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Humboldt State University

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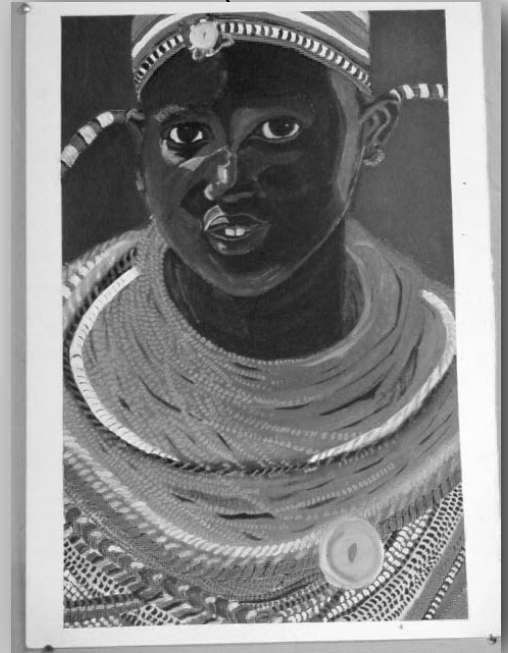
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SPRING SEMESTER
APRIL 2005

THE CULTURAL TIMES

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

MULTICULTURAL CENTER / (707) 826-3364



1 MULTICULTURAL CENTER



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MCC Cultural Times
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Copies of all correspondence should be sent to :
 Associated Students of Humboldt State University.

ARTWORK ON COVER BY PAULA CEDILLO USING ACRYLIC ON PAPER. HER WORK WAS DISPLAYED IN THE FIRST WOMEN'S HERSTORY MONTH ART SHOW. SEE ARTICLE ON FOLLOWING PAGE.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

As our university is faced with continually expanding budget cuts the challenge of allocating funds amongst programs at Humboldt State increases. In times of scarcity the administration must decide which areas are to be severed from the whole. Amongst our woes are student services streamlined, classes offered less frequently, loss of faculty, increased class sizes, financial-aid reduction and a rising price tag.

Obviously, the quality of education that the university serves up must be preserved at all costs. What is alarming is that the idea of "quality education," is open to interpretation. There are many aspects of this generalized idea, some of the most basic include: curriculum, student teacher ratios, choice in majors, average time it takes to obtain a degree and quality of classrooms and facilities.

It would be highly shortsighted to stop there and disregard other features that a "quality education" should entail. Education happens both in and out of the classroom, what happens outside of the classroom is slightly harder to control. One thing is certain a realistic vision of the world in which we live is not always specific and taken from a textbook. The truth is rarely written in black and white and its realization, is often filled with uncertainty, introspection and change.

The truth is out there and can be discovered, but nothing comes without a little risk, a change from what is normal and exposure to something new. The MCC staff, volunteers, organizations, clubs and faculty that make up this "family," constantly strive to make a visible change on campus and in the community. We encourage everyone who has ever felt the need to get involved to stop by House 55. The MultiCultural Center is here, and we are waiting for you!

-Jonathan Guerrero



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!

~~MAY 1ST~~

2ND ANNUAL HO'OLAULE'A, KBR 3PM
 "OOKLAH THE MOC," KBR 8:30 PM
 HAWAIIAN ROOTS REGGAE BAND

~~MAY 12TH~~

AMERICAN INDIAN ALLIANCE SASH CEREMONY

~~MAY 13TH~~

BLACK GRADUATION
 GRADUACION LATINA
 7TH ANNUAL RAZA GRADUATION

~~MAY 14TH~~

GRADUATION OPEN HOUSE @MCC

3 11TH ANNUAL DIVERSITY CONFERENCE

IT IS TIME FOR MIND EXPANDING, MYTH DESTROYING EMPOWERING EDUCATION! THE DIVERSITY CONFERENCE GAME!!! FUN FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES!! CAN YOU FOLLOW THE ROAD TO SOCIAL CHANGE AND PERSONAL GROWTH?



TURN THE POWER OFF!



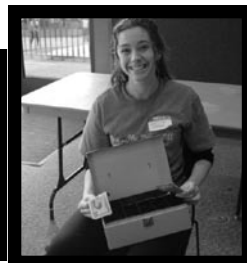
RECONSTRUCTING HISTORY



DECONSTRUCTING MEDIA



CONSTRUCTING CHANGE



CREATING CHANGE: A VOLUNTEER'S PERSPECTIVE

By: **Maria Ordonez**

The 11th Annual Diversity Conference was held March 4 and 5 on the HSU campus. Each year this event has been held with the purpose of providing knowledge about different cultures and not only that, but to educate, learn and socialize with the different ethnic groups that exist on campus and in the local community. Various workshops were held to teach people about race, discrimination, and ethnicity. There were many performances, which represented different cultures and backgrounds. In addition to the dance performances there was also delicious catering.

Thanks to the MultiCultural Center and the volunteers that brought this event together, the Diversity Conference was one of the most astonishing learning experiences that I have had at HSU so far. Not only that, future conferences are going to get better and better every year. Humboldt State has a strong understanding of the different cultures and ethnicities out there and because of the Diversity Conferences it will grow stronger and continue to be beneficial to everyone. I hope that everyone will have the opportunity to attend next year's 12th Annual Diversity Conference and have the experience of learning about different cultures that exist on campus and in the world.

DIVERSITY CONFERENCE: WE THOUGHT IT WENT WELL, DID YOU GUYS?

Whew! I can't say that I am glad that the Diversity Conference is over, but I definitely am glad that it finished as a huge success. The great thing about coordinating is that I really have a chance to be creative. I helped design the theme along with many campus brain-stormers, organize the schedule, and choose the keynotes amongst many other tasks.

But before I get any further I want to say thank you. For direction, Marylyn Paik-Nicely; for organization and encouraging words; Jerri Jones, for a chance to talk on the radio and News Channel 3; Hazel Lodevico, for all of their hard work and exhaustion; the MCC staff and volunteers. Mostly I'd like to thank and encourage all of our participants for opening their hearts to learning and talking about the issues we face here at HSU and abroad. Aunjelique and I had a great time with Meredith and Collin and hope everyone attends a "Faces of America" performance in their lifetime. We enjoyed Keith Boykin's speech, dynamic and personal. Lastly we'd like to thank the HSU Associated Students and the Administration for supporting us in our effort to educate and awaken almost 300 people.

Okay, back to the good stuff for those of you skimming through the acknowledgements like I always do. At the beginning of this semester I dreamed of having the best Diversity Conference ever, a lofty goal while suspended from a cable at the local ropes course, and I can say that I accomplished that goal with the help of all of those around me. If you ever have the chance to put on an event, I highly recommend it. After three years of working with the MCC and seven years of leadership, I realize that there is still so much for me to learn and enjoy.

Aunjelique, we worked seamlessly and I wish you all the success in the world after graduation. Thanks for helping me do it with style.

~Brandi Miller

2005 DIVERSITY CONFERENCE COORDINATOR



5 11TH ANNUAL DIVERSITY CONFERENCE



TURN THE POWER OFF: DIVERSITY CONFERENCE 2005

This year's Diversity Conference made all of our hard work well worth it. It was great to get a chance to interact with those who attended the conference because I was able to appreciate the impact of the event even more.

In past years my conference experience was much different. Brandi and I had the opportunity to speak on KHSU's Homepage, The Lumberjack and Channel 3. The reoccurring question was why do we continually host the Diversity Conference and what makes it so different than any other one? Never before did I feel so compelled to explain why the conference is essential to HSU. The essence of why we need the Diversity Conference lies in the thousands of people that walk around our campus daily thinking that we have achieved diversity. The conference also brings awareness to those who are oblivious.



The heart of the matter is that the only way we'll ever come close to true diversity on our campus is by creating safe places for dialogue. That can't be achieved cooped up in some office talking to people of similar interests, nor can it be achieved by not talking at all. Hence, why a conference like ours is perfect for the job.

I'd like to thank all who attended the conference, for making the experience a rich and fulfilling one. Those of you who pulled me aside to share how much you enjoyed the keynote speakers and workshops confirmed to me that we chose topics that were inclusive of a very diverse group of people.



How did Brandi and I pull off such a big conference? Our staff worked really hard to make sure that everything ran smoothly...great job guys.

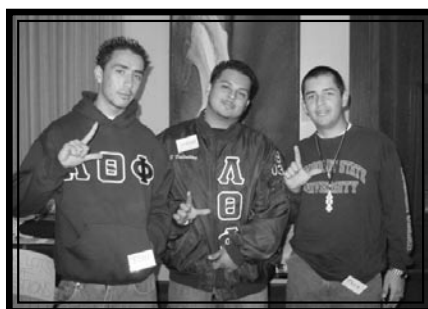
Well, now that it's over, I can share our three secret ingredients ...Marylyn Paik-Nicely, Jerri Jones, and Hazel Lodevico. It couldn't have happened without them and I would like them to know that their willingness to help as well as not stifle our creativity was greatly appreciated.



Brandi, Brandi, Brandi, my long-lost home girl from Hayfork, thanks for making the conference painless. We always agreed on when to work, when to go to lunch, when to go shopping, and when to take our infamous cell phone breaks. I'd do it again in a heartbeat.

Rumor has it that the conferences get better every year. As conference coordinator, I'm proud to say that this year's will be a tough act to follow!

~Aunjelique Meraz
2005 DIVERSITY CONFERENCE COORDINATOR



REACHING OUT TO UNDERREPRESENTED COMMUNITIES

By: Adriana De León-Topete

The 10th Annual High School Conference entitled, "Changing the Face of Higher Education Through Cultural Diversity" took place on Saturday, December 4, 2004 at HSU from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This conference has a long-standing tradition of excellence within our respected community. The Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano Aztlán (M.E.Ch.A) has been assembling this conference for the past 10 years to reach out to high school students within our local communities, encourage them to overcome obstacles, and emphasize the value of planning future educational and career goals. The Asian Pacific American Student Alliance (A.P.A.S.A.), Sista 2 Sista, Residents of Color Council, along with other Latino groups on campus also worked in collaboration with M.E.Ch.A. hoping to encourage students from different ethnicities to attend this event.

Activities included several informational workshops such as financial aid, admission, housing and dining, and the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP). Our goals for the High School Conference were met having had just over fifty students attend and three seniors, who met all the requirements, that were instantly admitted.

For questions, comments or just to receive more information on the High School Conference, please visit M.E.Ch.A.'s web page at www.humboldt.edu/~mecha.

THANKS TO EVERYONE THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE ORGANIZING! STAY POSTED FOR THE 11TH ANNUAL HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE COMING FALL '05!

7 LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

WELCOMING IN THE YEAR OF THE ROOSTER

By: **Thavisak Syphanthong**



February 2005 marked the beginning of the Chinese New Year as the year of the Rooster. Traditionally, Chinese New Years are a time for family gatherings and community celebrations. In China, parades (with traditional lion dances) and fire works would be exhibited throughout the streets and homes to bring in the New Year (otherwise known as the Lunar New Year or Spring Festival). These celebrations would typically be filled with religious ceremonies honoring family ancestors, household gods, and the spirits of Heaven and Earth, wishing good luck and prosperity for the coming year. Making sacrifices, honoring and remembering family ancestors (especially during this time) is crucial for most Chinese families because the spirits of deceased relatives are believed to help protect and bring fortune and glory for the surviving family members.

On Sunday night, February 20 the Asian Pacific American Student Alliance (APASA) welcomed the New Year in the Kate Buchanan Room with students, members of the community and the Chinese lion dance group, Yau Kung Mon Inc., from San Francisco. The event was a huge success and various members of the community flocked into the room throughout the evening. Members of APASA also made dishes to share and community members also joined in on the potluck. There were dishes from many countries including Thailand, Laos, China, and more. The lion dancers did a wonderful job of entertaining the audience with their martial arts and acrobatic talents. Members of APASA also performed some traditional dances (which were choreographed by the dancers themselves) and sang some wonderful Chinese songs. Jessica Wang also gave a wonderful (although brief) Chinese language lesson between performances.

Once the lion dancing performances were over, the lions traveled the room for people to feed them good luck money stuffed in red envelopes to bring them good luck for the coming year. The Chinese believe that making offerings to the lions would bring them good fortune for the coming year, much like their offerings to their ancestors would. Overall, the celebration was a great success, and APASA wishes everyone a Happy New Year! We hope to see you next year!



Soul food is.....

...delicious!

...cooked by mom!

...fun!

...corn bread!

...tradition!

...chicken!

...creates community!

...fried!

...cooked by grandma!

...sweet potato pie!

...family!

...history!

...black eyed peas!

...mac'n'cheese!

...mmmmm!

...part of Black Liberation Month where I was well fed, entertained and satisfied!





THE STRUGGLE WITHIN HIP-HOP

By: Shyama Kuver



To bring an end to Black Liberation Month, there was a special screening of “Nobody Knows My Name” during Ethnic Studies 480 Hip Hop and the Black Experience. The movie tells the story of women who are connected by their love and loyalty to hip-hop music and culture. Despite the fact that these talented female artists exist within a culture that revolves around self-expression, the subjects of Rachel Raimist’s documentary have to struggle to be heard.

The film is a beautifully made portrait of women in hip-hop; these are not the “sluts” and “ho’s” of the corporate music video world. The women of that world are what the mainstream media has led us to believe define the feminine presence in hip-hop. Quite the opposite, the women in Raimist’s documentary, DJs, b-girls, and rappers are complex, wise and show their vulnerable sides, and than are still triumphant at their craft. All are of great ethnic diversity and talent who believe in hip-hop as a positive way of life.

DJ Symphony is the sole female member of the world famous Beat Junkies. Asia One has found a position as an organizer of the B-Boy Summit, but yearns for a sense of female community. Leaschea lives an unstable life and even though she has signed with a major label she understands that this step is only the first of many obstacles she’ll have to overcome. Lisa married into the hip-hop lifestyle and now raises a hip-hop family. Both her husband and son rap and the youngest children are on their way to find their niche within the hip-hop community. Medusa is a successful musician in the Los Angeles hip-hop underground scene. T-Love, an ex-“Cripette,” hopes her creative talents will help her change her lifestyle and gain some respect as a female emcee.

Through the sincere study of these women, Raimist explores a fascinating and diverse feminist community, which yearns to find a place in a male-dominated subculture that is, nonetheless, marginalized. It is known that Raimist succeeds in empowering these self-actualized women by giving them the voice for which they struggle by the end of this one-of-a-kind film.

The film was a great way to end Black Liberation Month, not only by focusing on an aspect of black culture but paying respect to the women within it. It also made for a great segue into Women’s Herstory Month.

INDIAN ISLAND VIGIL: BRING A SONG TO YOUR HEART

By: Brandi Miller

I'd never been before, and that night the winds blew making us all stand close together. I struggled to keep my candle lit, hear the voices at the core, and take in the surreal feeling of it all. The World Renewal Ceremony has not occurred since February 26th, 1860. Each year there is a candlelight vigil to remember the precious lives that were taken by settlers; almost three tribes perished that night. The vigil is also a time to breathe new life into the lungs of the people. They say that although the circle has been broken, each of us should bring a song in our heart. There were prayers, singing, and memories pouring into our ears.

We gathered, native and non-native, with silence and respect. I tried so hard to keep that candle burning, but it kept flickering because of the constant wind and in the end I just listened. I realized this candle is like the Wiyot tribe, once a strong, vibrant flame that is now being rekindled. The Wiyot continue to regain Indian Island and will one day renew the world, shining brightly. For now, it seems that the strength of the tribe is carried most strongly in the hearts of all of us. Through our honor of this land, their land, and our respect of the native people who have lived here for thousands of years. I encourage every individual to attend the Indian Island Vigil at the end of February and to learn more, you can visit their website at www.wiyot.com.

1ST ANNUAL HERSTORY ART SHOW

By: Jonathan Guerrero

The DJ spun records as people mingled and studied various pieces of art positioned in interesting spaces throughout the showroom. As you made your way upstairs a brilliant piece greeted you on the landing, if you made a detour into the bathroom you discovered another hanging beside the mirror. This scene was not at a gallery in Old Town Eureka, nor was it in a private gallery; it was in actuality on campus situated in House 55.

"Art and what is presented is tied up in the space that it is shown in. At House 55 there was a mutual feeding off of energy, and the art enhanced the feeling of the building," said Claudia Torres-Ambriz, one of the coordinators of the show.

The 1st Annual Women's Herstory Art Show was a new addition to March. The show highlighted the work of women and additionally brought visitors to the MCC. Although the only prerequisites to be featured in the show were: "any medium, any size, as long as you make it," surprisingly no men submitted work and the show was entirely the work of females.

When asked about the future of this event Torres-Ambriz coolly stated: "I want the Herstory Art Show to be continual, although it is under the auspice of the Women's Center I want it to evolve."



11 CELEBRACION LATINA



A TASTE OF LATIN CULTURE

By: Jonathan Guerrero

This year's 5th Annual Celebracion Latina was filled with opportunities to step out of your everyday life and into a new culture. The celebration began on March 30 and lasted until April 13. One of my favorite workshops that I attended was the Tamale making workshop that was presented by Puentes. The cooking demo began with the bare essentials and with the patient guidance of the cooks we worked our way to the final product, a delicious steaming tamale filled with sweet potato and cheese. It was like the food network coming to life. Food is one avenue that the sponsors of this celebration used to introduce people to Latin culture.

Another workshop that I enjoyed was the screening of "Motorcycle Diaries." I had learned a bit of information about Ché, but only from the perspective of old textbooks. He was cast as a dangerous, unintelligent, revolutionary who cared little for the people. This however seems quite the opposite of what the man stood for. He not only cared about the people, he traveled on a bike throughout South and Central America and used his knowledge of medicine to treat and aid the less fortunate. In fact, he spent a great deal of time in a leper colony caring for the sick.

Other events included: "history of Cinco de Mayo," Organic Guerrilla Video Film Making," a discussion and presentation on Plan Columbia," "the Latino Purposeful Dinner," to name a few. Overall, what I found to be impressive was the dedication and drive that all of the various organizations put into the celebration to make it a success. Groups such as Latinos Unidos, Gamma Alpha Omega Sorority, M.E.Ch. A., Lambda Theta Phi, Puentes, Accion Zapatista, the MCC, and A.S. contributed a lot of energy and resources.

The celebration drew to a close with the Latino Purposeful dinner. Groups performed traditional dances, traditional clothes were modeled while I enjoyed home-cooked food.

As a student who has attended this celebration in previous years, there is a definite growth in the community, which shines through in this celebration. I walked away with a large sample of Latino Culture and I can't wait to go back for more!



MAKE SOME NOISE!!

By: Hazel Lodevico

Tou Ger Xiong, affectionately called the Hmong version of Chris Rock, Jim Carey and Snoop Dogg all stir-fried into one, keynoted the 3rd Annual Asian Pacific Heritage Celebration, Monday, April 25 in the Kate Buchanan Room.

Beneath the laughter of Xiong's hilarious routine is a message full of hope in the face of tragedy, despair and discrimination - a message inspired by his own personal story. Xiong's story is a familiar one to many Southeast Asian refugees and to local Hmong communities living in Humboldt and Del Norte Counties. Xiong's family made the treacherous journey across the Mekong River to Thailand at the end of the Vietnam War as they fled retaliation from the Lao communist government for his father's service with the CIA. Xiong's father bribed fishermen to help his family across the river. The Xiong's made it across safely, but the second boat full of another Hmong family was robbed and drowned when the same fishermen turned over the boat midway. Most of the drowned were children.

After spending four years in a refugee camp in Thailand, Xiong's family immigrated to the United States. Once they arrived, the Xiong family knew they didn't have it easy. Still, Xiong persisted and while most of the young Hmong men were dropping out of school or landing in prison, Xiong refused to become another statistic. Raised in housing projects in St. Paul, Minnesota, Xiong overcame poverty, discrimination and gang violence to graduate as valedictorian from Humboldt High School in 1992. He went on to receive a degree in political science from Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota.

In 1996, Xiong created Project Respectism, an educational service project that uses comedy, storytelling, and rap music to bridge cultures and generations. Project Respectism has since evolved into a program that provides cultural entertainment and education for people of all ages and backgrounds. Xiong has spread his message to 44 states in eight years and has given about 1,300 presentations nationwide.

Xiong has been featured on national television, radio and newspapers and has been called "one of the most influential Hmong in America today." Xiong currently has a documentary/rap video titled "Hmong Means Free" airing on public television. Xiong has also starred in "Portraits From the Cloth," the first television movie about a Hmong family's journey from the war.

Although his personal story is unique, Xiong's message is universal. "As much as we are different, we are alike in many way," says Xiong. "We have no other choice but to get along."





ALOHA & A HUI HOU (UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN) HAZEL

By: Isaac To'o

The school year is drawing to a close, students come and go, graduating seniors say farewell and vanish without leaving a trace. But one prevalent figure is leaving at the end of the school year. Saying goodbye to the students and community she has impacted in so many ways with her generosity, passion, and dedication to improve and erase ignorance and prejudices that surrounds the campus. I am talking about the Coordinator of Outreach for the MultiCultural Center, Hazel Lodevico. As most of you know, she is leaving at the end of the school year, and this is a tribute to her, in honor of all she has done for me and for everybody who knew her. We all do not want to say good bye, but thank you!

I knew Hazel as a student at Humboldt State and as a Staff member for the MCC. As a student she stepped foot on campus seven years ago, not expecting much, just like every other student when they first arrive at Humboldt. As a student Hazel took notice of the school's lack of diversity and vowed to make a difference. Hazel served as A.P.A.S.A.'s (Asian Pacific American Student Alliance) vice-president and spearheaded H.S.U.'s first Asian Pacific Heritage Celebration.

As a Coordinator of Outreach for the MultiCultural Center, Hazel cared for its clubs and students. In times of need, Hazel was always willing to lend her assistance. I always knew I could count on her support and encouragement. She would always take the time to talk and listen to students to see how their day was going. She was a person that saw nothing but the best in others and wished for their well being. Hazel really represented what the MultiCultural Center is about, as someone who is proud of her heritage, as someone who will lend her shoulder for you to cry on, as someone who will educate one self and others on cultural issues, she challenges herself and others to erase popular stereotypes and ignorance. Hazel is more than an employee at the MCC, she is a friend.

The school year is coming to an end, students will come and go, graduating seniors will leave and so will Hazel saying her farewell one last time at the end of the semester. It will be difficult to see her go. Words cannot express our appreciation for all of her hard work, but thank you, Hazel.



By: Marcee
Lynnea
Stamps

Coming to Humboldt State University has been one crazy experience. From the small town life to the hippy culture, my time spent at HSU is definitely one that I will never forget. I first would like to thank all the people I met at the MultiCultural Center. That place was like a second home to me during my time here. I've met so many wonderful people who have completely different backgrounds and experiences from me. I've also learned a lot about different cultures and I've seen the beauty of diversity. I would like to thank Marylyn Paik-Nicely for making me feel welcome and apart of the MCC and for giving me the wonderful opportunity to coordinate the 9th annual Diversity Conference. Although that was a lot of work, I feel the success of the conference was my greatest accomplishment during college.

I definitely cannot forget the friends that I've made here at HSU. These are the people who made my college experience AWESOME! I have been so blessed to have met wonderful people who have taught me a lot, made me laugh, and helped make tough times a little more bearable. Enika, you are the coolest chick ever. I am so glad I met you. We had a lot of fun times, and hopefully more to come. Paula, I am so blessed to have a friend like you in my life. Spending time with you always brings a smile to my face. Thank you for all the laughs. I know that we will definitely stay in touch. (CPT for life!)

I don't exactly know what the future holds for me, but I do know that God has amazing plans in store for my life. I plan on trusting in him and I know that He will guide me. I have a huge passion to go to Africa and show people God's amazing love. I hope to go in the near future, so I am really excited about how God will use me through that experience, because I know that it will be awesome.

Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."





THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HSU

BY: Aunjelique J. Meráz



Before coming to HSU I graduated from Artesia High school in Lakewood, Ca. Even though I applied to Humboldt I had no intension of really coming. I hid all the HSU mail addressed to me because I had my heart set on gong to a big school far-far away. The Educational Opportunities Program was on to something when they sent my summer-bridge application to my mother because she actually read the mail, and that's why I'm here.

I'm approaching the end of four years and I don't regret a minute of it. Had I gone to another school I probably would not have had the opportunity to start a dance squad like Demolishion. I'm proud of how far we have come as a team, along with how much we have grown to love each other as a family. I wish you all the best and I know that you will accomplish even bigger things than we have thus far.

Where else would I have my own two hour free format radio show that broadcast campus wide and world-wide via internet? KRFH Student Run Radio has provided me with an experience of a life-time. I've loved every minute of it, work that I have done for the station will be part of what I use to market myself in the future. Dr. Gary Melton was one of my biggest inspirations while working on the station and in his audio classes. He never settled for mediocrity from any of his students and I believe that all who worked with him and have a love for broadcasting will be great journalists because of it.

Upon graduation I plan to pursue broadcasting internships that will prepare to work with the MTV news.

Ultimately my ability to grow here at HSU can be accredited to a strong support system of family, friends, staff and faculty.

MY STAFF AND FACULTY SUPER STARS: Marylyn Paik-Nicely, R.W. Hicks Paul Silva, Dan Saveliff, Camelia Armstrong, Isaac Carter, Ryan Mann-Hamilton, Kieon Morgan and Randi Darnelle-Burke. Thank you all!!!

TO MY IMMEDIATE FAMILY: Mommy, Mama, Marques, Ebony and my fiancé Anthony. Your constant prayer, love and support keep me going.

TO MY CHURCH FAMILY: Robbins Memorial Church of God In Christ, thank you for remembering me in your prayers and I can't wait to be back home this summer!

If I even attempt to name all of my friends someone would get left out and be upset. So I won't set myself up for an end of the year dispute. You guys know who you are. I've learned a lot from you all and wish you the best in the future.

LIVING DREAMS

By: **Thavisak Syphanthong**

My father decided to move his family from Laos in 1985 because Communism was rapidly taking over. I was about one at the time when we were escaping our country. I can remember my father telling us stories of how the Communist soldiers were trying to stop us from escaping the country. At one point my father recalls, "Bullets were flying everywhere as we tried to cross the Mekong River to Thailand in the middle of night." After being stranded in Thailand for a while, my family was among the few lucky chosen ones to be picked to go to the United States. But first, we were transported to the Philippines where we were held for another two years in refugee camps. Finally we were sponsored by a nice family in Ohio and came to America, "Land of Opportunity", in late 1985. After a few months of freezing winter weather in Ohio, my father was determined to move his family to a better place. Around the beginning of 1986, my family packed our things again and moved to Eureka, California where my father knew some friends from the refugee camps. Since then, my family has been living in Eureka for about nineteen years.

My parents are hard-working people who are determined and willing to make sacrifices in their own lives for the lives of their children. Their determination to achieve a better life for us gave them the courage to risk their own lives in coming to America. This great determination is also what made my parents quit welfare after only three months of living in the U.S. in order to work in manufacturing jobs (while knowing only a few phrases of English) because they wanted their children to have the same quality of life as other American children. My parents were also determined to gain citizenship for their children and after five years of waiting they were finally allowed to take the exam. When those five years were up, my parents rushed to the adult school and studied everyday to prepare for the citizenship exam. Around 1991, my family became citizens of the United States and my parents fulfilled their dreams of a better life for their children.

I think it is my parents' great determination that inspires me to better myself at everything I do in life. Because of them I have challenged myself by taking advance placement and college level classes in high school, and to study two majors during my time at Humboldt State University. This May, 2005, I will be graduating from HSU. I know that it will make my parents proud to see their first child get a degree (let alone two degrees) from a university in a country that they struggled and risked so much to reach and survive in. I would like to thank my parents for their determination in bringing me to where I am today. Without them and their great inspiration; I would not be the person I am. Thank you Mom and Dad! Your dream has come true!



PARIS'S LAST WORDS...

Interviewed by: Jonathan Guerrero

Paris B. Adkins is graduating from HSU after only three years. She has been continually active as the MCC African-American Community Coordinator, V.P. of Student Affairs for the Associated Students, a choreographer, a member of B.S.U. and Sista to Sista as well as a writer for the Lumberjack, Matrix and Osprey.

What were your initial impressions as a rising college student?

The only thing that was scary was being unable to leave, and I've been bussed to magnet schools since junior-high. It was different here, and L.A.'s a long ways away.

Do you have any advice to give on making it through HSU successfully?

Sit-ups. Do 50 sit-ups a day and you can make it through. When pain comes it hits you in the gut. Be strong and you can carry the weight. That's my dance analogy.

Is there someone that you feel has been motivational or inspirational during your college experience?

Ryan Mann-Hamilton, as a student and advisor. Jennifer Eichstedt, professor of Sociology. Shyama Kuver, student and fellow journalism major. Samantha Grey, A.S. president. R.W. Hicks. Christina Accomando: what's great about Christina was that she was the first teacher that let me talk; she actually wanted to get to know me. Previously, I felt that teachers saw me as a subject to observe, the "black women." I was quiet, pulled A's, but they did not know what was going on in my head. She gave me the space to vent, let me answer my own questions rather than answering them for me.

As a lesbian, black, woman, have you had a unique experience or perspective that you would like to share?

It's funny because it took me 6 months to come out. I stopped and thought about adding lesbian to the Black-woman title, which is extra and adding to the drama of being a Black-woman. It was a hard decision, but I wouldn't feel right holding back my part of me that makes me feel special.

As a student of color at HSU is there an outlet or organization that made an impact on your experience?

The MCC and Jennifer Eiksted's office, which are right next to each other. If one place has no one to vent to, I can walk a little ways and find people who will not question how I feel.

Deciding on a major is an issue that many students grapple with, how and why did you decide on yours?

If I could major in "fuck you," I'd be teaching classes already, that's not offered so I'm a Journalism major with a minor in Ethnic American Literature. I'm a writer and I love to write, I don't know how to verbally express myself.

What has been your biggest accomplishment as an undergraduate?

Graduating. Not everyone gets the opportunity to graduate, let alone go to college. Out of all my friends, only 3 are in college, and I make friends easily. I made it, and I finished. That's my accomplishment.



HASTA LUEGO REGI...

By: Jonathan Guerrero

He will be remembered for his relaxed demeanor, slick humor and ability to set everyone at ease with a couple of words and a smile. Reginald Thomas II, or Reg, has been a staple at the MCC and numerous cultural programs for the past few years. With his close attention to detail and impeccable style you could count on him to speak honestly and directly to the point. He his favorite quote: "Life's tough, wear a helmet."

Don't let his chill persona fool you; he is ready and willing to help at a moment's notice. Throughout his educational career at HSU he has devoted countless hours working on campus and in the community continually promoting equality and opening lines of communication to further this ambitious goal. While on staff he welcomed new members and made them feel at home. He was an active volunteer for numerous events and always brought a positive attitude to even the most stressful situations. Last year, he took the responsibility of coordinating the 10th Annual Diversity Conference, a position that requires a combination of strong leadership and vision.

We at the MultiCultural Center would like to thank you for the good times. Your presence will be missed. Congratulations Reg, and good luck with whatever the future may hold for you!

2005 HO'OLAULE'A

By: Marylyn Paik-Nicely

On Sunday, May 1, the members of HUI (Humboldt United Islanders), APASA, HSU Housing Staff, and the MCC will present the second annual Ho'olaule'a (Hawaiian word for gathering) beginning at 3:00 in the Kate Buchanan Room. Students from Hawai'i will be preparing authentic Hawaiian food such as kalua pork, poi, lomi salmon, haupia (coconut pudding), and more. There will be meatless dishes for vegetarians, too. Kira Lee's hula classes will perform, and HSU alumni John Rivera will return to sing traditional and contemporary Hawaiian music.

There will be arts and crafts such as lei-making and tapa-making, games from the islands, and vendors selling their crafts. In addition to the sharing of the rich cultures and traditions of the Pacific, the Ho'olaule'a will also be an opportunity for people to learn about current Native Hawaiian issues such as sovereignty, land and sea rights, historical and current colonialism.

"We hope to bring to HSU a touch of Aloha at the second annual Ho'olaule'a," said Jessica Viernes, one of the coordinators and a Living Group Advisor. Jessica has been coordinating the social justice exhibits and discussions with the Housing staff.

The 2005 Ho'olaule'a is free to all. Tickets for the Hawaiian food are \$3/HSU and CR students and \$6/general. Tickets for the Ho'olaule'a Hawaiian Plate can be purchased at the MCC, House 55. For more information call the MCC at 826-3364.

Pacific Islander and Native American craftspeople who would like to sell their crafts at the Ho'olaule'a, please call Marylyn Paik-Nicely at 826-3367.



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