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A smiling woman with dark curly hair and glasses, wearing a purple jacket, is leaning against a bookshelf filled with books. The background is a library with many bookshelves.

El leñador

Al servicio de la comunidad bilingüe del condado de Humboldt

**12 Days of Action
Held for Lawson
Murder**

PG 9

**Lorna Bryant to
Run for Arcata
City Council**

PG 10

**Slauson Girl
Speaks Again**

PG 15

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mayo 2018
Vol. 10 Edición 4

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Lorna Bryant stands among the CDs in KHSU's Studio D in the Theatre Arts Building on April 26.
Photo by Diego Linares

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Corrections: April Issue
Power on the Radio: Radio Bilingue was misreported as being broadcast on KHSU 90.1. It's official stations are 103.3 FM and 89.7 FM

El leñador

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MISSION STATEMENT

El Leñador is a bilingual newspaper produced by Humboldt State University students of underrepresented ethnic groups. Our core values drive us to become the voice of the Latinx community in Humboldt County. We are committed to keeping our community informed of the most important issues in actuality. Through our newspaper, we hope to inspire other minorities to share their stories and experiences, thus creating more social, political, and cultural diversity in local media.

El Leñador es un periódico bilingüe producido por estudiantes subrepresentados de Humboldt State University. Nuestros valores fundamentales, como la integridad y la honestidad, nos llevan a buscar la voz de la comunidad latinx en el condado de Humboldt. Estamos comprometidos con mantener a nuestra comunidad informada de los eventos más importantes en actualidad. A través de nuestro periódico, esperamos inspirar a otras minorías para que publiquen un periódico propio y original, creando así más diversidad social, política, y cultural en la prensa local.



Si desea promocionar su negocio o sus servicios profesionales en El Leñador, por favor contactese con nosotros al el-lenador@humboldt.edu.

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Letter from the Editor

As a news publication, we strive to write and publish stories that reflect the world we live in. Unfortunately, not all of our articles will put a smile on our face or make us laugh.

For some of us, being a person of color at Humboldt State University (HSU) and in Humboldt County is not always the most joyful experience. Often times, we feel alone or antagonized by our community. We've seen what racism and hatred looks like up here. You could imagine that writing news that reflects our lived experiences is just as painful as the experience of living them.

But we are more than just the hardships we face, and our stories are more than just the pain we feel. In all my time at HSU, there is no greater joy or sense of pride that I have ever felt than being a part of this beautiful newspaper, *El Leñador*. To be able to write about the stories that are often untold is truly humbling. To be able to read these stories is more than inspiring. That pride and joy is something that I will always carry with me.

We recently had our 5-year anniversary since beginning as an insert in *The Lumberjack*. For us, it was an opportunity to break bread with our community and celebrate how far we've come in such a short amount of time. But more than that, it was a chance for us to just have fun. For me, there's no better way to describe all the facets of who we are and what we do, than that.

Please take some time to read through our last issue of the semester



El Leñador staff members and faculty advisor, Andrea Juarez, pose for a photo after their Anniversary Celebration on April 19. | photo by Sam Armanino

and learn how Lorna Bryant is running for Arcata City Council. Find out how Native students hand make their sashes and celebrate the milestone of graduation. Learn a thing or two about DNA analysis. See how students are fighting for Justice for Josiah or how the Eureka NAACP is calling out HSU. This issue is dedicated to everyone who is making a positive impact in our

community. This issue is dedicated to the bilingual community and all underrepresented people in Humboldt County.

Thank you to the best staff, writers, translators, graphic designers, photographers and illustrators who work hard to create this newspaper. Thank you to the best advisor anyone could ever ask for. And thank you to the

best community for trusting us to tell your stories and for making each issue so worth it.

Con Safos,

Héctor Alejandro Arzate

Special message to our readers

The El Leñador staff would like to thank all those who were in attendance at our 5-Year Anniversary Celebration on April 19. Our celebration was an effort to break bread with our community and we could not be happier and appreciative of the love and support we received. We would also like to thank those who made the evening possible such as our faculty Advisor Andrea Juarez, Clubs and Activities, the MultiCultural Center, the LCAE, Joyce Corpuz, Amanda Staack, the HSU Journalism Department, HSU Housing and Dining and our sponsor Los Bagels. Thank you!

Report of ICE Activity in Bayside Raises Concern

by Héctor Arzate

A report of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents in Humboldt County has raised concerns throughout the community after a statement was released by the True North Organizing Network, a local community organization based in the North Coast.

On April 18, the Humboldt County Rapid Response Hotline, a community led effort that documents reports of ICE activity and offers legal resources and information, received a phone call from the United Farm Workers (UFW) that a Bayside resident had been arrested by federal agents earlier that morning.

According to a press release, the UFW dispatcher was alerted by the spouse of the detainee that they were en route to a detention facility in San Francisco. At the time the statement was released, the hotline was advised by the UFW to be alert for other ICE activities in the area. The hotline was also seeking further information about the incident and shared that it was prepared to respond in the event of any other incidents.

Brenda Urueta, coastal Humboldt community organizer for True North, shared that it was necessary to send the report after hearing rumors from concerned community members.

“Normally, we wouldn’t go to the media with reports from our Rapid Response [Hotline],” Urueta said. “If there’s a family, we would ask for their permission but people were concerned, and we wanted to share what we knew.”

However, confirming the report and locating the detained individual has been difficult for True North, despite phone calls to the UFW and the Humboldt County Sheriff’s Office.

“I’ve made several phone calls to UFW,” Urueta said. “I haven’t received a call back. I contacted the

“If there’s a family, we would ask for their permission but people were concerned, and we wanted to share what we knew.”

sheriff’s office and they made calls to ICE in San Francisco and Redding. They couldn’t confirm any activity or where [the detainee] is.”

Despite whispers of ICE and Department of Homeland Security sightings throughout Humboldt County the past few months, there has not been much to substantiate most reports of their activity in the area. Still, the purpose of the hotline has always been to document any activity and provide helpful information to concerned members of the community.



Fortuna community members participating in Marcha Para El Dia Sin Los Mexicanos on February 08, 2017. | photo by Briana Yah-Diaz

Reportes de ICE en Bayside crea preocupaciones

por Héctor Arzate

traducido por Anthony Alonzo-Pereira

Reportes de la presencia del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas en el condado de Humboldt ha causado preocupaciones a través de la comunidad después que un comunicado de prensa por True North Organizing Network, una organización comunitaria basada en la costa del norte.

El 18 de abril, Humboldt County Rapid Response Hotline, un esfuerzo comunitario que documenta reportes de actividad del Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas y ofrece recursos legales y información, recibió un reporte de de la Unión de Campesinos (UFW) que un residente de Bayside fue arrestado por agentes federales esa mañana.

De acuerdo a un comunicado de prensa, el despachador de la UFW fue alertado por la esposa del detenido a que iban en camino a un centro de detención en San Francisco. Cuando fue realizado el comunicado de prensa, UFW aconsejó estar al pendiente de otras actividades de ICE en el área. La línea directa buscaba mas información

sobre el incidente y compartió que estaban preparados para responder en el evento de otros incidentes.

“Si hay familia, pediríamos su permiso pero había gente preocupada. Y queríamos compartir lo que sabíamos.”

Brenda Urueta, organizadora comunitaria de la costa del Humboldt para True North, compartió que fue necesario enviar el reporte después de escuchar rumores de residentes preocupados.

“Normalmente, no iríamos a los medios con reportes de nuestra Rapid Response [Línea directa],” dijo Urueta. “Si hay familia, pediríamos su permiso pero había gente preocupada. Y queríamos compartir lo que sabíamos.”

Sin embargo ha sido difícil confirmar el reporte y localizar el individuo para True North, a pesar de hacer varias llamadas al UFW y a la oficina del sheriff del condado de Humboldt.

“He hecho varias llamadas al UFW,” dijo Urueta. “No he recibido respuesta. He contactado a la oficina del sheriff y ellos hicieron llamadas a ICE en San Francisco y Redding. No pudieron confirmar ninguna actividad ni donde se encuentra el detenido.”

A pesar de rumores de la presencia de ICE y Department of Homeland Security a través del condado los últimos meses, no han habido muchas pruebas para confirmar actividad en el área. Aún, el propósito de la línea directa siempre ha sido documentar cualquier actividad y proveer información importante a residentes preocupados.

Eureka NAACP asks HSU to support students of color or stop recruitment

by Héctor Arzate

In an April 25 press release, the local Eureka NAACP branch has called out Humboldt State University (HSU) and its admissions team for not being transparent enough or providing adequate support for its students of color.

The statement outlined how students of color have expressed their concerns, including overt racism in the community and systemic racism from housing and employment opportunities, to the local chapter. The statement also added that many students feel that both the 2001 unsolved murder of Corey S. Clark and 2017 murder of David Josiah Lawson were racialized and a lack of justice for both students has left students afraid.

In the wake of David Josiah Lawson's murder on April 15, 2017, many people of color throughout Humboldt County and HSU have expressed their concerns for their safety, both at walks outs and during the various community vigils and dialogues.

In a March 26 email following a visit by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Senior College and University Commission team, university president Lisa Rossbacher relayed some of the recommendations made to HSU.

“The admission efforts need to incorporate more information about the challenges, as well as the opportunities, for students considering HSU (i.e., present the realities of limited housing, safety concerns, racism in the community, etc.).”

The press release argues that the recruitment process did not prepare students for the reality of adversity in Humboldt County, and as a result, HSU must accept

responsibility for the negative impact of recruiting students from minority-majority locations and advertising the university for its social justice. Moreover, HSU must implement changes immediately, which were mapped out in the statement as follows:

“The Eureka NAACP requests of Humboldt State University that:

- HSU honor the experiences of students of color by confronting its institutional racism and actively engaging with the campus community, the City of Arcata and the surrounding communities in speaking to the racism that students experience.
- HSU ensure that support is in place so that students of color thrive in this community.
- HSU provide budget for permanent staff and student support for the Cultural Centers for Academic Excellence
- Transparency concerning the climate of racism in Humboldt County be the top priority in recruiting and marketing
- HSU do more to serve our diverse population of students with appropriate funding and staffing for the programs that serve them
- HSU prioritize hiring more faculty of color and training current faculty and staff in “cultural competency”

Unless the university makes these changes, the NAACP has asked that HSU stop the recruitment of minority-majority students and forgo the social and cultural diversity they bring, as well as the revenue they represent, to the area.

Eureka NAACP le pide a HSU que apoye a los estudiantes de color o detenga el reclutamiento

por Héctor Arzate

traducido por El Leñador Staff

En un comunicado de prensa del 25 de abril, la sucursal local de NAACP de Eureka ha llamado a Humboldt State University (HSU) y su equipo de admisiones por no ser lo suficientemente transparentes o por brindar un apoyo adecuado para sus estudiantes de color.

La declaración describió cómo los estudiantes de color han expresado sus preocupaciones, incluido el racismo manifiesto en la comunidad y el racismo sistémico de las oportunidades de vivienda y empleo, al capítulo local. La declaración también agrega que muchos estudiantes sienten por el asesinato no resuelto de 2001 de Corey S. Clark como el asesinato de David Josiah Lawson en 2017 fueron racializados y la falta de justicia para ambos estudiantes.

En un correo electrónico del 26 de marzo luego de una visita del equipo Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Senior College and University Commission team, la presidenta de la universidad Lisa Rossbacher transmitió algunas de las recomendaciones hechas a HSU.

“Los esfuerzos de admisión deben incorporar más información sobre los desafíos, así como las oportunidades, para los estudiantes que consideran HSU (es decir, presentar las realidades de la vivienda limitada, las preocupaciones de seguridad, el racismo en la comunidad, etc.)”

El comunicado de prensa argumenta que el proceso de reclutamiento no preparó a los estudiantes para la realidad de la adversidad en el Condado de Humboldt, y como resultado, HSU debe aceptar la responsabilidad por el impacto negativo de reclutar estudiantes de localidades de mayoría minoritaria y publicitar

la universidad por su justicia social. Además, HSU debe implementar cambios de forma inmediata, que se mapearon en la declaración de la siguiente manera:

“El Eureka NAACP solicita a la Humboldt State University que:

- HSU honra las experiencias de los estudiantes de color confrontando su racismo institucional y participando activamente con la comunidad del campus, la ciudad de Arcata y las comunidades aledañas al hablar sobre el racismo que experimentan los estudiantes.
- HSU asegura que haya apoyo para que los estudiantes de color prosperen en esta comunidad.
- HSU proporciona presupuesto para personal permanente y apoyo estudiantil para Cultural Centers for Academic Excellence
- La transparencia con respecto al clima de racismo en el Condado de Humboldt es la principal prioridad en el reclutamiento y la comercialización
- HSU hace más para servir a nuestra diversa población de estudiantes con fondos y personal adecuados para los programas que les sirven
- HSU prioriza la contratación de más facultativos de color y la capacitación de los profesores actuales y el personal en “competencia cultural”

A menos que la universidad haga estos cambios, NAACP ha pedido que HSU detenga el reclutamiento de estudiantes de mayoría minoritaria y renuncie a la diversidad social y cultural que aportan, así como a los ingresos que representan, en el área.

Signed, Sealed, Delivered

Centro del Pueblo collects more than 5,000 county signatures

by Jose Herrera



Volunteers of Centro del Pueblo grab tags at a meeting in Eureka, California on April 7. Photo by Jose Herrera



Members of Centro del Pueblo circle-up and discuss how to divide groups during the train-the-trainer meeting on April 7 in Eureka, California. | photo by Jose Herrera

As of April 30, Eureka-based community organization Centro del Pueblo and its allies have collected more than 5,564 signatures to submit the Sanctuary Ordinance to the Humboldt County Office of Elections after months of tabling, organizing and attending community events for the initiative.

Renee Saucedo, one of the members that helped start Centro del Pueblo, said that she has mixed feelings as they make their way toward their deadline. The group set Monday, May 7 as their deadline to finalize and prepare paperwork to send to the county.

“I’m feeling exhilarated because there’s so much momentum and people are being so supportive and collecting the signatures that we need,” Saucedo said. “At the same time, I’m feeling nervous still. I’m concerned about us qualifying to get this law on the ballot. Also, what’s to come even if we do because we have received push back.”

Centro del Pueblo, a non-profit, strives to unite Humboldt County and advocate for Latinx residents. One of their goals for 2018 is to pass a sanctuary law that would protect all residents in the community, specifically undocumented people.

According to the organization’s description of the ordinance, it would prohibit the use of county funds to enforce federal immigration laws and prohibit local

authorities from assisting Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) without a government-issued warrant.

Saucedo said that county officials have come up to her saying they were preparing to read the initiative.

“What it means to me is that the same people who thought that they could ignore us a few months ago are now saying that we have power to make change,” Saucedo said.

April Workshop

On Saturday, April 7, the organization led a training event for members and volunteers at the United Congressional Christian Church from noon to 2 p.m. The workshop was created to celebrate the group’s efforts since February and encourage everyone through the final weeks of April.

Attorney and honorary member Eric Kirk began participating with Centro del Pueblo after seeing members Saucedo and Emely Velez in action at a county board meeting last summer. Kirk helped draft the sanctuary proposal and has collected signatures.

Kirk said that the ordinance would be the first in the state to pass by a ballot measure. In the U.S. there are approximately 300 sanctuary jurisdictions.

“I have not found one anywhere else in the country that has been passed by a ballot measure,”

Kirk said. “I feel that it will send a stronger message when it’s coming from the people. It’s an indication that Humboldt County acknowledges that it’s changing and embraces that change.”

Sanctuary for All

The journey for the organization and their allies has been rocky. Velez said that they initially started pretty late in the process of signature gathering, so they had some issues with time and organizing those who wanted to help.

However, as more signatures came in through February and March, the group became more empowered to accomplish their goal. In late March they hit the 3,000 mark.

“There’s 3,000 people in this county who are willing to sign this signature for us,” Velez said. “It shows that there is a community behind it. We just have to find them. We have to reach them and we have to be accessible to them.”

According to Velez, the initiative and the work they’ve done for months is something that goes beyond the group. Their desire get the initiative on the ballot opened up possibilities with the community, other organizations and allies.

“It’s not in the hands of just you, it’s in the hands of everybody,” Velez said.

Firmado y Sellado

Centro del Pueblo Recauda mas de 5,000 Firmas

por Jose Herrera

traducido por Anthony Alonzo-Pereira

Desde hace el 30 de abril, la organización comunitaria Centro del Pueblo y sus aliados han recaudado más de 5,564 firmas para someter la ordenanza de santuario a la oficina de elecciones del condado Humboldt después de meses de organizar y atender eventos comunitarios para la iniciativa.

Renee Saucedo, una de los miembros que ayudó crear el Centro del Pueblo, tiene sus dudas mientras se asoma el 30 de abril. El grupo puso el 7 de mayo para la fecha límite para finalizar y preparar el papeleo para enviarlo al condado.

“Me siento regocijada porque hay tanto momento y la gente está apoyando y recolectando las firmas que necesitamos,” dijo Saucedo. “A la misma vez, me siento nerviosa. Estoy preocupada si vamos a calificar para poner la ley en la papeleta. También que vendrá si calificamos porque hemos recibido resistencia.”

Centro del Pueblo, una organización sin fines de lucro, trabaja para unir al condado de Humboldt y defender residentes Latinx. Una de sus metas para el 2018 el pasar una ley de santuario que protegería a todo residente en la comunidad, específicamente a gente indocumentada.

De acuerdo a la descripción de la ordenanza, prohibiría el uso de fondos del condado para hacer cumplir

leyes migratorias y prohibiría que las autoridades locales asistieran al Servicio de Inmigración y Control de Aduanas (ICE) sin una orden del gobierno.

Saucedo dijo que oficiales del condado le han comentado que estaban preparando para leer la iniciativa.

“Lo que esto me dice es que la misma gente que pensó poder ignorarnos hace unos meses ahora nos están diciendo que tenemos el poder de realizar cambios,” dijo Saucedo.

Taller en abril

El sábado, 7 de abril, la organización condujo un entrenamiento para miembros y voluntarios en la United Congressional Christian Church del medio día a las 2 p.m. El taller fue creado para celebrar los esfuerzos del grupo y para animar a todos a través de las últimas semanas de abril.

Abogado y miembro honorario Eric Kirk comenzó a participar con el Centro del Pueblo luego de ver a miembros Saucedo y Emely Velez en acción en una junta de el condado durante el verano pasado. Kirk ayudó a preparar la propuesta de santuario y ha recolectado firmas.

Kirk dijo que la ordenanza sería la primera en el estado que pase por iniciativa. En los Estados Unidos existen aproximadamente 300 jurisdicciones de santuario.

“No he encontrado ninguna en otros lugares del país donde ha pasado por iniciativa,” dijo Kirk. “Siento que va a enviar un mensaje más fuerte cuando viene de la gente. Es una indicación de que el condado de Humboldt reconoce que está cambiando y acepta los cambios.”

Santuario para todos

El camino no ha sido fácil para la organización y sus aliados. Velez dijo que comenzaron algo tarde el proceso de recaudar firmas, y por eso tuvieron problemas organizando a los voluntarios.

Sin embargo, cuando llegaron mas firmas en febrero y en marzo, el grupo se sintió apoderado para cumplir su meta. A fines de marzo llegaron a 3,000

firmas.

“Hay 3,000 personas en este condado que están dispuestos a dar esta firma,” dijo Velez. “Nos muestra que la comunidad lo apoya. Solamente tenemos que encontrarlos. Los tenemos que encontrar y tenemos que ser accesible a ellos.”

Según Velez, la iniciativa y el

trabajo que han hecho por meses es algo que va más allá del grupo. Las ganas de poner la iniciativa en la papeleta crearon posibilidades con la comunidad, otras organizaciones y otros aliados.

“No está solamente en sus manos, esta en las manos de todos,” dijo Velez.



Renee Saucedo actualiza a los miembros del Centro del Pueblo sobre la ordenanza del santuario en su reunión del 7 de abril en Eureka, California. | foto de Jose Herrera



“Sancutuario para todos!” | Ilustración por Nadia Bueno-Torres

“Lo que esto me dice es que la misma gente que pensó poder ignorarnos hace unos meses ahora nos están diciendo que tenemos el poder de realizar cambios,” dijo Saucedo.

A Small, Molecular, Look into DNA

Examining clues left behind

by Iridian Casarez

He grabs the cotton swab from the rape kit that was sent to his lab. Carefully, he cuts a piece of the swab off to purify and clean the deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA) in order to analyze it. He uses enzymes to break it down until he's left with raw DNA, heating and cooling the DNA until he makes various copies of it. He then has a genetic profile.

"Every living organism has DNA," Gary Harmor, a forensic serologist said. "It's a blueprint for organisms."

Each strand of DNA is made up of various genetic markers, which then creates a specific genetic profile. To be as specific as possible, Harmor and his lab looks at 20 markers in genetic profiles.

"We get a genetic profile from there," Harmor said. "Because it's a rape case with no suspect, it's going into the system."

Harmor is the executive director and chief forensic serologist at The Serological Research Institute (SERI) in Richmond, California. He has been working with forensic biological

"98 percent of the time you'll find DNA from objects, it might not always be helpful or you might not be able to interpret the DNA but it's there," Harmor said. "State labs do not always vigorously swab murder weapons, but we do."

research markers since 1978 and forensic DNA testing since 1990.

SERI analyzes DNA from rape kits, car door handles, murder weapons, bite marks, and sometimes from murder victims. SERI works with

public defenders offices, civil suits, and is contracted with different police departments throughout California. SERI works to analyze DNA from homicides, rapes, and civil suits.

When Harmor's lab analyzes any murder weapon, they swab vigorously for any trace of DNA. If they are analyzing DNA from a knife, they make sure to swab into the grooves and handle.

"98 percent of the time you'll find DNA from objects, it might not always be helpful or you might not be able to interpret the DNA but it's there," Harmor said. "State labs do not always vigorously swab murder weapons, but we do."

DNA analysis can take time and often take months to analyze. Harmor says that the fastest SERI can analyze DNA is two days, but there are machines that can work to analyze DNA in 90 minutes, which of course can cost more.

"We try a lot harder than the government does to find DNA," Harmor said. "And we have a really great success rate."

After Harmor finishes the DNA analysis of a specific case and has a genetic profile, he gives the information to case detectives who then give their suspect a confirmation swab to confirm that the DNA found was that of the perpetrator.

In a rape case with no suspect, the genetic profile from the DNA gets put into a national database, the Combined DNA Index System (CODIS). CODIS is an FBI database with various aspects. It can be used for locating missing people or for comparing DNA samples to convicted offenders or unknown samples that can be linked to other unknown profiles.

DNA analysis in court cases

DNA is often used in murder cases said Neal Sanders, a criminal defense attorney in Eureka. Sanders became a criminal defense lawyer in 1979 and continues to practice law.

"We often see DNA

analysis used in serious assaults," Sanders said. "It's also a very expensive process."

Once a case is appointed to a prosecutor it is up to the prosecutor to get DNA analyzed. It takes time to retrieve DNA, once the DNA analysis is retrieved it will be sent to the defense council. The defense council will then choose to send court ordered obtained sample to their retained expert to further analyze the DNA.

Sanders said that it can take up to two to three weeks to obtain the results from the expert.

Forensic DNA analysis can cost up to \$6,000. In some cases, if public defenders cannot find DNA analysis the court will assist.

Sanders says that it is rare for cases to be made with DNA. Usually, cases are made by witnesses and confessions. DNA is often used for cold cases.

DNA in Josiah Lawson Case

Arcata Police Department found a 10 inch knife the night that David Josiah Lawson was stabbed to death, that has now been confirmed as the murder weapon by the Lost Coast Outpost in an interview with Charmaine Lawson's attorney, Shelley Mack.

Mack told the Lost Coast Outpost that various DNA contributors were found on the knife, including Lawson and Kyle Zoellner, who was originally arrested for Lawson's murder, and one other DNA contributor who has yet to be identified.

Mack said the evidence is now with the State Department of Justice waiting to separate the DNA to analyze each profile. She also said that the Department of Justice prioritizes cases with suspects in custody so the results will come later than expected.



"Creative Commons Magnifying Glass" | Courtesy of Creative Commons



12 Days of Action Held for Lawson Murder

"Dear community members of Arcata, we the friends of Josiah ask you to stand in solidarity"

by Sarahi Apaez

Rallied under umbrellas in the pouring rain, Humboldt State University (HSU) students could be heard shouting "Justice for Josiah" at the top of their lungs in the UC Quad.

On Thursday, April 5, HSU students held a rally and walkout in the days leading up to the one-year anniversary of the murder of David Josiah Lawson, who was slain at an off-campus party on April 15, 2017. Today, his case remains unsolved with no suspect in custody.

"It's just so sad. He was fucking 19 years old and no one deserves that. No one deserves that," said Daniel Segura, a critical race gender and sexuality studies major, said as a part of the collective of students who hope to bring national attention to Lawson's case.

Upward of 80 students stood in the rain to listen and ask speakers what they could do to push the case towards justice. Students are bringing attention to Lawson's case through their "12 days of action." Each day of action is a representation of each month that Lawson's murder has gone unsolved.

"We are really trying to get his name out there and put on a national platform because it's really for [Lawson's mother, Charmaine]," Segura said. "That's really

who it's for."

Barbara Singleton, a student at HSU, reminded students that their power is in numbers and in the energy they bring to these walkouts.

"You didn't have to know him in order to show up," Singleton said.

Standing on the second floor of the UC Quad with a megaphone in her hand, Singleton asked for students' permission to play the song "Justice for Josiah (RIP)" by Oboy Flocka from her iPhone. The crowd gave a unanimous "yes."

After the song was over, Singleton shared her favorite lyric: "This brother went to college instead of hugging that block, he went to get his knowledge instead of showing them shots. Now he gone. For Josiah, man, we gotta play this song."

"If this was one of you guys, I would be doing the same thing," Singleton said from the megaphone. "The fact of the matter is, he was a student and he was murdered. That could have been one of us, and we would still receive no justice."

Alex Enyedi, the Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, was standing in the quad listening to students when they asked him how he felt about



Family and friends gather to celebrate the life of David Josiah Lawson on the one year anniversary of his death. | photo by Sarahi Apaez

Lawson's murder and the lack of safety students feel in their community as a result.

"I believe with all of my heart in Justice for Josiah," Enyedi said. "There is no reason that any parent should fear of sending their child to university or any school and that they won't come home... I stand in solidarity. I feel your pain and I understand your frustration."

Miguel Perez Guzman was one of the many students who dropped what they were doing to stand in solidarity with those affected by Lawson's death.

"Coming from North East L.A., I understand and am aware of the amount of violence that can exist within a community," Guzman said. "Up here it was assault and the police helped facilitate the murderer getting away,"

Creators of the Justice for Josiah movement are using their social media platforms and voices to remind the community to educate themselves on the details of the case.

"At first I didn't see Josiah's murder as such a big issue, with all due respect. I thought others would handle it, shit happens all the time back home," Guzman said. "But when I started to see the whole facts about the case, it angers me."

These advocates for justice have expressed through flyers and pamphlets the many questions that remain unanswered in Lawson's case, including

the following: "Whose fingerprint were found on the knife? Do they belong to Officer Mckenzie who couldn't remember if he wore gloves or not when he collected evidence? When are the Arcata Police Department and University Police along with the Arcata ambulance going to be held accountable for the delayed medical attention that Josiah received?"

According to Singleton, these flyers will continue to be passed out at the Arcata Plaza Farmers Market. The 12 days include a multitude of events including a protest on Saturday April 14 which will lead into a vigil the next day. Singleton reassures community members that the Justice for Josiah movement is a peaceful movement.

"We are not violent, we do not condone any vandalism, any city mark up or any community destroying," Singleton said.

Every month students and Lawson's family hold a vigil in Arcata in honor of Lawson, with the latest one on April 15, which was held at the D St. Community Center.

Tickets to this event were sold at the African American Center for Academic Excellence (AACAE). All proceeds are to go toward legal funds for the Lawson family to hire private investigators and lawyers.



HSU students participated in a stand in protest outside Siemens Hall to start the 12 Days of Action to honor and demand justice for David Josiah Lawson. | photo by Mikaylah Rivas

Lorna Bryant to Run for Arcata City Council

by Sinhai Dorantes

The silver “On Air” box turns off in KHSU’s poster-filled Studio A as Lorna Bryant, also known as L Boogie, finishes announcing her Prince tribute for the R&B and Soul show “The Place,” which plays on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m.

“So you got to take the time and listen to this song! I love it!” Bryant said.

The 80s beat of the song “If A Girl Calls (Don’t Hang Up)” begins and Bryant follows with her head bob. The song starts with a woman’s voice: “Hello, this is Vanity, is Jimmy home?” Prince: “Yeah, but he is taking a shower.”

“So that’s Prince!,” Bryant said with a big smile on her face. The song continues with the woman’s voice: “Oh I see, did he just take out the trash?”

Lorna replies in sync with her Prince imitation, “No! That’s something he use to do, but tonight he is taking out me!”

Bryant’s sincere love for Prince is comparable to her genuine love of people and her community, which is why she has decided to run for city council for the upcoming term.

Plans for City Council

“I am running for city council,” Bryant said. “I moved to Arcata in September of last year and the day that I picked up my keys from my house I went to an Arcata City Council meeting, and it was like my true ‘aha’ moment.”

Bryant thought of running for city council in 2020 but was convinced to run this year during her trip to the California Democratic Convention in February, where she listened to many speakers including California Senator Kamala Harris.

“I went to the African American Caucus session at the convention and one of those speakers was Auntie Maxine, also known as Maxine Waters,” Bryant said. “She gave a bleak image of our nation if we didn’t start fighting

back and if we didn’t start exercising our right to vote and becoming involved in civic engagement, and that’s when I realized it was important for me to run now and not wait until 2020.”

The applications for City Council will be available on July 16, and the deadline to submit the application along with 20 to 30 signatures from valid registered Arcata voters is August 10.

“Between now and July 16 I will seek out my community and learn,” Bryant said. “I’m still a new Arcata resident, but I have worked in this community for many years and I want to know what is important or pressing to the community, and what I can do as a potential council member.”

She also plans to hire a campaign manager in June or July. Election day is on November 6, just three days before Lorna’s 50th birthday.

A 32-year-long relationship with the community

At age 17, Bryant moved to Humboldt County from her home in the Crenshaw District of Los Angeles to attend Humboldt State University. She decided to apply to HSU since it was far enough to feel out of state without her having to pay out of state fees.

“I dropped out of school here in 1988 and moved back home to LA for a short time,” Bryant said. “I then decided I wanted to go to an HBCU, Historically Black College/University, so I transferred to Jackson State in Mississippi and stayed there all of 3 months because Humboldt was in my blood too much.”

Bryant returned to HSU in 2007 as a journalism student primarily focused on radio and graduated in 2010.

“I’ve always had an interest in radio and music,” Bryant said. “My mom said I talked too much as a child and I always thought of ways that I could parlay that into something tangible in my adult life and career.”

In 2009, Lorna was approached for



Lorna Bryant is an HSU alumnus who’s planning on taking her talent to the political field. Photo by Diego Linares



Lorna Bryant speaking as MC during the one-year anniversary Celebration of Life held for David Josiah Lawson at the D St. Community Center on April 15. | photo by Sarahi Apaez



KHSU host and office manager Lorna Bryant stands among the vinyl records and CDs outside the KHSU recording studios in the Theatre Arts Building on April 26. | photo by Diego Linares

a part-time office manager position at KHSU, which she accepted and has now progressed into a full-time position.

Community roles & activism

Throughout the years, Bryant has acquired many responsibilities within the community. She is currently on the NAACP Eureka Branch committee, the board for the Humboldt Center for Constitutional Rights, the Community Health Advisory Board at Mad River Hospital, and the board for the Eureka Seventh-Day Adventist Church, among many other roles.

Bryant began to use her KHSU platform to bring up relevant topics of concern when she became a rotational host for the Thursday Night Talk show, which is every Thursday from 7 to 8 p.m.

"In June of 2016 there was a rash of police-involved shootings of African American men, to the point that it was at a crisis level as far as I was concerned," Bryant said. "I did a show about those shootings and it began the spark of activism in me and as time progressed I became more involved in

activism."

The Program and Operations director for KHSU, Katie Whiteside has known Bryant since she was a student in the KHSU experience class and has seen her progress over the years.

"Her experience is broad and her knowledge is deep which benefits all of us, both listeners and the staff at KHSU," Whiteside said. "She wants to serve the community just like she wants to serve KHSU by being a public servant."

Last year's murder of David Josiah Lawson also impacted Bryant's desire to provide public service to the community.

"...I want to know what is important or pressing to the community and what I can do as a potential council member."

"I have always hated the way the media depicts victims of color. They are often criminalized in the media, and I did not want to see that occur in our local community and in our local media," Bryant said. "I began doing things on the air related to his murder and I think that thrust me even further into activism mode, unbeknownst to me."

Although she has never viewed herself as an activist, concerns for her family and community have motivated her to speak up.

"My son moved to Arcata in April of last year and immediately he was faced with taunting and racial slurs when he moved to Arcata, and that became a concern," Bryant said. "My granddaughter is biracial and I have some concerns about her, and I think I became far more hypervigilant and cognizant of the world around me on how it presented itself and how I was viewed in it."

"The Connector"

Bryant's large connections with

not only the community but the university as well, gives her insight on the community and has dubbed her the nickname "The Connector."

"I like being referred to as 'The Connector,' connecting people and trying to solve problems. That's what I will bring to the table," Bryant said. "If I can't do it, if I don't have the answer, I am not going to write it off by simply saying 'I don't have the answer,' I'm going to try to find a solution or the answer from someone else."

University Chief of Police and Vice President of the Eureka Chapter of the NAACP, Donn Peterson, works with Bryant on a regular basis and appreciates the journalistic perspective that she brings to the organization.

"I think she is going to be a great council person because of her spirit. She's got a genuine caring, giving, serving spirit, and her spirit has called her to do this," Peterson said. "I'm really excited for Arcata. I think she is going to be amazing and I can't wait to vote for her!"

What the Funds?

Cultural graduations receive money late

by Cassaundra Caudillo

Tassels and caps will soon be tossed in the air amongst the sea of relieved students and proud parents.

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness estimates that 2,242 Humboldt State University students will graduate with a bachelor’s degree, 963 of which are students of color (43 percent); 382 students will receive their master’s degrees and credentials, 112 of which are students of color (29.3 percent).

“There’s a lot of work to do. The student body now looks like a lot of California... diverse,” said Cheryl Johnson, the director for Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.

HSU students are proud to participate in cultural graduation ceremonies including Q-Grad, Latinx Graduation, Black Heritage Graduation, Native Graduation Sash Ceremony, and the Asian, Desi, Pacific Islander Collective (ADPIC) plus Middle Eastern and North African Ceremony.

Since the beginning of this school year, student staffers at each cultural center and their coordinators have been fundraising. They set up different fundraising events to fund their respective ceremonies this May. Some of these events included the gift baskets sold by ADPIC, candy and bake sales, and the movie nights held by the Latinx Center for Academic Excellence (LCAE). Each events sales contributed to all aspects of the graduation celebrations.

Along with the many fundraisers, many of the centers received donations from community members and alumni. All of these donors see the importance of having these different celebrations.

“It’s mainly for our families,” said Carolina Gonzalez, the LCAE community building liaison. “A lot of my family members that are going aren’t going to even understand what’s going on at the main graduation. It’s a nice way to bridge that gap of the language

2018 Cultural Graduations Demographics		
Ceremony	Participating in Ceremony	Funds from HSU
Graduación Latinx	236	\$2,500*
Native Graduation Sash Ceremony	55	\$1,000
Black Heritage Graduation	51	\$1,000
Q-Graduation	28	\$1,000
ADPIC+MENA Graduation Ceremony	20	\$1,000

***\$1,500 of the \$2,500 was given in April to Graduación Latinx by Student Affairs**

Data compiled by Cassaundra Caudillo | Graph by El Leñador staff

barrier.”

Corliss Bennett, the director for all the Cultural Centers for Academic Excellence, said she advocates year-round to get as much money as possible for each center.

“Luckily, each graduation just got some funds from the VP’s office,” Bennett said. “My job as director is to make sure that there’s support for those coordinators and then those student committees to pull off those celebrations.”

Wayne Brumfield, the interim vice president of the Office of Student Affairs, initially gave each center \$1,000 this semester. Both students and HSU staff said the money came with strings attached, saying it could only be spent on certain things. Students wanted money that they had free range of, so all year they fundraised to get extra cash. Brumfield did not respond to multiple requests for a comment.

Bennett mentioned that none of

the centers, with exception of the MultiCultural Center, are state-funded, meaning it is significantly difficult to attain money. Without state-funding, the centers are left not knowing how much they will be receiving each year.

“This is about celebrating the way we want to celebrate the achievements of our students of color,” Bennett said.

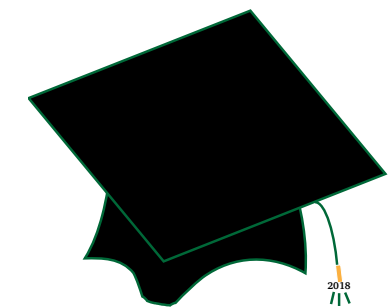
Receiving funding at the beginning of the school year would have lessened the need for last-minute planning. A student co-coordinator for ADPIC, Matilda Bunchongchitr, graduates this year as a wildlife biology major. Many graduating students around the country dream of their graduation day but leading up to her own, she is just thinking of how to stretch the center’s dollars for the ceremony.

“We were pretty much given a thousand dollars really last minute and kind of randomly,” Bunchongchitr said. “When I think of our graduation I don’t think really big because I can’t, because

we have limited funding and it sucks.”

More than 200 students will be participating in this year’s Latinx celebration. In early April the coordinator for the LCAE, Fernando Paz, received an additional \$1,500 for this graduation that he had requested because HSU is a Hispanic Serving Institution.

“Not just get to the serving part, but HSU being a Hispanic thriving institution because when our community thrives, everybody benefits,” Paz said.



Graphic by Jose Herrera

A Sash of Tradition

How Native students hand-make their graduation sashes

by Sinhai Dorantes

Sap-infused pine cones are placed near the fireplace to dry. Day by day, the shells blossom by the crackling fire. One by one, the nuts are removed. After tumbling, sanding, drilling and gutting, the final result is a clean smooth nut ready to be beaded.

The harvesting of pine nuts requires diligence, just like the journey of the students at the Indian Tribal & Educational Personnel Program (ITEPP). The students and staff of ITEPP have been working year-round to hand make their sashes for graduation.

The birth of a long tradition

ITEPP started in 1969 with 18 students. At the time, the program only accepted Native students majoring in Native American studies who were earning a teaching credential. Over the years the program has expanded to all Native American students. Marlette Grand-Jackson ITEPP academic advisor and HSU alumnus, has been watching the program progress for 15 years. She has taken it upon herself to help prepare the sashes for the ITEPP graduation ceremony on May 10.

Grand-Jackson said there are 400 self-identifying Native students on campus. This year they expect 50 students to participate in commencement.

The ITEPP signature sashes first started being made in 1995. They were hand made by the undergraduate students for the graduates. The same basket nose snake pattern is still used to commemorate the original hand drawn pattern. Today some undergrads, such as Elaine Tseng-Gill, part of the Cherokee Nation and freshmen at HSU, continues the tradition by helping make the sashes for their fellow upperclassmen.

“You can make patterns for whoever,” Tseng-Gill said. “Some seniors will make their own but whenever you are in the house or have time we are open, so people can come and help.”

Making sashes

The process began last summer when Grand-Jackson sent out the snake nose



Finished design on sash for a graduating senior by Marlette Grand-Jackson. The pine nut, shells, and abalone are locally sourced either bought from local shops or gathered by the students and Grand-Jackson. | photo by Sinhai Dorantes

basket design to get screen printed on the fabric. She then sewed on the red quilting to finish off the sashes. With Grand-Jackson's initial handwork complete, the students at ITEPP now have the last few weeks before graduation to customize their sashes with jeweled accents that will dangle off the bottom.

“It is similar to our local dress style,” Grand-Jackson said. “The dangles basically give them a sound and a noise and we want them so that we are able to have our students stand out for graduation.”

All of the ingredients used for the sashes are local except for the dentalium, which are long tooth shells that have been used as money by local tribes since before 1854. The clam shells and abalone are sourced from some of the local beaches and bought from the Sea Around Us shop in Trinidad. The beads were bought from the local bead stores or were donated, and the pine nuts were single-handedly harvested from pine cones that Grand-Jackson picked along various areas east of Redding. Students also bring outside ingredients from their area. Once the shell and bead accents are attached, the sashes are then finished off with black



Students Adrian Romo, on the left, and Elaine Tseng-Gill, on the right, beading their designs for the accents that will go on the sashes. | photo by Sinhai Dorantes

leather details and the ITEPP patch.

The value of tradition

For some of the students at ITEPP, such as graduating senior Matthew Sylvia, the sashes are a statement piece showing their academic efforts and

achievements.

“The sashes represent a milestone,” Sylvia said. “They represent an underrepresented portion of the population, so they are what sets us apart.”

Ricardo Sandoval-Palos Reports Back to Humboldt State

Investigative reporter reflects on college years

by Mónica Ramirez

Being born in Tijuana, Mexico, Ricardo Sandoval-Palos felt that traveling the five miles to San Diego was like an adventure of its own as a kid. Going to Humboldt State University (HSU) was a different story. When looking at the campus, not much seems to have changed to Sandoval-Palos, an alumnus from the class of 1981.

An award-winning Latinx journalist with over 30 years of experience, Sandoval-Palos remembers how very few Latinos even attended the school. The numbers aren't much different today, yet we've seen the growth of the Latinx population on campus and people of color overall.

"The main thing coming back here however, is noticing that the population of Latino students has blossomed nicely compared to when I was a student here," Sandoval-Palos said. "I don't remember knowing or having met more than four other Latinos on campus and the population back then was 7,500 students."

One of the most significant differences that he noticed is that it is no longer unusual to see Latinx folk on campus and even African American students who aren't athletes. As a student in the Educational Opportunity Program, the office was one of the few spaces on campus where Sandoval-Palos and other students of color created a community.

"There were so few of us back then that to sort of find community, we hung out with the Native Americans," Sandoval-Palos said. "That office sort of became the community where we hung out there and spent a lot of time."

When asked if he ever questioned himself for choosing the long journey to HSU, he reflected on the first day he spent in town.

"My first night here, I moved into my apartment—I really noticed that it was too quiet for me, I couldn't stand it," Sandoval-Palos said. "I'm from San

Diego and you're used to a bit of noise, and I have eight brothers and sisters so I was used to a little bit of chaos and a bit of life around you."

His mother wasn't surprised when he chose to study journalism, since he had always been making up stories as a kid. However, throughout the time he spent in the area, his mom had assumed he lived in Oregon.

"She'd call and say '*mijo, como estas alla en Oregón*,'" Sandoval-Palos said.

Despite the distance, his mother would send him food via Greyhound, boxes with jars of menudo and homemade tortillas from Tijuana that she would package and send off from San Diego. He also had an aunt that lived in San Francisco's mission district who ran a *carniceria*, or butcher shop. She would pack meals like burritos, something you could freeze and reheat. Even his roommates at the time enjoyed the gifts he received from family and he said it was like a cultural exchange.

Latino in journalism

Many students are anxious in the last months of college, trying to find a job or just figure out the first step to a certain career path. Sandoval-Palos dealt with cultural isolation but was ready for the next step.

"I had no expectations. I graduated feeling like I could write a news story. I could hold my own," Sandoval-Palos said. "I wasn't afraid to go talk to people and get a story done, so I felt like I could compete with anybody."

Once he began the search of jobs, he began to notice the comments that employers and even colleagues made that were all based off of who he was. One of his friends had even said, 'Well now that we hired you, we can make a normal hire,' and an employer asked, 'Why would we hire you in the business section, there's already a Latino there.'

Now a senior editor for investigations at Inside Climate News in Washington, D.C., Sandoval-Palos



Ricardo Sandoval-Palos speaks to journalism students in the Library Fishbowl on April 17. Photo courtesy of Mark Larson

has found success as an investigative reporter working for various publications as well as The Center for Public Integrity. He lived in Latin America as a foreign correspondent covering politics and organized crime, and even wrote a biography with his wife Susan Ferriss, "The Fight in the Fields: Cesar Chavez and the Farmworkers Movement."

Advice for students

"You're going to have to face the tendency to want to put you in a box,"

Sandoval-Palos said.

Most industries are still dominated by the same people that led them 30 years ago. Newspaper publications have a habit of assigning Latino writers to cover stories like immigration, and Sandoval-Palos says you're going to have to fight against those who want to stereotype you.

"I did feel like I had to work harder," Sandoval-Palos said. "Don't let them tell you that you can't. I hate the word no—when they tell me no that just means they don't like it for the moment."

Slauson Girl Speaks Again

Local journalist Tina Sampay challenges news media

by Meg Bezak

If you spot Tina Sampay on campus or in the community, she'll have a camera in one hand and a notepad in the other.

Sampay, 25, also known by her alias Slauson Girl, has been a constant in community news surrounding the April 15, 2017 murder of David Josiah Lawson, reporting on vigils, city council meetings and the Lawson family's strides toward justice, among other events following Lawson's death.

"We're in a mostly all-white community, you know white men is running most of the stuff. Then you have this stabbed black kid and a beat-up white kid, and I just felt

"I definitely wanted to represent from that area but from the girl's perspective because I feel that girls from the inner city are super, super marginalized,"

like the odds were against him from the beginning," Sampay said. "It was sketchy, if I could just give it one word."

Sampay felt it was important to take it upon herself to create a detailed record of what happened during each passing month of the still unsolved case, marking its impact on the community.

"She attends every single event that involves Josiah and continues to keep his name alive in that way so that when people are researching this place they are not only hearing about the physical beauty of this place, but about the unsolved murder of a student," said Barbara Singleton, sophomore criminology and justice studies major.

Sampay is one of the few Black-identifying professional journalists in the area.

"... Knowing historically what white people have done to people of color on some hateful shit, so here I am in such an isolated place where this kid's already killed and they're not doing it right so I got to tread lightly," Sampay said. "What signals does that send when the police aren't solving a murder?"

Slauson Girl

Sampay grew up in South Central, Los Angeles and came to Humboldt State University to pursue a degree in critical race, gender, and sexuality studies with a minor in journalism, which lead her to serve the community as an independent news source through her blog Slauson Girl. Its name is inspired by LA-based rapper Nipsey Hussle's mixtape sequence that has "Slauson Boy" in the title. Having grown up in the same area as Nipsey Hussle, she is on a mission to represent the female side of the message.

"I definitely wanted to represent from that area, but from the girl's perspective because I feel that girls from the inner city are super, super marginalized," Sampay said.

For Sampay, Slauson Girl is not just a branding mechanism, but also an attempt to retain a sense of identity while not being represented.

"I wanted to go through these institutions but still have a sense of myself, so being in Humboldt was a huge culture shock," Sampay said. "For me out here specifically it's had reach because students and people of color, and even curious white people want to hear that narrative."

While pursuing her bachelor's degree, Sampay wrote for *The Lumberjack* for a total of three semesters and served as an editor for the opinion section. The Society of Professional Journalists named her the best student

columnist in the southwest among colleges and universities that have under 10,000 students enrolled for her column, "Slauson Girl Speaks." The column included topics such as racism in the community, the politics of representation at HSU, and how she was "navigating being a Black face in a white space," according to Sampay.

Exposing the counter-narrative

Since graduating from HSU in 2016, Sampay has been developing her online blog, reporting on community events in an attempt to expose important, largely uncovered stories of marginalized and oppressed people.

"Most of the time, it's told by the people that won in history," Sampay said. "It's never really told by who it's most affected, so I just always knew that I needed to be at the forefront of telling my story and the story of those from my community."



Tina Sampay, also known as Slauson Girl | photo courtesy of Tina Sampay

Students Find Success in Spanish Debate

Professor dares students to climb the mountain

by Diego Linares

Climbing a mountain can be a grueling task that involves a team of people who have trained for the trek.

Aaron Donaldson is a communications professor at Humboldt State University who uses the metaphor of climbing a mountain while training students for debate competitions by saying that every event is like a peak. The higher the stakes, the higher the mountain is for the team to climb.

Diego Ortiz is a double major in critical race, gender and sexuality studies and psychology who has competed and won while debating against a lawyer at an event in Oregon. The Huntington Park, California native said that although it's rewarding, it can be a tough task having to translate concepts to another language in the beginning.

"[Beating the lawyer] was fun," Ortiz said. "It's definitely exhausting and you have to build your endurance for it."

The Spanish-speaking students who participate with the debate team have been competing for less than a year. There were four students who competed in Spanish last semester with majors ranging from psychology to political science.

The team will be competing in events that will be in the style of British Parliamentary debate, which opens up different opportunities for the team to compete against graduate students and travel.

Yolena Ramirez is a senior who said she feels like she's able to represent the student body that's Latinx in debate by being able to pull in her first language. Ramirez came away winning third and second place in two events at the 87th Mahaffey Memorial Forensics Tournament on Nov. 12. The third place victory in a Spanish division debate came with teammate Estrella Corza.

"I think that's super, super important for students who want to compete in academia and break that barrier," Ramirez said.

The Humboldt State debate team had students make it all the way to

the World Universities Debating Competition (WUDC) in Mexico City. The event was held from Dec. 27 through Jan. 4.

Donaldson said that although ivy league and elite colleges run the table, it didn't stop his team from having the opportunity to talk about issues surrounding Israel and Palestine with students from Tel Aviv or apartheid

"That [debate] was the first time I got to talk about social justice issues in Spanish and that was crazy cool,"

with students from South Africa.

The debate coach said that the WUDC is like Mount Everest when considering the mountain climbing metaphor.

"We go to compete at the most incredible tournament. World's is a level of competition that is just impossible to describe," Donaldson said. "It's very privileged space."

Donaldson also serves as the director of the campus intercollegiate debate team. He says that debating involves students having to navigate conflicts. Since the students often debate in the Pacific Northwest, Donaldson says, it can be a white-dominated space where students encounter what he referred to as white fragility.

"That space of experiencing that is not new to a lot of our students. What is new is the opportunity—a seven-minute block—where they get to stand up and say, 'Here's what I have to say about that,'" Donaldson said. "Then you have to try to articulate that anger or frustration and extend the argument that needs to be made amidst that noise."

Ortiz is also the coordinator of of



(Left to right) Fabian Cuevas, Yolena Ramirez and Estrella Corza participating at the 87th Mahaffey Memorial Forensics Tournament | photo courtesy of Yolena Ramirez

the debate team, overseeing all the students who debate in either language. He said that the confidence gained from debating in Spanish has opened doorways of communication to his family in another country.

"My family speaks Spanish. That [debate] was the first time I got to talk about social justice issues in Spanish and that was crazy cool," Ortiz said. "I was like, 'Oh my god, this is cool.' So now I could talk to my uncle in Mexico. I could talk to him in Spanish

like, 'What's going on in the politics in Mexico? What are some social justice issues?' I think it's really cool."

Donaldson said that the hills the team must climb involve a lot of discipline, preparation and luck, but victory is not the goal.

"Rather than trying to win, we're just trying to get to the top of the mountain and see what's up there," Donaldson said. "We're not trying to conquer the mountain. We're just trying to get up there to look and say, 'I did it. We did it. What of you?'"

Women of Color Conference Promotes Diversity in STEM

by Brittany Viramontes

Women of color in science, technology, engineering and mathematical (STEM) fields were represented as panelists in this year's 16th annual Women of Color Conference (WOCC), organized by Gamma Alpha Omega, at Humboldt State University's event and workshop during the weekend of April 6-7.

The panelists were four Humboldt State professors: Kauyumari Sanchez from psychology, Paola Rodriguez-Hidalgo from physics and astronomy, Sintana Vergara from environmental engineering, and Margarita Otero-Diaz from environmental resources engineering. The conference was set up for a Q&A portion, half of which were questions from the audience.

Gamma Alpha Omega's WOCC director, Lorena Thobaben, began with a series of questions. The questions allowed the panel to share the obstacles they went through and how being a woman of color played a role in the experiences they encountered to pursue higher education.

The conference opened with each professor giving a light introduction on how they got into their field of study. Each of the panelists showed that they have influential stories to tell at HSU.

"Despite the disappointing low seat count, these women empowered us and shed some light on how to tackle unequal representation here at HSU," psychology student Judith Mendez said.

For Vergara, it's important to challenge her sense of self identity. As a result, she refuses to describe herself under the "minority" umbrella term, which some might consider a term perpetuated by a patriarchal society.

"More than half the world is people of color and the word is being used in a way to see us as smaller figures in society," Vergara said. "I highly encourage you all to be creative with the words that you chose to identify yourselves."

This makes it harder for some people of color to see themselves as anything more than just the minority group. Vergara likes to describe herself as so much more than just being a woman of color. The racial and gender wage gap is an area that requires much improvement and women aren't often taught to negotiate a job offer.

"Negotiate! Be confident and don't feel discouraged for doing so," Rodriguez-Hidalgo said.



Paola Rodriguez (left) and Sintana Vergara (right) sit in their respective offices. | photos by Brittany Viramontes

Self-Talk

by Harrel Deshazier

He put his dirty hands inside of me
And the dirty in me let him do it
Reluctantly, I — am so sorry,
For what I've put us through.
After all that we've gone through,
You would think I'd finally put you first
But, I'm still learning
I'm still yearning
For more, as if I didn't have enough already.
Where did I go wrong?
Was it the
Experimentation or the
Molestation, the
Degradation and intimidation?
Was it the humiliation, the neglect?
The lack of respect from these boys that I see, oh
I am so sorry.
I chose the attention over you.
I chose him over you, and him, and him, too.
But I promise you I'm better now,
Yeah I'm taking care now
Don't you worry about the scars, I'm packing
Shea butter now
Running miles, lifting weights, eating all veggies now
Anyone I bring around you better bow down,
Cause they know better.
For your love, I'm getting my shit.
All the way, together.
Every storm we shall weather.
Stronger than ever.

For every toss, for every turn
For every midnight spent in tears,
For every year, I ignored your needs.
For every weed, I planted in our garden
For every time my heart was hardened,
I apologize
Because the more I sabotage,
The more you step in to help
You saved me.
And yet,
They still think I'm crazy
For talking to myself.
Self-talk.

7 Ways to Get Free Food During Finals

by Victoria Nazario

As finals and the end of the semester approaches, many students do not have the time or money to cook food. It's okay, you are not alone! Here are seven different ways to score free food for this busy time of the year.

1. Visit the Oh SNAP! food pantry.

“Oh SNAP! is Humboldt State University’s student-run food pantry. It is one of many resources on campus that students can utilize on a daily basis to get free snacks like coffee, tea, oatmeal, and more,” said Oh SNAP! worker Bridget Ocampo. Students are encouraged to go to the food pantry and are allowed to take seven non-perishable food items for free on a weekly basis. Oh SNAP! is located in the Recreation & Wellness Center in room 122.

2. Check out off-campus food pantries.

Another great way to get your hands on free food is to visit an off campus food pantry. Food for People located at 307 14th St. in Eureka, offers a variety of food assistance programs including: emergency food pantries, mobile produce pantries and free produce markets.

The selection of foods will vary from month to month. However, foods from each nutritional food group (dairy, protein, grains, fruits, vegetables) are always represented.

3. Get in contact with your local Food Not Bombs. (It’s vegan!)

Food Not Bombs is a non-hierarchical group of individuals in the community who get together every week to redistribute food that would have been thrown away.

“We believe that food is a right and not a privilege,” said Samantha Davalos, a

volunteer with Food Not Bombs. “Everyone should have food to eat regardless of their economic or social status.”

Food Not Bombs is held every Sunday. They welcome students to cook with them at 1 p.m. or show up for free food at the Arcata Plaza at 4 p.m.

4. Visit your College Department Office.

A lot of students do not know this, but most of the time college departments have snacks in their offices! So make sure to make a visit to your department.

5. Stop by the Latinx Center for Academic Excellence.

The LCAE will be open the weekend before finals for students to utilize the space while providing students with do-it-yourself pancakes, fruit, tea, coffee and other options. Throughout finals week, the center will continue to provide food until it runs out. So make sure to stop by Nelson Hall East 205. (Full disclosure, the author works at LCAE.)

6. Check out the HSU events calendar.

Usually, on campus events have food as an incentive for students to show up. So make sure to take advantage. Who knows, you may also meet new people, or learn something new.

7. Are you eligible for CalFresh?

Oh SNAP! provides CalFresh assistance to anyone who needs it. “CalFresh is like financial aid that gives students money to buy food, except hot foods,” said Ocampo. For every student who signs up and uses CalFresh, CalFresh gives money back to the community. You could also use your CalFresh to shop at the Arcata farmers’ market.



“HELP END RACISM!

Remove the Mckinley Statue.

The Art of Removing Art is a Dream Maker project of the Ink People Center for the Arts.

The goal of the project is to raise the \$65,000 to remove the statue, write a handbook to assist community activists in other cities with racist statues and take other action to end racism.

We are asking for your help by donating computers, furniture (in very good shape), and whatever other items can be sold to help achieve these goals.”

Doble Conciencia

The duality of identity in higher education

by Anthony Alonzo-Pereira

In the fall of 2010, I sat in on a MEChA meeting as a freshman eager for community. I don't remember much from that meeting, but one of the upperclassmen said, something that I have carried with me throughout my bumpy college experience: "Your education is not yours. It does not belong to you."

It is this feeling of responsibility that brings many first-generation students to a college campus. We feel we have a duty to validate the working-class struggles of our families and think that living a successful life is the best way to do that. But when we attain this success via higher education, does the process alienate us from the very people we did it for? I believe that it can, especially if we delude ourselves into thinking that a formal education is the only way to honor our families' struggles.

Juan Carlos de la Cruz, a 2012 HSU graduate, is split on his thoughts regarding the significance of a formal education.

"I feel like anyone can make an impact," de la Cruz said. "I do feel sometimes that having those titles like master's or Ph.D. keep you (*como que*) you're part of this secret organization." De la Cruz is also in the process of returning to school to earn his teaching credentials after spending a few years in

the workforce.

An ambassador of higher education

"As a low-income student and first-generation, there's always challenges in between. It's not always for us," de la Cruz said.

The "it" that de la Cruz mentions can be either the degree itself or the journey to attain the degree. We move through institutions of higher education feeling like the ambassadors of our families and communities, a position we never asked for.

Barbara Curiel, a professor in both the English and critical race, gender, and sexuality studies departments brings up the idea of double consciousness.

"We all reach that metaphorical fork in the road at one point or another, where we can develop a difference in opinions from those who raised us."

Double consciousness is defined as the feeling that a person has more than one social identity, making it difficult to embrace one unified identity. As first-generation students, we are often one person at school and another when we are home.

When asked if she was ever received differently by her friends and family because of her level of education, Curiel said it's more of the opposite.

"They still only see us the way they know us. I think probably we're more self-conscious about it than they are" Curiel said.

A fork in the road

"I've heard from other first-generation faculty members that their families still don't know what they do," Curiel says. "I think that's my experience. My mother doesn't know what I do."

This disconnect between the formally educated and their families who did not attend college begins at the undergraduate level — and perhaps much earlier than that, possibly when your parents could no longer help you with your homework.

We all reach that metaphorical fork in the road at one point or another, where we can develop a difference in opinions from those who raised us. While I'm open to Curiel's opinion

that "some of it might be inevitable no matter what we [do]," I'm still convinced that formal education has a transformative effect on first-generation students that is extremely difficult to resist. Why someone would choose to undergo this transformation really depends on the individual.

"I think it's more personal, it's more like, 'I made it,' and setting an example. I don't think it's necessary to have a Ph.D. to give back — it would be nice," de la Cruz said, with a deep breath that marked a tone of resignation. "That's where I'm at."

With commencement around the corner, I look beyond the short-term goal of graduation and begin to formulate an answer to the question: "Why am I here?" I didn't want the degree so that I could join the secret organization.

At the end of the day, it was simply silly pride that kept me in school. I understand that certain jobs require certain degrees or certifications, and I'm not speaking to those students, but to me, the degree is a trophy. I will hold it dear for the sacrifices that went into it, but it is a personal achievement and not something that will add or subtract from my worth as a person.

That's where I'm at.

Join El Leñador!

If you would like to join El Leñador (JMC 160/360 2 units), Fall 2018 class will be held Mondays and Wednesdays from 3 to 4:50 p.m. All majors are welcome. We are looking for writers, photographers, social media enthusiasts, copy editors, Spanish translators & more.

For more information contact faculty advisor to El Leñador, Andrea Juarez at andrea.juarez@humboldt.edu

mayo

jueves | 5.03

- FREE Massages
- 11am-2pm | Library Lobby
- Outer Space Inner Love
- 2pm | RWC 124
- Undocumented Student Ally Training
- 4-6:30pm | Library Fishbowl
- Study Snack Down at Y.E.S.
- 5-8pm | Y.E.S. House 91
- CPS: Celebration of the Freshman Spirit!
- 5:30-7:30pm | Goodwin Forum
- Thursday Night Insight
- 6pm | AACAE (NHE 206)
- Comm Club: Relax, Refresh, and Reflect
- Movie Night: Shrek Forever

- After
- 6:30-8:30pm | TBA
- ## viernes | 5.04
- May the Fourth Be With You
- 10am-2pm | UC Quad
- Student Video Showcase: "1 in 10"
- 12pm | Library Fishbowl
- All Aboard the Snooze Cruise
- 2pm | Library 114
- Cafe con Chisme
- 2pm | LCAE (NHE 205)
- Black Grad Planning Meeting
- 3pm | AACAE
- Q-Grad/Lavender Celebration
- 4-6pm | KBR

sábado | 5.05

- *Graduacion Latinx
- Last Graduation Practice
- 12-2pm | Lumberjack Arena

- LCAE Study Trap House
- 12pm-Sunday 5.06, 11:59pm | NHE 205
- ## lunes | 5.07-11
- FINALIS WEEK
- ¡Ponte las pilas, ya mero! Keep it up!*
- FREE Massages
- 11am-2pm | Library Lobby
- Therapy Dogs in the Library
- 1:30-3pm | Front Lawn
- ## martes | 5.08
- Therapy Dogs in the Library
- 6:30-8pm | Lobby

jueves | 5.10

- All Native Graduation
- 6pm | KBR,
- ## viernes | 5.11

- ADPI + MENA Graduation Ceremony
- 2pm | Goodwin Forum
- Black Heritage Graduation
- 4pm | KBR, South & Karshner Lounge
- Graduacion Latinx
- 6pm | Lumberjack Arena
- ## sábado | 5.12
- Commencement 2018 Redwood Bowl
- CAHSS | 8:30am
 - CNRS | 12pm
 - CPS | 3pm
- ¡Felicidades a todos y que les vaya bien! Los vemos en el próximo semestre!*
- Congrats to the graduates and we'll see you next semester!
- ~ El Leñador Staff



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¡Felicidades Graduados!

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a la tuya!



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