partner organizations across the region at free public talks with author, professor and change-maker John Powell.

Marcha por los Derechos de los Inmigrantes

Sunday, May 1 | 1p.m. | 2085 Myrtle Avenue

(La Iglesia Sagrado Corazon en Eureka)

Por todo el pais, comunidades inmigrantes marchan para exigir papeles, alto a las deportaciones, el derecho de vivir con dignidad y sin explotación. Aquí en el Condado de Humboldt, exigiremos que familias con Ordenes de Deportacion no sean deportadas! Unase! Para más información: Renee Saucedo, (707) 273-2974, rmscoco@yahoo.com

Growing Cities: A Film About Urban Farming in America

Thursday, April 28 | 6p.m. | Jefferson Community Center

(1000 B St., Eureka)

Free! Donations welcome. Spanish interpretation available. Imagination playground open for kids. Discussion following film. Light Refreshments provided.