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### Cultural Times

Multicultural Center

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# MULTICULTURAL center

2000-01

Cultural Times

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## The Cultural Times

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2000 Diversity Conference Staff and Volunteers

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Associated Students of Humboldt State University

On September 23 and 24 the MCC staff went on a retreat to Freshwater Park. The purpose of this retreat was for all the old and new MCC staff to become acquainted with each other and develop or sharpen some leadership and team-working skills. The memories that we experienced, for many of us, will be unforgettable. We all seemed to have so much fun interacting with one another while sharing the same enlightening experiences. We went through a wide range of activities that helped us strengthen and build connection with our fellow co-workers.

Our trip began by spending a day filled with excitement and enjoyment from stimulating training activities to assist us in becoming better employees, colleagues, and team leaders. As we approached the camping site with glowing and enthusiastic faces, we began to anticipate all the events of the day. Our first activity was a name game. However, since many staff members were returning ones, it was a lot easier to distinguish faces and meet new ones. Then we went through the river of trust. In this type of activity, we were blindfolded, and therefore had to trust our partner in giving us specific instructions, directions and communication to cross to the other side safely, and of course, visa-versa. Then we all went deep into the forest to develop our thinking and formulating strategy skills. This was done by pretending to go into space and using teamwork to get across a planet surface that was full of acid and then back into the space ship safely. This exciting adventure was one of many that we enjoyed working as a group to share ideas, suggestions, comments and finally to come to an agreement for thriving “life depending” strategy.

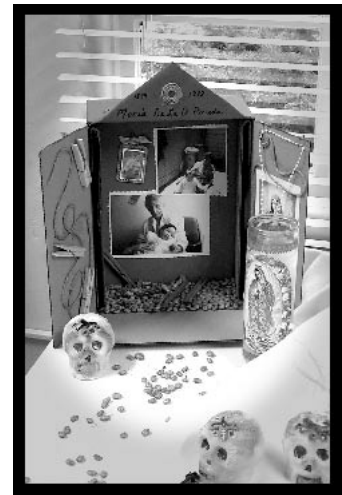
After this last activity, our stomachs were beginning to growl for food, so we took a break and ate the lunch that each of us brought for a lunch potluck. After lunch we continued to work on enhancing our skills. We proceeded with minor running games and played a kind of charades to identify a certain noun to our group. Then we went back into the forest where we had a “high” experience. This activity was with a type of bungeecord to lift us individually up in the air. We applied our team working skills to lift each person one at a time way up into the trees. What a thrill each of us had! Since we took a long time to lift each person, we went back to the camp spot for a break to snack on munchies, where we continued small activities. We played with a hula-hoop to see how long would it take each of us to go through it around the circle, while holding hands. Although we had a few people who seemed to be slower than the rest, we learned not to blame each other, but motivate and encourage each other.

Finally, our last activity together was to go back into the forest where we had to climb through an old tire that was hanging from a tree. The point was to help each other. Once on the tire, we had to say something about what we enjoyed the most or what we most appreciated. Then the people who were on the other side helped them get off. When this was over, we went back to take pictures of the entire group and then began to put up our tents up with everyone’s help. Then we had the rest of the day as leisure time to enjoy nature, play recreational activities, go for a hike or relax.

When the night came, we had a Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Student Association (GLBTSA) dialogue with a co-worker, Anne Serene, who spoke about her transgender experience. I must say, that this was very informative and educational to all, especially to me since I was unfamiliar about the subject. When this was over, we then had a nice little BBQ dinner, and then it was time to tell ghost stories. Some people were either too tired, or too scared to join us, but the few that were dauntless gathered around together where we were supposed to have a nice warm fire. Since campfires were prohibited at this time, everyone woke up the next morning like Popsicle’s! It was sad that our fun had to end before long. As soon as we all woke up, breakfast was immediately cooked and ready to eat because we were scheduled to leave the campsite at a certain time.

Personally, I had a great time getting to know old and new staff members. I feel that I made some very special friendships. I know that everybody who went on the retreat can relate to how I feel since we all encountered similar experiences.

# EXPLORE



November 1-2, 2000

## Dia de los Muertos

Ofrenda (altar by MEChA)



Ofrenda by MCC Staff. Special thanks to Liz, Lorena, Joanne and Cluadine.

## Week of Dialogue: After Hours

By: Priscilla Zuniga

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**Humboldt State University's Campus Week of Dialogue on Race.** What is it? For some, a time of honoring different cultures, for others a time to reflect on the cultures around us. Ultimately, the goal for the Campus Week of Dialogue promotes multiculturalism, and provides the means for communication about diversity. This year's event was held during the week of October 2 - 6. There were facilitated video presentations, workshops, and guest speakers. Many events took place during the school hours.

Residents on campus were offered an even wider variety of programming that was presented after hours. For the first time in the three-year history of the "Dialogue on Race," the Residence Life Staff took a more active role in the planning and presentation of activities. LGA's—living group advisors—attended the planning meetings for the Dialogue on Race. One LGA, Heather Winstead, stated that "at first it was frustrating to attend a meeting of that caliber, however, professors as well as committee members, helped the process and allowed the student involvement to continue." This experience proved to be beneficial for Heather, in fact, she is thinking about being an active member for next year's event. She's begun the process with her involvement in the Leadership Conference to create a liaison for the years to come.

This annual event promotes meaningful dialogues on race, and "student leaders" took a role towards making that goal attainable. In order to promote dialogue, LGA's created programs that focused on students on campus. One facilitator, Keion Morgan, wanted a "discussion about race to go in the Residence Halls because it's important to keep the students here, since the incoming freshman tend to leave Humboldt after their first year. The majority of the freshmen come from different backgrounds, socially, economically, and racially."

To continue to increase awareness, Keion Morgan and Monika Stoeffl began the dialogue with a showing of "Color of Fear" on the first floor of the J. This was powerful documentation on how people view race, racism, discrimination and prejudice in America. The discussion went into depth about society's ever-changing perceptions of race. "(This dialogue) should be monthly dialogue if you ask me," stated Morgan.

Another program on the same evening was "Coffee Talk: A serious look at Diversity" which was hosted by the Hill Staff in collaboration with Fidel Lara, office manager for the MultiCultural Center.

On Tuesday, students had the opportunity to participate in "Archie Bunker's Neighborhood"-- the facilitator was Adrian Mejia. An interactive program following the cliché of 'walk a mile in someone else's shoes.' That same evening, there was another showing of "Color of Fear" in Creekview Lounge for those students who didn't have the opportunity to see the video on Monday; however, this time it was facilitated by Natalie Webb and Denis Gonzales. There were about 25-30 residents who viewed the film. The discussion, while brief, conveyed the important message that dialogue is necessary for people to understand one another. Then Thursday evening, Heather Winstead hosted "Cross the Line." The discussion was wonderful, although the large turn out of students made it difficult for everyone to participate in the discussion. This program was such a success that Heather and Monika Stoeffl will enter the program in Northern RAP, a large leadership conference for Resident Advisors, in late November of this year.

The week ended with "Dialogue on Race" on Thursday, held on the first floor of the J. This program reached a student participation of almost 100 students. One of the facilitators, Mike Wilcoxen, was very proud of the in-depth discussions and the response from the students when it came to issues addressed on Thursday.

The success of the "Dialogue on Race" is seen when one resident-- Mary Henry-- stated she wants to see more diversity programming. "It's something that needs to be done more than once a year. Even for longer periods of time, not only one week. It's an educational process that needs to be continued." The people who participated in the programs and activities

learned a lot about their own prejudice, other people's experiences, and hopefully acquired the tools to address issues on race in their everyday lives.

"The success of the week was seen in the participation of the students," stated LGA James Payton. "There weren't the numbers we all hoped for, and in the years to come hopefully, there will be more students, but the message was delivered."

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### ***Diversity Conference of the Real Millennium!***

The MultiCultural Center is proud to present its 7<sup>th</sup> annual Diversity Conference. This year's conference is entitled, Census 2000: NUMBERS OR NONSENSE? Our Changing Perspectives of America. After a month of deliberation on a theme, we thought of the results of the 2000 census. According to the census, Whites are no longer the majority in California. I had come across numerous articles discussing possible consequences of the changing racial makeup of our state and thought that this could be a timely theme of contention. The conference will not be focusing solely on racial transitions, but will also be considering other minority groups that are becoming more prevalent in the United States.

We are looking forward to another successful conference and hope that our student participation will continue to grow. You can register for this year's conference in December with your other classes. Registration fees are \$15.00 for students and \$20.00 for non-students. These fees include the keynote speaker who will be featured Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the workshops on Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, as well as a breakfast and lunch buffet. The conference coordinators this year are myself, Liz Smith, and Mandene Thomas. If you have any questions concerning the conference, or if you would like to volunteer for the conference, please give us a call at 826-3364, or e-mail us at [mcc@humboldt.edu](mailto:mcc@humboldt.edu).


Liz Smith  
Co-Conference Coordinator

***Register for the Diversity Conference*** (1 unit):  
Ethnic Studies 480, Women's Studies 480, Professional Studies 380

### ***CENSUS 2000:*** By Joanne Solorio

Majority or minority? For many years the Hispanic community has been known as the minority, but now as the results of the Census 2000 have come in, it seems as though the majority is no longer the majority, and the minority has now replaced it. There are many questions that arise; so what are we to do? As the majority, we should now be able to receive the privileges that we never had, but how do we go about receiving these? Are we prepared to take on this label?

The Hispanic/Latino community has been fighting for recognition all of our lives, and now we have successfully won the fight. Personally, I still view myself as part of the minority, because although facts and statistics prove that I no longer stand in that category, I don't see myself moving up any further. I understand that this process of "evolution" may move through slowly, which is why we should all take the opportunity to learn who we are and where we stand.



## A World of Opportunities by Jackie Therien

As I started this semester working here at the MultiCultural Center, I was fortunate enough to find out about all the different clubs that are offered through our college. I have found that there is an American Indian Alliance Group, an Asian Alliance Group, and more. I want to be more actively involved in a club that consists of people that identify with my ethnicity, however, I identify with four different ethnicities. My mother is Asian, my father, Apache and Iroquois Native American, Aztec Mexican, and French. This has always been a problem in my life. Whom do I identify with, where will I find a group of people that will allow me into their racial group and accept all the other races I identify with?

My mother would prefer it if I chose to live my life in the traditional Asian manner and only celebrate Chinese holidays. My peers at Willits High School accepted me into their cliques, but not because of my multi-racial background, only because I was active and popular. Finally, for most of my young childhood, I have debated over and over what bubble most identifies with my cultural background. I am relieved that they have finally created a “multi-racial” bubble. I am “multi-racial,” not an “other.” Although I have had difficulties deciding which race is the one that is most dominant in my life, I have finally decided that there is no need to contemplate this issue within myself anymore. I am all of the races that I have listed, therefore, I celebrate my life and the holidays that I choose to celebrate without the guilt of celebrating one isolated racial background. In fact, everybody in America has at least two kinds of blood in their body. I encourage people to celebrate the simple fact that we are all humans, and trying to figure out exactly what racial group we fit into is not always the most important part of identifying ourselves within peer groups. We must keep our cultural roots and ties important in our lives but not so important that we forget our common alliances with each other.



# EXPERIENCE

## The Black Student Union

By Mandene Thomas

### New Mission Statement:

The Black Student Union of Humboldt State University is dedicated to fostering the development of the minds, bodies and spirits of the African-American students on campus. First and foremost we seek to encourage, support and facilitate the academic excellence of our students. However, we recognize that one's mind can only flourish in an environment conducive to learning. For this reason, we will remain relentless soldiers in the war against racism on campus, both in and out of the classroom. We will produce and promote events that exemplify our culture's longstanding tradition of pride and unity, as well as offer activities that serve the purpose of further unifying our members. We are the dream of our ancestors, the pride of our parents and the foundation of our children; and as the Black Student Union, we will demonstrate that we are grateful for our gift and prepared to uphold our responsibility.

This being said, we greet everyone and hope that the semester has gone well. The Black Student Union (BSU) has undergone some changes this year, one of which is our Mission Statement above that was written by Alisia Smith-Payne, BSU chairperson for this academic year. This year we hope to reach out to all students of African heritage and to the campus community as a whole. Thus we have set out to involve more people in the leadership of our organization so as to enable us to reach all of our goals.

Congratulations to the BSU officers and board members for 2000-01! They are ten people from different walks of life, and they hope to reach out to all students on campus.

Chairperson: Alisia Smith-Payne

Vice chair: Brenda Fairly

Secretary: Shavon Williams

Public Relations Reps: Ramar Henderson and Trakeisha Lewis

Underclassman Representative: Danielle Dean

Upperclassman Representative: Mandene Thomas

MCC Liaison: Felicia Ellis

Treasurer: Lanesha Brown

Residence Hall Representative: Tiffany Davis

BSU meets every Thursday @ 6:30pm in Siemens Hall 109.

Hope to see you there.

## Islamic Students Association

Are you interested in knowing about the Religion of Islam? Do you have any interest in Islamic and Arabic cultures? Do you have any questions or ideas to share? We, the Islamic Students Association, welcome you to join us and participate in our discussions, celebrations, and prayers. For the month of December we will meet on Fridays from noon to 1:00 in these rooms: Dec. 1, NHE 118; Dec. 8, NHE 106; Dec. 15, NHE 118.

## Asian Student Alliance

The Asian Student Alliance (ASA) had another successful Purposeful Asian Dinner on Nov. 12. We had more than enough food to serve over 200 people, and the entertainment was fabulous! We are now planning for the annual Lunar New Year Celebration in January.

Our mission is to learn more about each other and the diversity of Asian and Pacific Islander cultures. We also want to keep informed about current events that affect Asians and Asian Americans. We went roller-skating in Blue Lake in November. A little girl thought we were having a family reunion! It was probably the first time Blue Lakers had seen so many Asians on roller skates! We are planning more gatherings around Humboldt County.

Our membership is growing! We invite anyone who is interested in Asian cultures to join us. ASA meets every Monday at 5:30 pm in Nelson Hall East 115.

# **LATINOS UNIDOS**

Latinos Unidos, a new club, was created to raise the awareness of the Hispanic Cultures on campus, emphasizing diversity through education and open discussions. We seek to help guide our Latino students and encourage and support them in their educational plans. More importantly, we are dedicated to fostering communication between different cultures and promoting community service to those less fortunate and with fewer opportunities.

Latinos Unidos meets every Fridays at 4:00p.m. in Siemens Hall 117. Everyone is encouraged to come. Questions? Contact us at [latinos\\_unidos\\_hsu@hotmail.com](mailto:latinos_unidos_hsu@hotmail.com)

## **American Indian Alliance**

Hello from American Indian Alliance (AIA). This fall 2000 semester, AIA is taking it easy after our annual Indigenous People's Week. Upon the succession of IPW2000, the club members have decided to take one step back and enjoy the rest of the semester doing "fun" things. We will be having Movie Nights on Wednesdays throughout the remainder of the semester. We will be getting together with the BSU (Black Student Union) and MEChA to have a BBQ/Softball night. This event will take place on or about the weekend of Dec. 2. That leads us into Christmas Break, so it is finals time. Things will be low-key, for we are all pretty diligent with our studies.

Looking for some participation in the AIA? Please come join us at our regular meetings on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm in the MultiCultural Center.

## **GLBTSA**

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Student Association (GLBTSA) celebrates the differences and commonalities within our organization and the campus community. Through socialization, education, and advocacy, GLBTSA fights oppression, ignorance and homophobia wherever it may be.

We have established a safe and confidential place where all gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender persons, and friends can gather and discuss important issues, be supportive of one another, and just have fun. Please join us every Thursday @ 7:00 pm in the Conference Room of the MultiCultural Center.

## **Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano(a) de Azlan (M.E.Ch.A)**

M.E.Ch.A is part of the statewide network of Chicano/a, Mexicano/a, and Latino/a student organizations in universities, high schools, and community colleges. We have joined together to learn our histories, to take pride in our identities, and to celebrate our cultures. Members of M.E.Ch.A strive to creatively develop programs that educate people about issues and concerns that affect Chicanos, Mexicanos, and Latinos on campus, in the community, and throughout the state of California.

M.E.Ch.A. meets every Thursday @ 6:00 pm at the MultiCultural Center.

# EXPRESS

## Inner Voices, Outer Realities....

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Who Am I?

If I can't be who I am, then who can I be?

Can I take on the identity of the bird and fly high above  
The earth, not relating myself to those below?

Can I take on the identity of the bear and take what  
I desire by force and destroying you in the process?

Can I take on the identity of the tree and have no power  
To protect myself from your greediness and destruction?

If I can't take on my own identity and be recognized for that identity,  
Then will you allow me to be part of society? To simply live and be  
In a community that follows by weak heart.

I won't walk with you. I won't talk with you, however I will eat  
The same food as you. Unfortunately, your food maims and kills  
My people.

Just recognize me for being a human.  
Not by adoption, am I one of you.  
Not by words and honor alone, am I one of you.  
But by heart, I am one of you.  
I fight for you! I die for you! Yet, because of you, I die!

Who am I? Can you tell me? I don't think so, for you have chosen  
My removal!

©Michele Johnson  
November 13,2000

## Poetry by Ryan Man

Por mi vena corre la sangre de muchas gentes  
Making me the bastard son of the earth  
My mother is creator and liberator  
She is the bearer of all fruit known to man.  
She does not seek to divide,  
But to unite her children and provide

I am one that falls in all categories prescribed by man  
Yet I do not conform to them, but grow through them  
Harnessing the power each holds  
Breaking the everlasting molds.

I am black, I am white  
And I instill a sense of fright  
I am the cool mahogany skin  
That you're so glad you did not win

On a freedom ship they set sail  
To escape their families sale  
And with the help of wind and wave  
They no longer had reason to be afraid  
I am a descendant of a slave  
Held in bondage till the grave

Soy puertorriqueno, soy cubano  
Y todos ellos son mis hermanos  
I am that which you do not wish to see  
But that which I am so proud to be.  
For it in lies a story that only I can tell  
And you and your many minions can never quell

---

Hablo ingles y I speak Spanish

I wish I knew more languages so these barriers would vanish  
For language is a way to communicate  
It should not be used to segregate  
And it should be used to congregate

I am a man like any other  
We are sons of the same mother  
From up above simple brothers  
Proud to be descended from warriors  
That fought so hard to gain their freedom  
And regain their mothers kingdom

I shall not be put down another day  
They will listen to what I say  
For with every word of hate that they provide  
I shall rise, and not subside  
Alzare mi voz en espanol o en ingles  
Si puedo hacerlo, hasta en frances  
For this blood cannot be erased  
And it shall mix with many more a race

A woman I shall find  
With blood not the same as mine  
So that my children will be  
A little more distinct than me  
Sons of the world and not of one land  
Sons of the lord and not of one man  
For I am man like any other  
And when I die I am just another.

## Creating Community Mural Contest

The MultiCultural Center invites all students to participate in a Mural Design Contest. This mural will be painted on the stairwell wall inside House 55. The only rules are that the mural depicts "Creating Community" and is designed in the spirit of Mexican artist, Diego Rivera. There will be a cash prize awarded to the winner, and the winner will also be the mural project manager. Deadline for entries will be Feb. 15, 2001.

Suggestions for the contest: 1) research the works of Diego Rivera; 2) come to the MCC and see the wall where the mural will be painted on; 3) have an understanding of diversity, honoring differences, and creating community; 4) get to know other cultures; 5) have fun creating the design for the mural!

For more information about the mural contest, please call Solana Foo, Contest Coordinator, at 826-3364.



MultiCultural Center

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