

Humboldt State University

Digital Commons @ Humboldt State University

2016

11-2016

El Leñador, November 2016

El Leñador Staff

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/ellenadornews2016>

Recommended Citation

El Leñador Staff, "El Leñador, November 2016" (2016). 2016. 2.
<https://digitalcommons.humboldt.edu/ellenadornews2016/2>

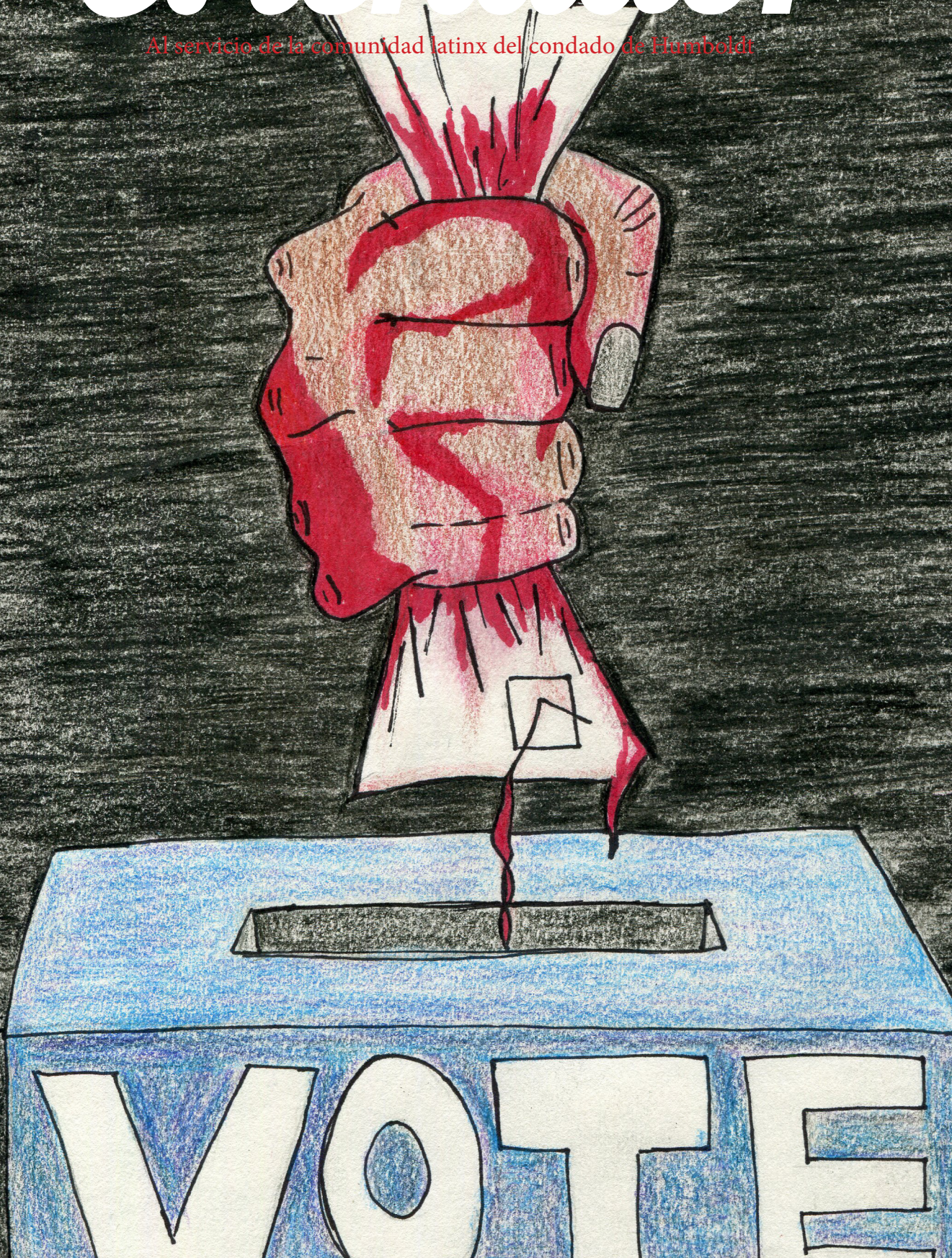
This Book is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Humboldt State University. It has been accepted for inclusion in 2016 by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Humboldt State University. For more information, please contact kyle.morgan@humboldt.edu.

El Leñador

Al servicio de la comunidad latinx del condado de Humboldt

noviembre 2016

Vol. 7 Edición 3



President Peña Nieto and Republican Nominee Donald Trump | Illustration by Gichi Viramontes

Editorial

from the El Leñador Staff

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution gives citizens the freedom of speech, enabling those who once did not have a voice to finally be heard. Throughout this country's history, there have been low points when this right had to be fought for. But despite all opposition, systemic or individual, violent or ideological, those who rose up to be heard never faltered.

From what we have learned as people of this country, there is no right or wrong voice; and we can always disagree on a fundamental level. But we need to always remember to distinguish between a difference in ideas, and ideas that attack our identities; ideas that are inherently biased and violent.

The right to vote is given by the Fifteenth Amendment, another way for people to get their voice heard. Such a right should always be used, because it can and will have lasting implications on others. And make no mistake, this presidential election is a significant event in our history that could shift the future of our government and our livelihood as a

people, a community, and as a nation.

It is impossible to believe that those who supported a demagogue, along with the ideology that propelled him this far and the surrounding rhetoric of hate will simply disappear after this election. The simple truth is that we did not get here by chance.

There is a very real voice in this country that wants to tear families apart, ban an entire religion from our nation, incite state violence against people of color, and enable sexualized violence against women. They have simply been waiting for somebody to validate their hatred and frustration.

But this voice, as widespread as it is, is not the only one in the United States. As a student run paper, we would like to use our platform as a way for students to voice their experiences, write about events that pertain to us, and to speak out against the same hatred that fueled such a campaign. Although, the most disheartening fact about this presidential race is that these folks did not come out of nowhere, they have always

existed.

However, as much as we feel compelled to speak out against this bigotry, we also cannot blindly support every so-called progressive politician. Because we know the road to hell is paved with good intentions, we must always hold them accountable for

“
Let this be a moment in history that should never be forgotten because it is so telling of who we are.
”

the potential damage that could be done to those most vulnerable in this country.

Despite the good, we did not solve everything the day President Barack Obama was elected in 2008, and we should always keep in mind the limitations of a divided government that prevented more from being done. We need to hold all politicians accountable: nationally, statewide and locally. We need to ensure that our laws and policies

have our best interests in mind. We need to ensure that dog whistle politics, the colorblind legalese that most affects those from a lower socio-economic background are not enacted. We will stand for real progress despite any impediments across the aisles.

The fight for change does not end after Nov. 8, 2016. There is always room to make a difference, to protest; call your local congressman, write a monthly editorial piece for a newspaper, attend a school board meeting, and vote every November. But do not let the outcome of this election be the end, let it be a catalyst for change that resonates in the hearts and minds of our people every day.

Let this be a moment in history that should never be forgotten because it is so telling of who we are. This should be a very close thought in the minds of the future leaders of this country, future parents, future activists. The people's voice needs to be heard. Do not let those in corporate power, social power and political power generalize and oppress the

real people's voice. Do not let the hatred we have seen on Nov. 8, 2016, across the United States consume us.

Throughout this newspaper's history, students have been the voice and the action that was needed to make this newspaper what it is today. El Leñador is not our newspaper, it is yours as well. This newspaper is a platform that changes with the times and the students we represent. One thing will always remain the same; we are here to give those who have been systematically, historically, and politically ignored a voice.

We strive to let those without representation be heard, and we hope to instill a voice in every person who has been silenced. We hope that you will join us in standing together in a country that is still so clearly divided.

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

Comunidad

Governor Jerry Brown Signs SB #792

Immunization law passes in attempt to save lives

by Estee S. Trevizo

California just became the first state where adults are required by law to receive vaccinations. Under SB 792, day care centers and family day care homes will have to maintain vaccination records for their employees and volunteers for influenza, pertussis, and measles as part of their licensure requirements. The failure to maintain these records will be treated like any other violation of licensure requirements.

For the first time, children and their parents will not have the right to exempt themselves from these vaccinations due to personal or religious beliefs. Not only is this problematic, but families who are undocumented or low-income are directly affected. By not having access to basic health care, they can't be apart of their child's educational growth. This law will have a greater effect where the undocumented community rate is higher.

Starting on Sept. 1, 2016 this bill prohibits a person from being employed or volunteering at any type of day care center if they not been immunized against influenza, pertussis, and measles.

Natasha O'Loughlin, a volunteer coordinator for

Festejando Nuestra Salud feels that the law did not properly prepare families with the right resources.

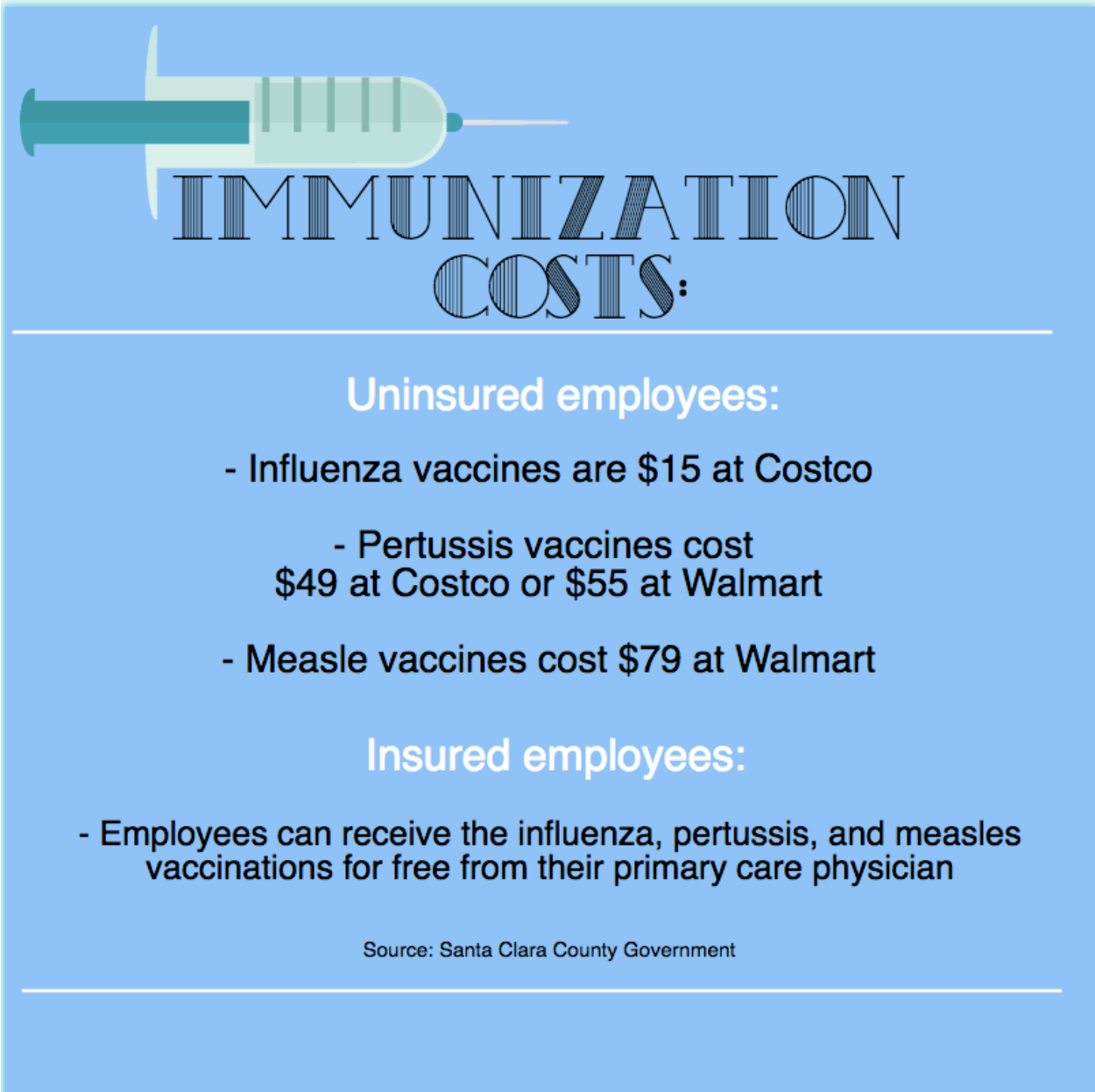
"Since the law is already in place, it is definitely going to have an impact on families that are low-income and undocumented. This will just be an added barrier for families that are already restrained as it is," O'Loughlin said.

Program Leader, Hyung-Kyung You works closely with families that attend the HSU Child Development Lab. She spoke about a different bill that was recently passed in relation to SB 792. SB 277 requires all children who enter kindergarten to receive these vaccinations.

"If a child is easily sick and fighting against a lot of bacteria all the time, that can influence the child development overall, and the child's learning ability," You said.

She explained there is controversy over how the law is written due to the lack of specifications of each shot. Because of this, childcare facilities are

Continued on pg. 6



Current immunization cost | Infographic provided by Estee Trevizo

California Is Going Bilingual Proposition 58 wins with 72% support

by Moníca Ramirez

Spanish is currently the second most spoken language in California, after English. Bilingual education has been a topic of discussion due to it being on the 2016 ballot and its connection to Proposition 227 that required English-only classes. Proposition 58 gives English Language Learners (ELL) easier access to dual immersion in public schools.

Proposition 58 will continue the requirement that public schools ensure students become proficient in English, according to the California Official Voter Information Guide. School districts will be required to obtain parent and community participation in developing the language programs and to select which language to teach in.

"We know that the best education is bilingual," said Marisol Ruiz, a professor in the Elementary Education Department at Humboldt State University. "There is no bilingual education professional that would tell you it doesn't work."

Many students, even those born in the U.S. are labeled as ELL. If students list an alternate language that is being spoken at home, schools assume they are not yet proficient in English.

ELL students are then required to take the California English Language Development Test, also known as the CELDT test, in order to reach proficiency.

According to colorincolorado.org, a site for ELLs, "85 percent of pre-kindergarten to 5th grade ELL students and 62 percent of 6th to 12th grade ELL students are born in the

U.S."

"Even the [CELDT] test that we use is flawed," said Ruiz. "In a way you're being punished for knowing another language, and I say punished because those kids are tested in kindergarten until they pass."

Buena Vista Horace Mann K-8 Community School is a public school in San Francisco that has dual immersion as a key part of their goal.

"The goal is to make sure everyone is bilingual and biliterate and we value multiculturalism," Anabel Ibanez said. "All children that come to our school leave bilingual."

Ibanez is a family liaison for the school and she explained how parents are realizing the benefits of dual immersion since the U.S. is a global economy. However, under Proposition 227, parents were required to sign an annual waiver in order to have their child learn through bilingual instruction like Buena Vista Horace Mann.

"If you look at the state, ELLs are not performing at the rate they need to be performing," Ibanez said. "There is so much bureaucracy and red tape."

Proposition 227 was what required all classes to be taught entirely in English for "Limited English Proficient" students. It won during the 1998 election with large support from not only those who created it but parents of English learners as well.

"Most of the kids in transitional bilingual education are in poor communities, parents don't have a lot of options and don't understand the options. I,

being a good liberal, explained why it works," said Alice Callaghan an English teacher from the non-profit organization Las Familias del Pueblo in Central Los Angeles. "Scores went up dramatically after 227."

When explaining Proposition 227, Callaghan said dual immersion would not be able to support kids like those she

teaches. Only upper middle class families would benefit from it in order to learn Spanish as a second language.

"Families overwhelmingly supported 227," Callaghan said. "They didn't come to this country to have their children learn Spanish."

Almost \$5 million was raised in support of Proposition 58

while no funding was raised in opposition, according to the California Secretary of State.

"Anyone who is against [bilingual education] is behind times," Ruiz said.

Monica Ramirez can be reached at el-lenador@humboldt.edu

This is a very exciting time for Kokatat! We have been awarded multiple government contracts and in order to keep up with the demand, we are looking to hire approximately 20 new employees to work in our Production, Service and Shipping departments.

Both Full-Time & Part-Time positions are available. Sewing machine experience is a plus however we are willing to train.

Kokatat offers competitive benefits including free medical insurance, paid sick, vacation & holidays, 401k match, and profit sharing to name a few.

We've been in business in Arcata since 1971 and are committed to staying local.

Applications are available in our office at 5350 Ericson Way in Arcata or contact us at (707) 822-7621 to have an application forwarded to you.

To learn more about Kokatat please visit our website at www.kokatat.com.

Campus

Vamos a Platicar

A conversation with President Rossbacher at the Latin@ Center

by Iridian Casarez

The small room on the second floor of Nelson Hall East went silent as President Rossbacher walked in to take her seat.

President Rossbacher visited the Latin@ Center for Academic Excellence last Thursday for a Q&A with students. She sat in a corner to see each student while a list of guidelines was read, introductions were heard, and the discussion began.

Everyone was reluctant to ask a question, looking at the ground or their backpacks until someone finally spoke.

Michael Hernandez, a second year political science major, was the first to raise his hand to ask a question referring to the academic senate meeting.

Senate meetings and thoughts

“What were your thoughts on the academic senate meeting the university had two weeks ago?”

President Rossbacher did not attend the senate meeting due

to a chancellor’s meeting but said she was informed of the discussion and spoke with the students who expressed their hardships and experiences of racism on campus.

Rossbacher met with each individual that spoke at the senate meeting and said she would like to share their stories with the Arcata community to effect change.

“To share their perspective is really valuable,” Rossbacher said.

Plan of Action

What actions do you see taking forward with everything [POC Norm] that’s going on?

The search for the new director of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion will come from a pool of diverse applicants, she said. Tawaina Barnes who works with the Title IX campaign on campus is excited about training administrators on diversity.

“It’s all about doing that

with the city of Arcata,” Rossbacher said.

Rossbacher emphasized working with the Arcata community to try to overcome these racist incidents.

Transportation and safety

Are there any plans or talk of plans of action for safety with the transit system?

Many students at HSU come from different parts of California and use Amtrak to go home. The Amtrak sometimes arrives late to their destinations, Arcata Transit Center and the Denny’s in Eureka. Thus, leaving students walking home or trying to find a way home late at night.

“The university is working with the transit system to provide a shuttle service straight to the university campus specifically for students,” Rossbacher said.

President Rossbacher took notes about the safety concerns for students coming into town late from Amtrak and Grey-

hound stations and would look into providing a shuttle service for students getting back late.

Students of color with mental health concerns

Will the university put attention to hire and train current staff to have more resources for students of colors for their mental health?

“Not all of the mental health services at school are offered by people of color so they don’t fully understand the perspective of students of color,” Rossbacher said.

Students pay for mental health services through student fees, so the university is looking for ways to work on the need for staff of color at the Counseling and Psychological Services.

“The faculty and staff of color are poorly disproportionate,” Rossbacher said “There are very few to be supportive and there’s a huge demand for resources.”

Reaching out to incoming stu-

dents about racism on campus

If the university is trying to expand, why weren’t we prepared to hear this before coming to school here?

“The students who have had these experiences that are openly going to talk to incoming students about their experiences and what students could expect,” Rossbacher said.

Five minutes before 4 p.m. President Rossbacher’s alarm went off signaling it was time to leave. Once she finished listening to concerns, Rossbacher expressed her gratefulness and appreciation for being invited to the office. She thanked students and staff for coming into the Latin@ Center to express their concerns and questions.

Iridian Casarez can be reached at el-lenador@humboldt.edu

What now?

Updates on #POCNORMHSU and things to come.

by Carmen Peña-Gutierrez

A month ago on October 8, the hashtag #POCNORMHSU was created in response to President Lisa Rossbacher’s email where she said that “racism is not the norm.” The #POCNORMHSU movement was a space where people could share their stories of racialized violence, microaggressions, and discrimination on campus and its surrounding community.

Nearly 800 Facebook likes later, #POCNORMHSU has released a closure and final posting. In this posting, it was said that “these goals have either been met, or the University is actively working to address the concerns of the people of color in this community broadly, and Humboldt State University specifically.”

The goals mentioned are:

1) Creating a forum where people of color can share instances of race-based instances.

2) A public recognition and apology for the exclusionary effects in Rossbacher’s letter.

3) Institutional change by hiring a director for the Office

of Diversity and Inclusion who will hold a position in the Rossbacher’s Executive Office, and to work with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion in holding people of positions of power accountable for addressing their privilege and minimize racial bias, conscious or not.

A discussion on whether the director gets a voting seat on the University Senate was held during the senate meeting on Nov 1. Some senate members raised their concerns about the administration getting another vote which will disrupt the 3-3-3 vote distribution: three student, three faculty, and three administrative votes. Other senate members, such as kinesiology professor Justus Ortega, believe the director should get a voting position.

“I really don’t think the person who is going to take this position, a person from the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, is going to take a stance against the students and faculty,” Ortega said. “If anything they are going to be playing a

strong advocacy role for those entities.”

As of Nov. 8, no resolution has been made.

Jesse Pedraza, a critical race, gender, and sexuality studies major and the co-founder of #POCNORMHSU, believes that HSU is taking steps in the right direction.

“What I feel right now is that we are working forward but we are working with limitations,” Pedraza said.

They also believe that other things are still left to be accomplished, such as having faculty engagement and responsibility. Pedraza said that this is going to be made possible by having training for staff and faculty about their white privilege and how to hold themselves accountable for racial bias.

International studies major Taiden Partlow, also believes that staff and faculty need more accountability, especially those who hold tenure.

“Once professors have tenure, they are untouchable,” Partlow said.

Although #POCNORMHSU as a movement is coming to a close, there is still a lot to be done. Students are already creating projects, engaging in tough conversations, and organizing to better the experience of being an HSU student. Partlow is currently part of the student advisory council for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.

“One thing we are trying to start once we actually get

established is making sort of a ‘Check It’ for racism, microaggressions, and things like that.” Partlow said. “I don’t think anything can change unless more students start showing up and are really part of more than just the conversation. Actually being part of the movement to plan and mobilize and actually make stuff happen.”

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



POCNORMHSU Logo | POCNORMHSU Facebook page

Debunking The “Wasted Vote” Myth

Why third party voting matters this election

By Gabriel Lopez

For nearly 200 years the United States has been governed by two parties, both Republicans and Democrats. However, considering today’s political climate their days could be numbered.

In a recent poll by The Washington Post, nearly 60 percent of voters view the two primary presidential candidates Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton unfavorably. Despite their unpopularity, many voters still believe it is up to them to choose the lesser of two evils. To most Americans surprise, third party candidates do exist in this country.

However, to many Americans the idea of voting third party feels like a waste of a

vote.

To this statement, California Campaign Coordinator for Socialist party, Estevan Hernandez said,

“Voting for the lesser of two evils is a waste of a vote. If you believe that your vote matters, make it matter, vote for what you believe in not to prevent someone else from getting elected.”

Voting third party provides options for people, instead of choosing from the two parties, they can choose from a selection of candidates with different platforms that align more with the beliefs and concerns of American voters.

In addition to offering a wide variety of possible can-

didates, your support makes a difference.

Political science major Nijal Martin said, “By voting in what you believe in, you contribute

“If you believe that your vote matters, make it matter, vote for what you believe in not to prevent someone else from getting elected.”

to bringing your party more media coverage as well as providing them with federal funding for their campaign which comes with 5% of American

votes.”

Voting for a third party not only provides your candidate with funds and support, but also makes it possible for us to see them on the debate stage as well.

Placing a third party candidate on the debate stage with democratic and republican nominees would be incredibly historic. Not only would it show that Americans are voting in align with their values and concerns but, that they are sick of the similar two parties that have governed this country for more than a hundred years.

Considering just how unfavorable both Clinton and Trump are polling this year,

third parties have been seeing a dramatic increase in popularity.

As Hernandez said, “We are doing great. In a recent poll we conducted among California high school students, we found that 7% of students support the Socialist party.”

This poll which surveyed nearly 200,000 California high school students in a mock election also found that a more than 20% of these voters planned on voting third party. The support for third party candidates has grown exponentially since the last election and its growth is only expected to increase.

Gabriel Lopez can be reached at el-lenador@humboldt.edu

Campus

Can You Hear That? Racists Can. UC Berkeley Professor of Law speaks at Campus Dialogue on Race

by Meg Bezak

Through a colorblind dialogue that avoids explicit mention of race, coded language is being used among politicians to promote policies that benefit only the very rich. Ian Haney López—the keynote speaker at this year’s Campus Dialogue on Race, UC Berkeley Professor of Law, and author of three books in the areas of race and constitutional law—stood before an audience of Humboldt State students and community members on Thursday, Nov. 3, to discuss how this form of racism affects us all.

“The GOP today is whiter than most country clubs, and that’s not an accident. This is the best opportunity in a generation to convince people that

racism is a divide and conquer weapon that hurts all of us,” López said. “Ninety nine percent of all conversations about race are about how it’s bad for people of color. We need to start talking about how it’s bad for white people.”

López spoke about topics from his book, “Dog Whistle Politics: How Coded Racial Appeals Have Reinvented Racism and Wrecked the Middle Class.” A dog whistle, used for training purposes, exudes a pitch so high in frequency that human ears can’t hear it. Similarly, politicians promote ideals and policies that benefit the elite, but they do so by avoiding explicit language involving race. Instead, they tiptoe around it by

pointing to culture and behavior.

Posing the question, ‘What does racism sound like?’, López explained that in 1964, the language was based on color coded categories. Then and there, it wasn’t seen as politically incorrect to make statements like “Black people are x, white people are good.” In 2016, the conversation is strictly about culture and behavior, wherein there’s a mentality of, ‘If I’m not talking about color or biology, I’m not racist.’”

As the dialogue continues to expand and the 99 percent catches on to elitist power abuse, students and politicians alike will be able to breakdown the dominance of white color

blindness.

“It’s going to be hard for this nation to get out of dehumanizing people. That’s the thing that keeps our nation growing. We go in their resources until we become an ideal entity that can talk our way to getting things, and that’s not good,” criminology and justice studies major Daniel Howard said. “But as I was hearing him talk, I feel like something is happening. It might be a little slow and it might be a little painful for everyone, but something’s definitely happening.”

The solution, López suggests, is what he calls an Inclusion Revolution. Understanding how crucial the government is to the fate of the 99 percent,

standing together to enforce equality and transparency in governmental policy should be the focus. We’ve been trained by a racial narrative to fear each other, but it’s vital to understand the difference between what is cultural and what is structural, something that white elite politicians seem to be using interchangeably.

“Race merits extended study. You can’t understand our country without understanding the disposition of Native Americans and the people of color who built this country,” López said. “So this time when we say, ‘We the people,’ we need to mean it.”

Meg Bezak can be reached at el-lenador@humboldt.edu

Proposiciones de California Las nuevas leyes del país

traducido por Katherine Miron

Proposición 51: Préstamo de \$9B para construir y mejorar escuelas
Pasa: \$9B en obligación cautiverios serán dados por el estado para proyectos constructivos en escuelas. \$7B para K-12 escuelas públicas. \$2 mil millones serán dados a colegios comunitarios.

Proposición 52: Continúa un mecanismo que hace dinero para los hospitales
Pasa: Medical está financiado por el estado y los fondos están equiparados por el gobierno federal. El Estado no puede desviar fondos de médicos.

Proposición 53: Requiere proyectos de infraestructura estatal más \$2B para ser aprobadas por los votantes
Falla: Bonos no necesitarán aprobación por voto

Proposición 54: Requiere que antes actos que necesitan boto que están congelados se hagan públicos.
Pasa: Actos necesitaran estar puestos en letra o electrónicamente por 72 horas antes que la legislación del estado voten en él. Todos los actos públicos necesitarán estar grabados y

puestos en horas.

Proposición 55: Extender impuestos para los que tienen ingresos grandes
Pasa: Extender la Proporción 30 de 2012 que sube impuestos marginal 1-3% a los que hacen más de \$263,000 al año desde 2018 hasta 2030.

Proposición 56 Incrementar los impuestos por el tabaco \$2
Pasa: Los impuestos en tabaco serán subidos \$2 cada caja, o equivalente. Cigarros electrónicos ahora se pueden incluir en la categoría “otros productos de tabaco” y puestos impuestos comenzado de \$3.37

Proposición 57: Acería ofendidos que no son violento obtener libertad condicional más fácil
Pasa: Los reclusos sirviendo tiempo por un delito no violento – como se define en el Código Penal – ahora son elegibles para ganar créditos por buen comportamiento, logros educativos y la rehabilitación, que puede utilizarse para acortar su condena. Los reclusos deben servir su sentencia completa primaria – su principal pena de prisión, excluyendo cualquier sentencia

ajena. Si un fiscal del Condado decide que un menor debe ser juzgado en Tribunal de adultos, entonces un juez debe confirmar en un juicio separado.

Proposición 58 Dara locales control sobre cómo enseñar estudiantes aprendiendo español
Pasa: Comunidades locales serán permitidos a decidir cómo enseñar estudiantes aprendiendo español, si inglés- inmersión, transicional bilingüe, dual- inmersión, o otras variaciones

Proposición 59 Le dice a gobiernos de los estados lo que piensan en ciudadanos unidos
Pasa: Votantes han expresado al gobierno del estado que usen su poder para propender un enmienda a la constitución de los E.E.U.U para anular ciudadanos unidos

Proposición 60: Preciso que los artistas en porno que usen condones
Falla: Artistas en porno pueden continuar usando las leyes locales y regional en las escenas sexual.

Proposición 61 Bajaría los precios de drogas en agencias del estado
Falla: Leyes corrientemente de

compras de drogas se quedan igual.

Proposición 62 Derogar pena de muerte
Falla: Pena de muerte se queda igual in California.

Proposición 63: Crea leyes más estrictas en torno a municiones
Pasa: Compradores de munición ahora tienen que pasar una verificación de antecedentes a través del Departamento de justicia y comprar un permiso de 4 años que podría costar \$50 máximo. Venta de munición sin licencia es ahora un delito menor. Venta de 50 rondas de cazadores o menos un mes están siendo exentas. Todavía requiere las compras en línea para ser entregado a un distribuidor autorizado y recoger en persona, pero se movería hasta la fecha entra en vigor en enero de 2018. Si un arma es robado y vale menos de \$950, es un delito. Deben eliminarse todos los compartimentos de gran capacidad de pre-2000. Un proceso judicial sería establecido para aplicar la eliminación de armas de personas prohibidas.

Proposición 64 Legislación de Marihuana
Pasa: Sera legal a crecer 6 plantas en su casa privada. Es ilegal se no está bloqueado o visible en lugar público.

Proposición 65: Redirige los honorarios de la bolsa a un fondo ambiental
Falla: Los tenderos guardan los honorarios cobrados por bolsas de plástico

Proposición 66: Velocidad de la pena de muerte
Falla: Las leyes corrientemente en la pena de muerte se quedan igual.

Proposición 67: Las prohibiciones de uso individual de plástico y bolsas de papel
Pasa: Por todo el estado la prohibición entra en el efecto

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



Opinion

Governor Signs SB #792

asking for the bare minimum from their employees. “It gets a little complicated,” You said. “If families do not have insurance or health care, these vaccinations can be costly.” Local parents that attend playgroups where other children and families are present, feel concerned for their children. In a community where a lot of people refuse to get their immunizations, some parents feel that their child will be safer vaccinated. Donica Wiesner, parent of Mila is a regular attendee at the Arcata Neighborhood Center

Playhouse. She feels that this law undermines one’s personal freedom while also recognizing that undocumented families have no options for their children. “I don’t think there is enough research to say it’s completely safe for your child,” Wiesner said. From her research, there is a lot of metal in the mandatory flu shot. “I don’t want to be forced into doing something I am not comfortable with,” Weisner said. Weisner believes that as people, we should have choices in

how to take care of our bodies. She is not content with the fact that there is a list of vaccines her child needs to get in order to attend a decent child care facility. “People in this community have natural remedies instead of the flu shot. Some immune systems can build immunity against these diseases,” Weisner said. Although it is the law, Weisner admits she feels violated and refuses to vaccinate her child. “Adults can easily carry the virus without knowing and unintentionally spread the virus to

children. Personally and professionally I think it is important to get proper immunization considering that California has very low immunization record requirements compared to other states which can be concerning,” You said. Employees may decline to receive the influenza vaccine as long as they provide a signed statement stating that they have declined to be vaccinated against the flu. A person can also be exempt due to medical safety reasons, current immunity, and the date they were hired. If an employee is hired, they have a grace period of 30 days

to provide proof of current immunity, in which they will be “conditionally employed”. This may be a minimal problem for those with religious and personal beliefs, but this is a massive barrier for the undocumented community. If you are a parent or family member that wants to volunteer your time to benefit the growth of your child, you will be forced to take three shots that “may” save you from these diseases. As for the undocumented community, there are no options.

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

Feliz Dia de Los Muertos HSU community come together to create lost love ones

by Elizabeth Alvarez



The colorful altar in the Vine Deloria Room of the MultiCultural Center | Javier Rojas

On a cold autumn day, it was nice to come together as community to celebrate an important holiday often overshadowed by Halloween. With the smell of pozole, and the paper flowers resembling marigolds on an altar, Dia De Los Muertos event, held at the Multicultural Center, made people feel just a little more at home. Dia de los Muertos, is a Mexican and Mexican American holiday that can be traced back to before the colonial period. The holiday takes place over the course of a

two, sometimes three day span, it occurs the day after Halloween and is often associated with such. On October 28, the MultiCultural Center helped celebrate the holiday with food, performances by Humboldt’s own Ballet Folklórico, and by building an altar for those wanting to honor friends and family who have passed. According to Emely Garcia, transfer student and student coordinator at the MCC, the celebration was held earlier so it would not conflict

with the campus dialogue on race the following week. It was Garcia’s first time helping organize Dia de los Muertos event for the MCC. “Once I found out about the event, I was excited about organizing and contributing my efforts,” Garcia said. “To celebrate life and death, as well as bring the community together.” Garcia managed to gather a committee in order to build an altar in which students could celebrate loved ones who passed.



The colorful altar in the Vine Deloria Room of the MultiCultural Center | Javier Rojas

Communications major and student coordinator at the MCC Brandie Monreal was one of the students who helped build a traditional altar in the Vine Deloria room in the MCC. This is Brandie Monreal’s fourth year at HSU but her first year celebrating Dia de los Muertos with the MCC. “Dia de los muertos is about reflecting our ancestors, not grieving their loss but celebrating it,” Monreal said. Putting together the altar and the event itself was diffi-

cult, but according to Monreal, it was worth the effort. Students like third year psychology major Amanda Tarin enjoyed the event and felt as though it was informational. Tarin does not celebrate the holiday back home in Southern California, so this was a new experience for her. This event was crucial to the community in order to make Humboldt State inclusive of all students.

Elizabeth Alvarez can be reached at el-lenador@humboldt.edu



Baile folklórico deHumboldt takes the stage at the Die de los Muertos event on campus | Javier Rojas



Performers showcase a traditional Dia de los Muertos dance outside of the MCC | Javier Rojas

FUN FACTS

by Hector Arzate

1) According to a 2016 Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data, Hispanic millennials are projected to account for 44% of the record 27.3 million eligible Hispanic voters

2) Latinos represent 13 percent of early voters in Arizona, up from 11 percent in 2012, a larger increase than any other state.

3) A Pew Research Center poll back in June showed that English-dominant Latinos were split relatively evenly: 48 percent for Clinton, and 41 percent for Trump.

4) A Pew Research Center poll back in June showed Latino registered voters who are more proficient in Spanish or proficient in both Spanish and English were overwhelmingly for Clinton: 80 percent to 11 percent.

Opinión

We Are Needed

By Briana Yah-Diaz

When I step into the majority of my classes, as best said in the “Blind Side,” “I look and I see white everywhere. White walls, white floors and a lot of white people.” The lack of culture doesn’t allow me to connect with Humboldt State University. There aren’t enough resources to let us feel supported. It’s been more than a year at this institution and it wasn’t until last week that I was told my presence at Humboldt State had a purpose.

During the Black and Blue Dialogue, Amy Salinas Westmoreland, coordinator of the MultiCultural Center, expressed how people of color aren’t told we’re needed here, but in fact we are. It was at

that moment that I felt that I needed to stay here. Salinas Westmoreland’s words impacted my life more than I thought they would. Her words made me realize I’m here to make a change in this community, not only for myself but for the incoming people of color.

Hearing about the recurring attacks on people of color around me and not having the support I need as a woman of color takes an emotional toll. I feel helpless and despite the constant battle of wanting to return home to my people and my safe place, I need to stay here. It’s important to create change so the people of color feel supported and want to come back, along with

acknowledging the different cultures in this community and bringing awareness to them.

This institution wasn’t made for people of color, and there isn’t much offered for us to stick around. Not enough is being put into helping us progress in our education and at times that pushes me to leave. I want to see more people of color involved and not be scared to say something. It would be great to have more staff that cares about these issues and take action, not just send out emails saying they’re with us. I have a constant fear that someone I know will be attacked. I fear for my safety more than I should. It makes it hard as a student because the

minute we step outside Humboldt State we no longer feel safe due to the fear of being the next victim.

We’re not even safe on campus at times; some of us have experienced microaggressions in our classes. We begin to take precaution in our daily lives to avoid any negative attention towards ourselves. Like watching what we say in certain environments and not being able to voice our opinion.

Salinas Westmoreland gave me hope for a better institution, one that I am essential to. I want to bring awareness to those who feel they aren’t important at Humboldt State by trying my best to talk about this at dialogues or in conver-

sations on campus to bring attention to it. There could be more students that feel like I do and giving this the right attention can create a solution for this issue. I want to share the same aspiration I was given. We are needed. Amy showed that there are staff members in this institution that understand our struggle and want to see a change in the system as well. We’re not alone in this fight. We are here to create a safer environment for all of us. I am here to serve a purpose.

Briana Yah-Diaz can be reached at el-lenador@humboldt.edu

The Spirit of Activist Warriors

Student Led Movements at Humboldt State University

By Alfonso Herrera

While the campus continues to offer services to students with a wide variety of experiences, students remain to represent their thoughts through actions. Through creativity, resistance, and inspiration, students are developing and collaborating their ideas to achieve institutional change. On October of 2014, Jacquelyn Bolman former director of HSU’s Indian Natural Resources Science and Engineering Program, was fired by Humboldt State University. In solidarity, hundreds of students opposed the firing and gathered in unison to stand in protest for the rehiring of Dr. Bolman. This was the largest student led protest since the Vietnam War Era, when on May 7, 1969, 600 residents and students marched from the HSU library to the Arcata Plaza to state that students will not join the military as long as the war in Vietnam lasts.



As a representative on the Board of Finance for the Associated Students, Xavier Rodriguez works closely with administration and the governing institution. “The burden of increasing tuition and fees falls directly onto the consumers at this university, specifically students. In 2014, we became an HSI (Hispanic Serving Institution), and that leaves this University to meet the actual needs that benefit underrepresented students, and that’s where I believe mine and other students of color are essential to be active,” Rodriguez said.

Sonya Navarro is a student assistant at OhSnap! at the Rec and Wellness Center, feeding the mouths of disadvantaged students. “The pantry brings our student community together when faced with unaffordable food or simply none at all. This space creates a safety net for students to fall back onto when faced with hunger and almost zero dollars in a bank account, brightening the atmosphere and alleviate the problem of food insecurity,” Navarro said. “Plus OhSnap! has different intentions than many dining services offered here at our university, and that can easily become problematic, where one is for the profit and the other is for food as a basic human right.”



The spirit remains alive as Dixie Blumenshine is against the construction of the pipeline by Dakota Access, LLC, a subsidiary of Energy Transfer Crude Oil Company. “I want to contribute as an individual in any way possible, not just by physically being in North Dakota but providing the actual aid needed to resist. It is easy to seem powerless by the U.S. government, but when a group of people realize what they are doing is ethically wrong, then that’s even more powerful,” Blumenshine said.

Alfonso Herrera can be reached at el-lenador@humboldt.edu

Opinion

“Para el futuro de nuestros niños”

The appeal of language on a growing demographic

by Hector Arzate

Most historians would argue that President John F. Kennedy’s 1960 victory to the White House was due in part to Jackie Kennedy’s outreach towards the Latinx community. In a television ad, she addressed the demographic as “Queridos amigos,” and ensured that her husband would always watch over the need of our society, and the future of our children. It set the precedent for the outreach utilized by politicians to garner the votes of Latinx people that we see today. According to a 2016 Pew Research Center analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data, Hispanic millennials are projected to account for 44% of the record 27.3 million eligible Hispanic voters, a share that is significantly greater than all other racial or ethnic group of voters. Today, some would argue that

with the growth of our eligible voters, the Latinx community across the United States has increased its voting power. Our people have gained a hand in the outcome of politics, or at least that seems to be the perception given the various appeals across the United States. There are many ways that we see this manifest itself in contemporary American politics, but the use of language as a tool has always been at the forefront. And now, decades after Jackie Kennedy’s televised speech, we have a vice presidential candidate who delivered an entire campaign speech in Spanish. Tim Kaine has been using his bilingual chops to reach out to Latinx people. On Nov. 3, 2016, he spoke to a mostly Latinx audience at a Phoenix,

AZ rally, emphasizing on the importance of Latinx people and our place in the United States. “Los latinos siempre han forjado a este país... Desde su servicio en las fuerzas armadas, al espíritu empresarial... Hasta su presencia en la Corte Suprema,” Unlike the far cries of Donald Trump’s taco bowl tweet on Cinco de Mayo (which was essentially just an ad for the delicious Trump Tower Grill), Kaine’s use of language seems genuine. As a senator who also made a push for immigration reform on the Senate floor entirely in Spanish, Kaine has a history of not just just literally talking the talk but also walking the walk. But I recognize that his outreach is calculated. For good or

bad, the Clinton-Kaine campaign understands the importance of our population; Kaine makes a point in his speech to say that by 2050, people of color will make up the majority of our country’s population. And while the veneration of both Latinx voters and the language of Spanish by the Democrats could be seen as a step up from the condemnation we see from the current Republican rhetoric, we have to ask ourselves what this all means, and what we want it to mean. Is it a form of empowerment to hold politicians accountable, or is it simply another plot to use brown bodies for gain? Like many other young Latinx voters, this election will be the first time that I vote, but it will be far from the last. Despite my many reservations

about a Clinton-Kaine administration, I truly believe the face of American politics is changing. I remain optimistic that one day, we will all be visible. It is not perfect, there is still more work to be done but for the future of our children, I hope they can experience a true democracy with liberty and justice for all marginalized people. The fight for change will not end on Nov. 8, 2016, regardless of the outcome. And as Tim Kaine said, “Creo que somos un país al que todos pertenecemos. Un país que elige el amor sobre el odio. Un país que construye sobre el progreso que hemos logrado, en vez de retroceder. Como decíamos en Honduras: hacia adelante, no atrás.”

Hector Arzate can be reached at el-lenador@humboldt.edu

Necesitamos un nuevo sistema

por James Figlioli

Brutalidad policial racista, encarcelamiento masivo, el salvaje asalto a los pueblos indígenas que protegen su tierra sagrada, el desgarramiento de familias por incursiones del ICE y la guerra contra el derecho de una mujer a controlar su propio cuerpo, son algunos de los graves problemas del país. La mayoría de nosotros en esta universidad progresista estaría de acuerdo en que estos son temas urgentes que enfrentamos hoy como un país. Sin embargo, muchos de nosotros no estamos de acuerdo en qué hacer con estos problemas. Muchos profesores y estudiantes, creemos que simplemente votar por Hillary Clinton o Jill Stein del Partido Verde sería una solución a la grave falta de justicia que la mayoría de la clase obrera, los desempleados y las personas de color enfrentan todos los días. Este, sin embargo, no es el caso; de hecho, la gente que exige sus derechos en las calles es la única que ha tenido éxito. Los liberales le reconocen a la Corte Suprema y al Presidente Obama el instituir en el país la

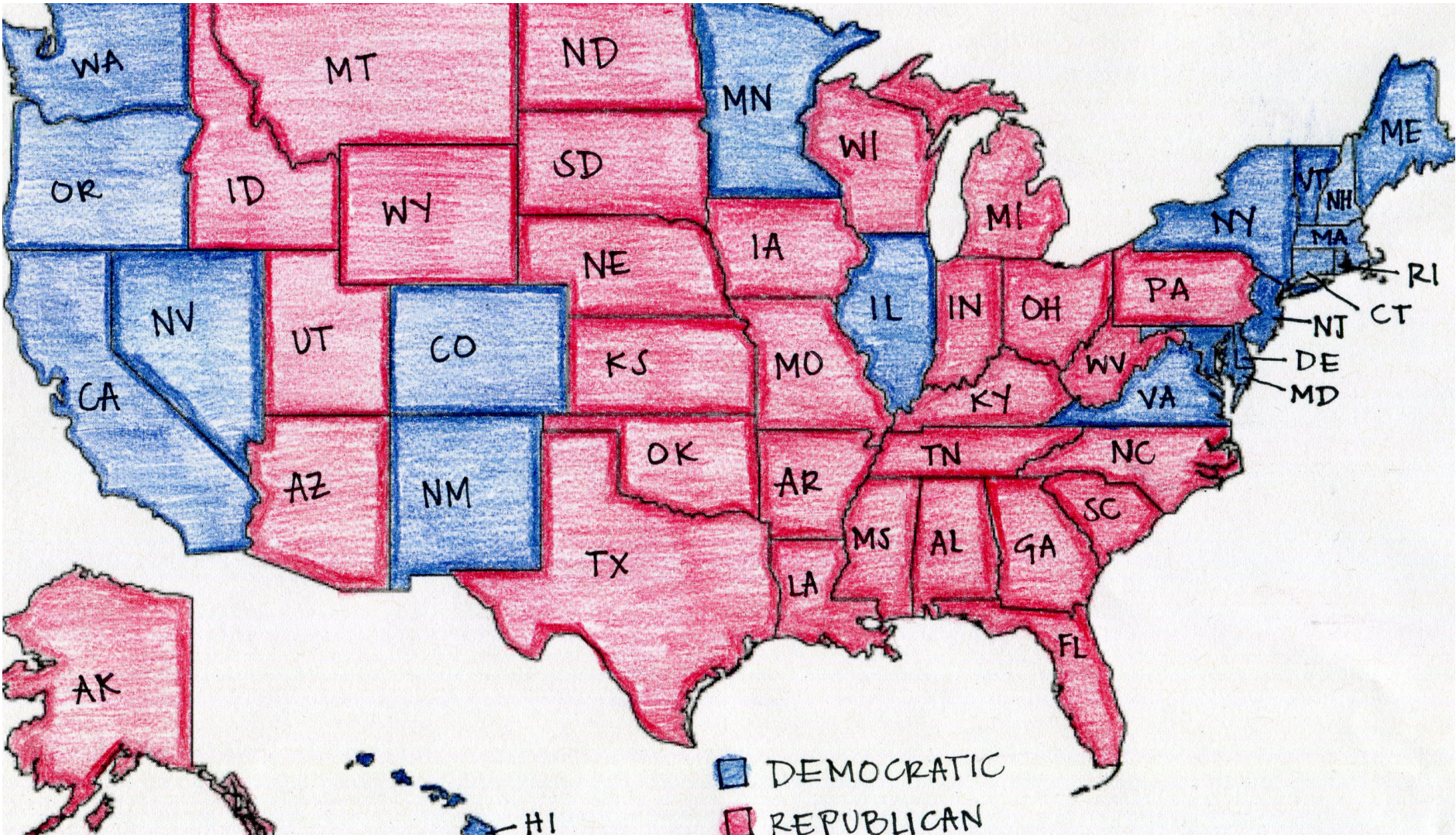
igualdad matrimonial. Aunque, si no fuera por la Revuelta Stonewall de 1969, en el que la mayoría de las personas trans de color se involucraron en la acción directa contra la policía para defender su comunidad, hoy no tendríamos tal ley. Es el temor del gobierno por el poder que la gente tiene, lo que instituye el cambio. La Ley Mulford de California de 1967 es un ejemplo claro. El Partido Pantera Negra de Autodefensa (BPP) ha empezado a formar unidades de protección de personas, utilizando patrullas armadas en sus vecindarios en Oakland para salvaguardar su comunidad contra la brutalidad policial desenfrenada. La Ley Mulford fue una respuesta directa al BPP y la primera ley que prohíbe el portar armas cargadas en California. Esta ley fue redactada por un miembro del Partido Republicano, que en otras circunstancias había estado oponiéndose al control de armas. Esto demuestra que cuando la gente se organiza y

se levanta, el gobierno responde ya sea con concesión o con represión. Sin embargo, tales concesiones pueden (y han sido) anuladas. A pesar de que una victoria como el derecho de las mujeres a elegir fue ganada con Roe v. Wade en 1973, las mujeres ahora están perdiendo el acceso a abortos legales seguros en muchas partes del país. Estado tras estado, el Congreso y el Senado, controlados por los republicanos, han estado revirtiendo las leves reformas progresistas que se han ganado a lo largo de los años. Por eso, simplemente votar por una candidata progresista como Jill Stein no crearía ningún progreso duradero ya que un republicano, o incluso una demócrata conservadora, como Hillary Clinton, revertirían las victorias legislativas que los movimientos progresistas habían ganado a través de la lucha. Si queremos poner fin a las guerras de agresión imperialista, cerrar la base de Guantánamo, encarcelar a los policías asesinos y asegurarnos

de que las mujeres ganen el mismo salario que los hombres por igual trabajo, entonces necesitamos un nuevo sistema. Las leyes escritas por ricos propietarios esclavistas hace más de 200 años, ya no nos representan hoy. Necesitamos una nueva constitución; una que haga que la salud universal, la educación superior, el buen trabajo y la equidad racial y de género sean derechos arraigados en la fundación de una nueva nación que no puede ser simplemente negada por aquellos que se benefician de business as usual. El sistema capitalista nunca lo permitiría, ya que la ganancia es su única preocupación. Necesitamos un nuevo movimiento; un movimiento hacia el socialismo. Por eso he votado por Gloria La Riva en las elecciones de este año. Ella no sólo fue la única persona de color en la votación presidencial en California, sino la única que sabe que necesitamos transformar radicalmente todo el sistema y no simplemente

instituir reformas que pueden y serán revertidas en el futuro. Un sistema socialista revolucionario que garantice las libertades personales y la soberanía de los pueblos indígenas es la única solución a este gobierno racista, misógino y transfóbico que ha perpetrado la injusticia, dentro y fuera del país, durante 240 años. Un sistema que en realidad estaría a la altura de las demandas de un gobierno de, por y para el pueblo y no sólo para la pequeña minoría de ricos mayoritariamente blancos que hacen las políticas que nos afectan a tod@s. Por falta de un término mejor, necesitamos un sistema que represente el “99%”. Especialmente para personas marginadas de color, obreros indocumentados, personas LGBTQ, estudiantes, adultos mayores y discapacitados. Para tod@s necesitamos una transformación socialista de la sociedad y no simplemente reformas “socialistas”.

James Figlioli can be reached at el-lenador@humboldt.edu



State’s decisions for the presidential election | Illustration by Charlotte deJoya

Opinión

Hispanic At A Hispanic Serving Institution

Efforts made by HSU towards the title of HSI

by Sarahi Apaez

Hispanic Serving Institutions: the institutions that work to diminish growing educational gaps based on race, ethnicity, origin and/or income that plague our nation.

Of the 8,503 HSU students who enrolled this fall, students who identified as Hispanic/Latinx accounted for 34 percent of enrollment, 2,869 students, more than quadruple the number that enrolled a decade prior. **Breaking down the label HSI**

The number of schools designated as Hispanic Serving Institutions has grown alongside the national Latinx population. With this shift in education, the federal government awards grants to universities that meet certain guidelines. Through the term Hispanic, which is created by government institutions for the purpose of making things easier, we get the HSI label.

At this moment over 60 percent of freshman at HSU are from low-income, first generation, or underrepresented groups. The number of HSU’s Hispanic and first generation has surged in the

last five years. HSIs are provided funding for five years and include two grants. One grant aims to increase the number of hispanic in our stem fields, the other grant fostering the general development of the college or university and expands opportunities for Hispanic students. Currently HSU has a student body that meets both of these requirements, so we are able to receive both of these grants. **HSU’s History as an HSI**

HSU has been labeled as an HSI since 2013. In 2014 HSU was granted \$1 million for the Forestry and Wildland Resources Department. The \$1 million grant was to be spread out in the span of four years toward a program called CAMBIO, created to help increase enrollment, retention and graduation for Hispanic students majoring in forestry or wildlife.

Now in 2016, HSU has gone through the HSI-eligible application process again and has been awarded a nearly \$4 million grant for the next five years. The application of the grant was made possible through

the work of professors Matt Johnson and Amy Sprowles of the wildlife and biology departments. The grant and talk of new resources will be very encouraging for current and incoming STEM majors, but I am hoping that the grant will extend beyond the STEM field and ensure the success for students in other programs, whose success towards graduation is just as important. The grant focuses on the Klamath Connection program which is open to all incoming freshmen that are majoring in zoology, wildlife, biology, fisheries, botany, environmental science and environmental resources and engineering. Students in the Klamath Connection program go on field trips to study the Arcata March, Klamath River, and Moonstone Beach. This is an example of a how being an HSI serves to strongly benefit students through the programs that are implemented with having that extra funding. But, a design flaw was found in the Klamath Connection program where students who are in

remedial math can't enroll into the program.

Are We Being Served?

During the Campus Dialogue on Race, Wendy Brown, professor at Sonoma State University, gave a workshop explaining how institutions can best serve its students using the flipped classroom model, using free high quality textbooks from OpenStax, and using Canvas Commons. In her own research on the way many hispanic serving institutions have not fully developed plans to truly become hispanic serving, Brown said, “Humboldt State stands out for developing and implementing broad goals and systematically planning for the success of the hispanic student population that they serve now and that they will continue to serve in greater numbers in the future.” HSU does stand out for providing us with POC speakers, POC events, and POC discussions and for not stopping student activism. But, it’s hard to think HSU understands the needs of people of color when students still feel that this institution is

not one made for them, as it has been demonstrated through the #PocNormHSU movement.

I love that HSU is focusing on recruiting students of color into STEM majors but the school gets the money whether or not these students graduate. Is it all just a recruitment strategy? Is it only intended for HSU to get the biggest bang for our buck?

HSU is still a predominantly and historically white institution that has failed to hire and invest in their faculty and staff of color. During a “HSI@HSU” student forum in 2014, students were asked “What else can HSU do to help keep you here?” and the first thing listed was more faculty of color and cultural competency training for faculty. It’s hard to think HSU isn’t just profiting and gaining accolades off the betrayal of Brown bodies when students are expressing discomfort in their environment.

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

Word On The Street

Do You Think Your Vote Matters?

by Annamarie Rodriguez



Tony Ramirez, 25, Psychology
“No. I did not vote for the elected representative in the district I reside in. Therefore, the elected representative who represents the district I live in would not have received a vote from me. Therefore, when the elected official votes for president my vote would not count/matter.”

Kayleigh Folden, 23, Biology
“Absolutely. Locally and nationally. Obama won North Carolina by a few votes in a couple different counties granting him the state and electoral college votes. In 2012 he lost those votes costing him the state.”



Ariana Hendren, 22, International Studies
“Yes. One of the strongest forms of political power our generation has is to get involved because as of right now the majority of people voting are the older generation, who don’t necessarily have the same views as us.”



Annamarie McKellips, 23, Rangeland Resource Management
“No. I do not vote because my vote does not matter. Because even if we do win the popular vote, the electoral college could vote otherwise. Voting locally, that’s where the involvement should be, that’s where you make change.”



Annamarie Rodriguez can be reached at el-lenador@humboldt.edu

Opinión

We Need A New System

by James Figlioli

Racist police brutality, mass incarceration, the savage assault on indigenous peoples protecting their sacred land, the tearing apart of families by ICE raids, the war on the right of a woman to control over her own body. Many of us at this progressive university would agree these are dire issues that face us today as a country. However, many of use disagree on what to do about them. A great deal of us, faculty and students included, believe simply voting for Hillary Clinton or Jill Stein of the Green Party will be a fix to the serious miscarriage of justice that mostly working class, unemployed and people of color face every day. This, however, is not the case. In fact, people demanding their rights in the streets is the only thing that has ever worked.

Liberals today champion the Supreme Court and President Obama for instituting federal marriage equality. However, if it was not for the Stonewall Uprising of 1969, in which mostly trans folks of color engaged police in direct action to defend their community, we would have no such provision today. It is the fear of the power of the people by the government that institutes change.

The 1967 Mulford Act of California is a perfect example. The Black Panther Party for Self-Defense (BPP) had just be-

gun forming people’s protection units utilizing armed patrols of their neighborhoods in Oakland to safeguard their community against rampant police brutality. The Mulford Act was in direct response to the BPP and the first law prohibiting open carry of loaded weapons in California. It was drafted by a member of the Republican Party which under other circumstances is opposed to gun control. This demonstrates that when the people organize and rise up, the government responds with either concession or repression. However, these concessions can and have been taken back.

Even though a victory for women’s right to choose was won with Roe v. Wade in 1973, women are losing access to safe legal abortions in many parts of the country. State by state the Republican controlled Congress and Senate have been rolling back the slight progressive reforms that have been won over the years. This is why simply voting for a progressive candidate like Jill Stein will not create any lasting progress. If she had won, a Republican or even a conservative Democrat, like Hillary Clinton, could be elected in four years and roll back the legislative victories progressive movements have gained through struggle. If we want to end the wars of imperialist aggression, close Guan-

tanamo Bay, incarcerate killer cops, and make sure women earn the same salary as men for equal work, then we need a new system.

Laws written by wealthy white slave owners more than 200 years ago no longer represent us today. We need a new constitution. One that makes universal healthcare, higher education, a good job and racial & gender equity all rights that are entrenched in the foundation of a new nation that cannot be simply taken away by those who benefit from “business as usual”. The system of capitalism will never allow this, as profit is its only concern. We need a new movement. A movement towards socialism. This is why I voted for Gloria La Riva in the 2016 election. She was not only the sole person of color on the presidential ballot in California but the only one who knows we need to radically transform the entire system and not simply institute reforms that can and will be taken back in the future.

A revolutionary socialist system that ensures personal liberties and the sovereignty of indigenous peoples, is the only solution to this racist, misogynistic, and transphobic government which has perpetrated injustice, domestically and abroad, for 240 years. A system that would actually live up to

the claims of a government “of, by, and for the people”. Not just for the small minority of mostly white millionaires and billionaires who make the policies that affect all of us. For lack of a better term, we need a system that represents the “99%”. Especially marginalized folks of

color, undocumented workers, LGBTQ people, students, older adults and the disabled. We need a socialist transformation of society, not just “socialist” reforms.

James Figlioli can be reached at el-lenador@humboldt.edu

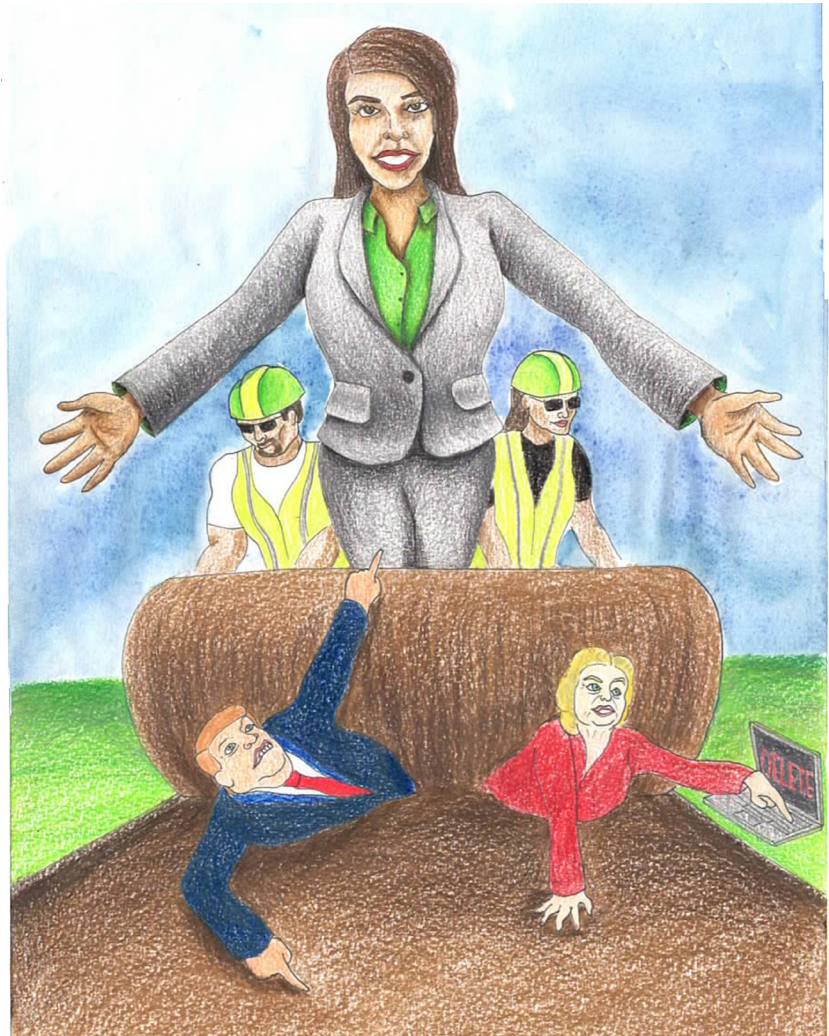


Illustration by Andrew Allen Castellon

‘Don’t let Donald Trump win’ A Political Analysis of YG

by Charlotte deJoya

Coming into the mainstream music scene with the bopper ‘Toot It and Boot It’, YG gets everyone shaking it to his beats. Listening to some of his other songs like ‘Left, Right’, ‘Why You Always Hating?’ and ‘Who Do You Love?’, who would have known that this Compton-based rapper would become an influence on our generation of voters during the 2016 presidential election?

Throughout this election, dozens of celebrities have talked and pleaded with the country about going to the polls and keeping the candidate most incapable of being the President of the United States out of the Oval Office.

Which candidate were these actresses, athletes, and musicians talking about?

The Republican presidential candidate: Donald Trump.

A self-proclaimed “business

genius”, who lost over \$600 million and went bankrupt after launching a hotel and casino resort company, according to CNN. A man with a fuzzy memory regarding his blatantly racist remarks posted on social media. A man who was recorded stating he was proud of his sexual predatory actions. A man who wants to build a wall between the U.S. and Mexico.

YG frequently takes to social media platforms to inform his over 3 million followers about police brutality and to spread awareness about violence in his hometown of Compton. Considering himself a “non-political” rapper, YG revealed to Billboard that he wasn’t really paying attention to the presidential election until young black protesters attended Trump rallies and were beat by police and Trump

supporters.

The last straw for the ‘Bickin Back Bein’ Bool’ rapper was Trump’s blatant disrespect for minorities.

“It got to a point where [Trump] was disrespectin’, saying shit that makes no sense,” YG said to Billboard during an interview. “[Me and Nip] finally hit the studio and did it.”

Other rappers like Nicki Minaj, Mac Miller, and The Game have followed in YG and Nipsey’s footsteps, freestyling and writing public letters to the Republican presidential candidate, also voicing distaste in his actions and principles.

This past June, YG and Nipsey Hussle, a fellow L.A. rapper, collaborated and released a song titled simply ‘FDT’ on YG’s ‘Still Brazy’ album. The song begins with YG

talking about his disgust for someone who he thought was ‘straight’, or a ‘good’ person. “Influential motherfucka when it came to the business,” YG said. “But now, since we know how you really feel, this is how we feel.”

YG and Nipsey begin to chant “Fuck Donald Trump” while a chill snare drum beat vibrates in the background. According to Nipsey in a Billboard interview, he and YG recorded and produced the track in under an hour.

Nipsey also has a verse in FDT, voicing his distaste for Trump’s stance on Mexicans as “illegal immigrants”, and also mentioned to Billboard that he grew up with Mexicans and that many of his fans are Mexican.

“It wouldn’t be the USA without Mexicans,” Nipsey raps. “Black love, brown pride

in the sets again.”

The song ends with two L.A.-based rappers yelling “I don’t like your ass” and “I really don’t like you” towards Trump.

The political slapper has been listened to over 11 million times on YouTube, and there have been countless videos made with people driving by Trump supporters and rallies blaring FDT from their cars.

YG also told Billboard about his hesitation on voicing his political opinion because of his experience being targeted by police and how those in power “don’t really do much”.

“...We got a platform and we’re going to use it for the right shit,” YG said. “I ain’t hesitating no more.”

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



A screenshot of YG from his and Nipsey Hussle’s music video ‘FDT’