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The Lumber Jack

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 25, 2009 Vol. 94 No. 5
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Corrections for the 2/11 and 2/18 Issue

In the 2/18 issue the Chico State Wildcats were incorrectly identified as Wolverines.

Letter to the Lumberjack referring to the 2/11 issue,

I have to be very critical of the article that was written about the Lunar New Years Celebration. Aside from the writing being what felt like extremely unenthusiastic, there were many errors that I was able to find.

The author wrote that the Lunar New Year started on the first full moon, but it starts on the new moon (writing "first" would be redundant, like saying that January 1, New Years Day starts on the first day of the year). Also, the author wrote "Sayoko Wu, a geology major, performed a taiko routine, a Japanese martial art performed on drums." I am not a geology major but a geography major. Taiko is not and never was a martial art: taikos were once used as signals to tell time and to give out orders on the battlefield, but today, it is purely used for musical purposes at festivals and performances. Lastly, there was only one drum on the stage, and I believe the sentence leads to a misconception of what was actually at the event.

I feel disgust towards stereotypes, so I had to put the newspaper down when I read that taiko was a martial art. Did the author write that because I'm Asian?

The event that took place was the "Lunar New Years Celebration." During the interview, I remember talking about the Lunar New Years being celebrated in countries other than China, so the club calls it "Lunar" instead of "Chinese" New Year. What was written in the article (twice) was "Chinese New Years."

The MultiCultural Center was mistyped as Multicultural Center. It is a small mistake, but names are something that need to be spelled exactly.

The article also said that the event was "traditional Chinese," but I don't think anyone in our club would describe what we had as "traditional." Then again, the author might have asked someone who actually said that.

There may be more errors with other interviewees in the article, but I haven't discussed this with them.

Next time there is an event, please send someone who is knowledgeable and/or sensitive to various cultures.

Thank you.

Sayoko Wu
Geography major, junior
Asian Pacific American Student Alliance (APASA) Club Co-President

Please contact us to inform us of corrections

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Photos by: Allyson Riggs and Elizabeth Sorrell

Cutting it close

State budget leaves CSU little room to breathe

Elizabeth Sorrell

Staff Writer

For the sixth year in a row, the California State University system is receiving more cuts to its budget.

The signing in of the budget marks the second consecutive year the CSU system will go without funding for future enrollment and overall operation costs.

The CSU system is now out \$283 million. And that is assuming the federal stimulus package directs enough money to California. If the potential money is not equal to the amount expected by that of California officials, another \$50 million will be deducted from state colleges and universities.

"The state is in a very difficult position right now," said Teresa Ruiz, the public information officer for the office of the chancellor. "We are serving more students than we can afford."

Because the state can't afford those students that are already in the system, an additional 10,000 incoming students may be denied entry this coming fall.

Paul Mann, HSU's public information officer, said HSU students will see the impact in the next several months with the coming of the next fiscal year, which starts on June 30. "It means that there will be fewer courses, fewer classes and a higher student to faculty ratio, which in turn leads to less time for students to meet with their professor," said Mann. HSU currently claims a 21 - 1 student faculty ratio.

Beth Wilson, associate professor in the economics department says that there will be more of the same. "Larger classes, higher fees and more disgruntled faculty." Wilson said that one of the reason that she came here was because of the small class sizes and the liberal arts feel. "Our comparative advantage is that we have smaller class sizes, that we

"We are serving more students than we can afford."

-Teresa Ruiz CSU public affairs

actually know our students names. To have HSU turn around and become like every other CSU, I find that idea extremely disturbing."

Richard Paselk, professor and department chair of the nursing department said that it would be really hard to tell what is going to happen for the students as well as the programs. "We are really on the edge right now," said Paselk. "But in nursing you can't really increase the class size." Since the nurs-

ing program has different mandates and is primarily a professional program, increasing class size is not an option as it would risk patients lives at the hospital that the students do clinical work at.

Paselk, who also is a chemistry professor has noticed the strain the school has had to face over the years and said that one of HSU's problems is that it doesn't have the facilities to offer huge classes, which in turn is actually a good thing. "We can't offer a 250 seat lecture on Chemistry or Botany. Why would you want to? They can do that at San Diego State University, but we aren't them. We don't want to be that for our students."

Mason Lev, 24, a theater arts major says that he doesn't think that there will be much of a change in his major. "The theater department is sort of small anyway. But I could see the cuts affect the general education classes. I can only imagine if they have to start having biology classes in the JVD."

The California Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee reports that student fees will increase about 10 percent. Student fees at HSU have skyrocketed 130 percent since 2002. CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed said that the cuts are impacting the ability of the CSU to "maintain quality and services for our 450,000 current students."

The budget package, which was passed by California Legislature and signed in by Gov. Schwarzenegger on Feb. 20, cuts not only

\$283 million in spending from the CSU system, but also \$8 billion from public schools and community colleges, \$185 million from programs for the developmentally disabled and \$1.4 billion from state worker salaries.

There will also be an increase in sales tax by one cent, which is estimated to save \$5.8 billion, and an increase in personal income tax rates by 0.25 percent saving \$3.3 billion. The vehicle license fee will also increase one percent, which will save \$1.5 billion.

Small business owners will be getting a tax break of \$200 million to go forward with the hiring of new employees. \$100 million in credits will also be dispersed for people buying new homes and even Hollywood will get a tax break of \$100 million, which has some students fuming. One of which is Kelsey Morgan, 18, zoology major. "It is ridiculous the cuts that we are getting. Why should education suffer when the entertainment industry already gets millions?"

It is not sure exactly what else will be affected by the budget cuts. HSU's budget director, Lee Lindsey, did not return the Lumberjack's repeated phone calls or emails.

"There will be some tough choices coming up," said Wilson. "Program prioritization will happen. Hard and painful choices have to be made."

Elizabeth Sorrell may be contacted at: thejack@humboldt.edu

Budget meeting shrouded in secrecy

Jason Robo

Staff Writer

Uncertainty is widespread regarding an off-campus budget retreat held Feb. 20, and whether or not open-meeting laws were violated.

The retreat took place instead of a Humboldt State University budget committee meeting scheduled that day. The meeting was canceled without notice to the public, but is still shown as scheduled for Feb. 20, at 2 p.m. on the University Budget Committee Web site.

It is unclear whether the retreat, or the original meeting, are subject to the state's open-meeting laws. Information from university staff regarding the retreat location and its attendees

has been withheld on in conflict with prior statements.

Paul Mann, HSU's Public Information Officer, said open-meeting laws were not applicable to the retreat or the scheduled budget committee meeting. "I don't take hypothetical questions," Mann said that Friday in response to the possibility that open-meeting laws had been violated.

According to Adam Goldstein, Attorney Advocate for the Student Press Law Center, the UBC falls under the Bagley-Keene Open Meeting Act which applies to state bodies. "If they are discussing state business and if a majority of the members are there, that is a meeting," Goldstein said. Mann

was unable to clearly define how the UBC is exempt from Bagley-Keene.

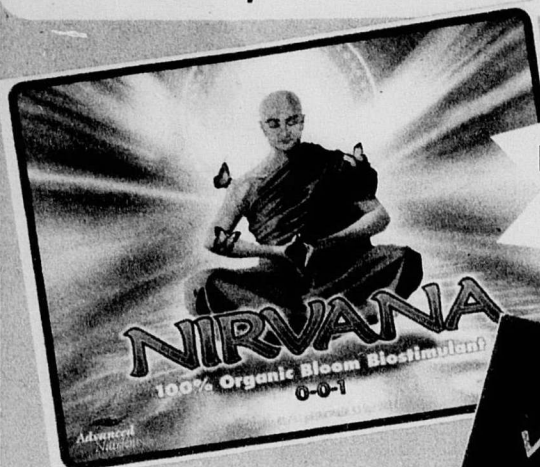
Initially claiming ignorance of the retreat and that the UBC was canceled on Feb. 19, Mann revealed on Feb. 23 that all staff, faculty and administrators were invited to attend, but explained that no record of attendees was kept. Turns out university property, the Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center in Eureka, was the "off-campus location."

The budget committee is charged with advising President Rollin Richmond on the budget

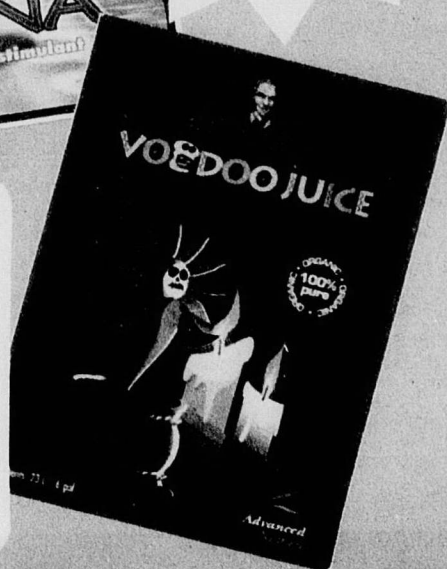
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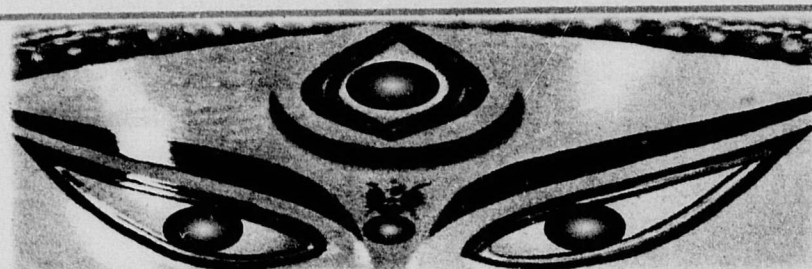
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Amazon deforestation endangers global climate

Jason Robo
Staff Writer



Changing weather patterns and strange sun events begin to effect Humboldt County.
|Bryan Thomson

Global climate may soon collapse due to Amazon deforestation. Hydroelectric power plants, biofuel crops, cattle ranching and the war on drugs are among humanity's self-destructive habits decimating the rainforest.

Environmental author Peter Bunyard said local, regional and ultimately global climate will become uninhabitable due to continued Amazon deforestation. "The hydrological cycle of the Amazon is a more important consideration than just focusing on carbon," he said.

Bunyard's presentation, "The Amazon Basin: A Critical Factor in Forming Local, Regional & Global Climate," was featured as part of the Activism and Conservation Seminar hosted by the HSU Anthropology Department on Friday, February 6. The event was packed and left some attendees on the floor.

Lauren Ludtke, a 20-year-old anthropology student, appreciated Bunyard's insights on deforestation and the global climate.

"It's good to see the facts behind global climate change broken down in a scientific way that lets you see it happening, especially his emphasis on the Amazon," said Ludtke.

Bunyard, a co-founding editor of Ecologist Magazine, said that Earth's hydrological cycle (the movement of water across the plan-

et) relies on the Amazon Forest.

Evapotranspiration, the loss of moisture from vegetation, cycles 75 percent of moisture across the Amazon, approximately twenty million metric tons. As deforestation expands soil structures collapse converting rooted, nutrient-rich land into desert. The end result is a dry season begins to overwhelm the wet season.

Biofuel crops soy and corn, he says, are one of the primary drivers for Amazonian deforestation. Fossil-fuel replacements have been a popular trend in the environmental movement, causing more harm than good ironically. Bunyard explained that Earth's biomass utilizes only one-half percent of the energy in the plentiful sunlight reaching Earth's surface.

"We are really going to need several planets," Bunyard told the audience, "if humanity relies on bio-fuels rather than readily abundant solar energy."

Cattle ranching lands, Bunyard says, contributes nearly as much as biofuels do.

Burning is a standard when clearing forests for conversion to biofuel crop growth or cattle ranching.

Satellite photos revealed numerous smoke plumes scattered across the Amazon. Bunyard described

Bolivia and Brazil as "intent on destroying their forests" do to their excessive expansion into the Amazon through burning.

A consequence of this, Bunyard theorizes, is that drifting smoke pushes clouds upward creating unnatural thunderstorms and hailstorms in neighboring countries. Photographs were shown of dark, high clouds and the disastrous aftermath of a three-hour hailstorm in Bogota, Columbia.

Another great scourge in the Amazon Bunyard notes, are hydroelectric dams. Dams contribute to deforestation by depleting waterways and amount to a death sentence for surrounding vegetation. Images of bone-dry waterways drove the point home.

The war on drugs, Bunyard asserts, causes formidable trouble for the rainforest, especially in Columbia where Bunyard started conducting fieldwork in 1989. Columbia is the United States' third largest military expenditure, primarily motivated by efforts to eradicate coca plants.

Chilean-born Mariela Phelan-Cacares thought the drug war was a facade for clandestine operations in South America. Such thinking is not too far from reality when recalling the Iran-Contra scandal, which ex-

See Climate, page 6

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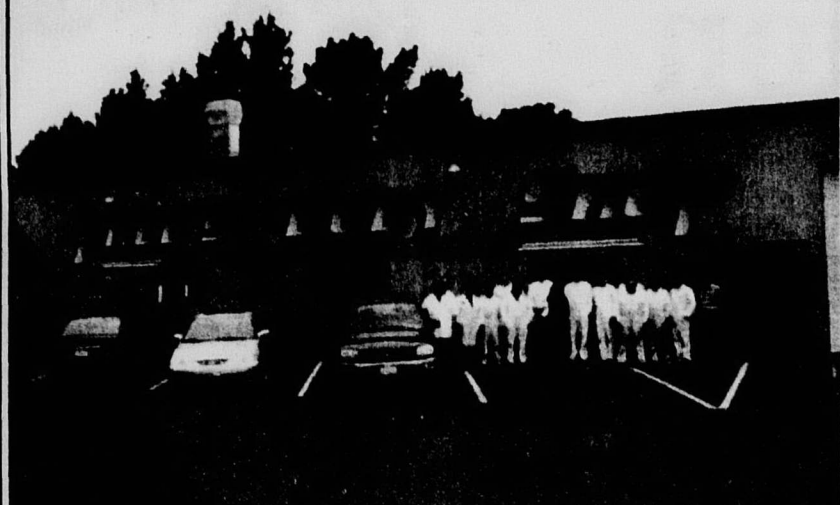
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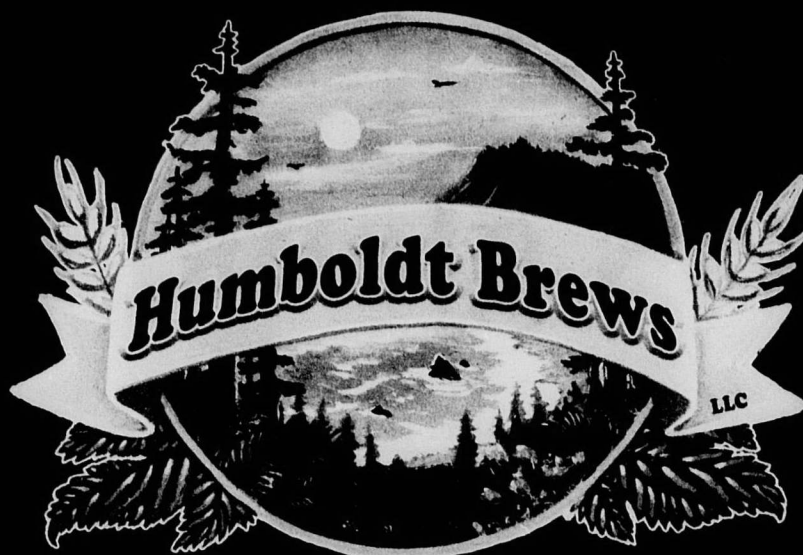
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Climate: Human habits decimate Amazon Rainforest

Continued from page 5

posed then President Ronald Reagan's cocaine-funded clandestine operations. Reporter Gary Webb exposed links to American cities for crack-cocaine as covered in his controversial series "The Dark Alliance."

Fumigated toxic herbicides are used to destroy black market crops. "When you destroy one crop you drive up the prices for the others," said Bunyard. These chemicals, produced by the agricultural biotechnology company Monsanto, indiscriminately plague plants, animals and indigenous peoples. Monsanto also sells herbicide-resistant genetically modified crops to farmers in the Amazon.

The audience pleaded with Bunyard to provide solutions and hope for his presentation. So he presented "mechanisms to prevent deforestation" in place of the designated question and answer period.

Awareness was the main mechanism. Also included were forest regeneration tactics and rewards to not deforest.

Phelan-Cacares voiced concern over possible "environmental missionaries" concealing subversive agendas under the guise of environmentalism. She voiced fears over the use of moral environmental arguments, which may justify undue influence rather than help prevent environmental mistakes.

"There are political issues we need to be aware of before we end up pushing for an agenda," warned Phelan-Cacares. Carbon dioxide is currently being debated as a regulated pollutant by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Graduate students Rebekah Dickens and Ben Sequoia Proctor organized the event wrote the programs. and Anthropology professor Mary Glenn said, "They [Dickens and Proctor] raised dollar by dollar the money to bring Peter here."

Despite risking death for his political views Bunyard will continue to spread awareness of the Amazon's importance. His most recent book is titled "Extreme Weather."

Jason Robo may be contacted at:
thejack@humboldt.edu

Budget secrecy: Meeting cancelled for off- campus budget retreat

for the upcoming year. The recent passage of California's 2009-10 budget included a 10 percent cut to the California State University system, but HSU's share has yet to be defined.

HSU Associated Students President Sofia Periera is the student representative on the budget committee. The retreat was planned since January, she said, in order to deliberate on the budget committee's structure and to provide the committee with "tools to function in the future."

Periera said, the UBC knew that on Feb. 20 they would replace the regular meeting with the retreat. This conflicts with the administration's official version of events.

David Maddox, the head of Maddox Management Consulting, was hired by the university to author a report for the budget committee detailing the budget process. His report, "Review of Budget Process: Preliminary Recommendations and Observations," is available on President Richmond's Web site. Mann later stated that Maddox attended the retreat to discuss his report.

After initially denying record of retreat attendees, Mann later released a list that included his direct supervisor Frank Whitlatch, president Richmond, Vice President of Student Affairs Steven Butler and all but three members of the UBC.

Periera was attending the California State Student Association meeting in San Jose, Calif., and unable to be at the retreat. This means the meeting was held without its president, on campus facilities, and was not open to the public. The CSSA held a re-organizational conference and all AS presidents were asked to attend, she said.

Randi Darnell-Burke, vice president for Student Affairs, was the only budget committee member on campus during the retreat due to a student emergency, she said. "I knew they were going to be there," she said. President Richmond's office arranged the retreat, according to Darnell-Burke.

Though budget committee members attended the retreat, it was not an official budget committee meeting, according to Darnell-Burke. The next scheduled official budget committee meeting is March 27.

Denice Helwig, special assistant to the president, would not confirm or deny if the retreat was intentionally concealed. "I know nothing about that," she said.

Helwig deferred to Mann for more information. When asked who the president's office would discuss matters with she said, "I really don't have the answer to that question, it's so situational."

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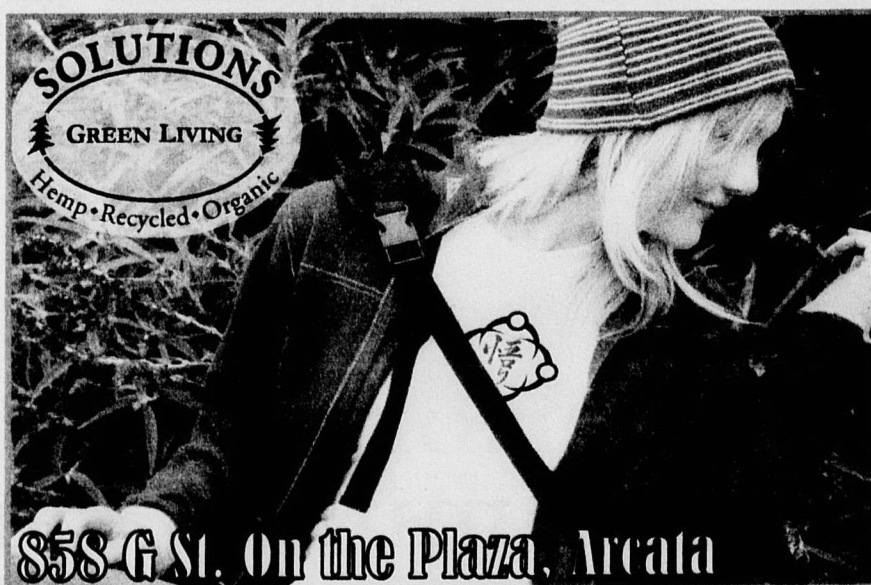
Clarification on open-meeting laws

Open meeting laws passed by California's Legislature act as a form of insurance for democracy and transparency of governing bodies. Each outlines how they must inform the public for all meetings, prepare agendas, accept public testimony and conduct their meetings in public except conditionally permitting closed sessions.

Bagley-Keene Act - Guarantees the public's right to attend and participate in meetings of state board and commissions. Ex: Academic Senate

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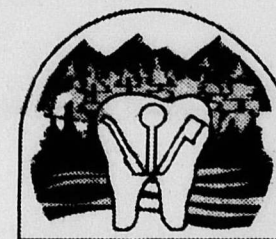
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Family PACT

waiver extended to March 31

Erin Delsigne

Staff Writer

California could lose federal funding for the Family Planning Access Care and Treatment (PACT) program unless it begins verifying the immigration status of its participants.

Family PACT is a program that provides free reproductive health services to low income men, women and teens whose annual incomes do not exceed 200 percent of the federal poverty level. This represents a household size of one individual, such as a college student, who makes under \$1,734 a month.

Sarah Nelson, a volunteer with Family PACT said, "Of those enrolled in the Family PACT program in Humboldt County, a number of beneficiaries are HSU students."

Angela McCurdy, HSU business major said, "I don't have health insurance. I don't know what I would do without Family PACT. I would have to save at least \$160 a month for my birth control alone."

Rebecca Stauffer, director of the HSU Health Center said, "A loss of funding would bring hardship to every low-income Californian benefiting from Family PACT, many of them being college students." 1.7 million low-income Californians are enrolled in Family PACT.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) extended the The Family PACT Medicaid Waiver through March 31, 2009. This means that students enrolled in this program can continue to receive family planning services until March 31.

Although federal rules limit Family PACT to U.S. citizens and documented immigrants who have been in the country at least five years, California does not verify individual beneficiaries' eligibility for the program.

The Kaiser Daily Health Policy Report has estimated that 14 percent of Family PACT beneficiaries are undocumented immigrants. The Bush administration wanted the state to change the way it counts the illegal immigrants who use the service.

"Hopefully the Obama administration will be taking a look at this," said Stauffer.

According to the same Kaiser Daily Women's Health Policy Report, the state receives \$315 million of the program's \$432 million annual operating costs

from the federal government.

State officials say the new policy of immigrant documentation could create a \$262 million deficit in the state budget.

Laurie Weaver, director of family planning at the California Department of Health Services, said, "While the state may think it would save money with this budget cut, in reality California would lose \$9 for each \$1 cut from Medi-Cal family planning."

The program is credited with preventing 170,000 unplanned pregnancies each year, said Weaver. Avoiding those births saves California on welfare and public schooling costs.

"Family planning programs have never been stable," said Nelson. "Every year there seems to be a federal funding problem and every year we have figured it out somehow. No matter what, we will find a way to help the students here at HSU."

Erin Delsigne may be contacted at:
thejack@humboldt.edu

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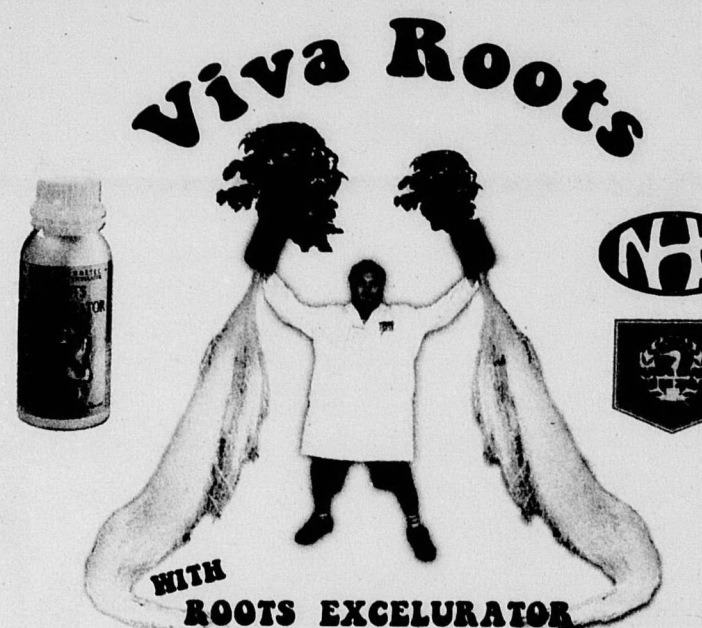
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Features

10 | FEATURES

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2.25.2009

Festival brings world cultures to campus

Tatiana Cummings

Staff Writer

The International Cultural Festival offers HSU students a taste of 18 different countries and cultures. The free event will take place this Saturday at 1 p.m. in the Karshner Lounge.

The festival is an opportunity for people, who come from all different parts of the world to come together and share their culture. Junior environmental science major Nasley Proa attended the festival in the past.

"I personally like to learn about other people and their cultures, and having this cultural festival is the perfect opportunity to do so," said Proa.

In the past, several hundred people attended the event. Donna Clark, language skills specialist for the Learning Center, said, "The event is very well attended by the community and a true family event."

The festival is broken up into two halves. During the first half of the event, people are encouraged to roam the aisles while they enjoy food tasting and site seeing of booths dedicated to the represented cultures. "The cultural festival is a mingling and learning experience that gives people a sense of what it might be like to live in a different country," said Clark, who is also the advisor to the Global Connections Club and helps with the organization of the festival.

The second half of the festival, consist of an array of entertainment from different performances, demonstrations by local and international artists, martial arts and story telling.

Among the talent showcased at this Saturday's festival



Students milling about in the Karshner Lounge at last year's international cultural festival | Photo Courtesy of Donna Clark

are Peruvian musicians Huayllipacha (pronounced why-lee-paucha), Ya Habidi Dance Company, Humboldt Folk Dancers, and Japanese martial arts demonstrations by Northcoast Aikido.

The International Cultural Festival dates all the way back to the 1980's. It was originally an idea to get students from various countries together for cultural sharing and entertainment. With the guidance of the International English Language Institute, HSU international interns, student clubs and the Global Connections Club, the festival grew.

Clark said it is a chance to promote a positive atmosphere to educate people about various aspects of cultures around the world.

"The cultural festival is an opportunity for students studying as international students to experience all aspects of culture with campus community."

This event is sponsored by several people, including grants from HSU's Associated Students and the Diversity Funding Committee. Support for the event comes from Northcoast Coop, Sun Valley Floral Farm and local restaurants.

With your cooperation and the help of HSU's Dining Services, this will be a "zero waste" event. So please be aware of your surroundings and use the composting receptacles that will be available.

Hiroyuki Kajino, the logistics coordinator for this year's festival, said he wants to raise awareness about ethnic diversity in general. "It is not just about international diversity, it is just a tool to see diversity," said Kajino.

For additional questions or concerns you have about this year's International Cultural Festival you can visit their website at www.humboldt.edu/clubs-sites/ICF09.

The event will be held Saturday Feb. 28, at 1 p.m. in the Karshner Lounge. Admission is free.

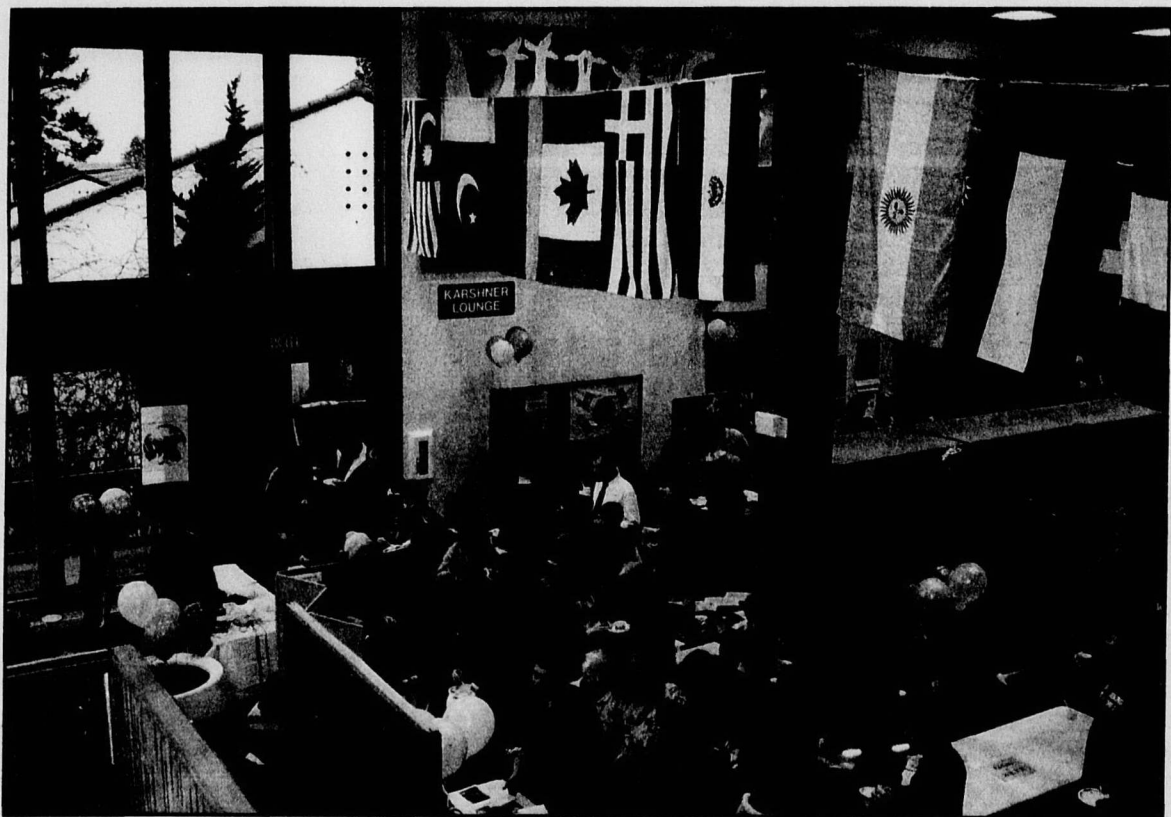


Photo taken at last year's international cultural festival | Photo Courtesy of Donna Clark

Tatiana Cummings may be contacted at:
thejack@humboldt.edu

Purim celebration to unite community

Jennifer Mackaben

Staff Writer

For some, noisemakers and decorative masks surface when the winter months expire. It is not, however, for the popular Mardi-Gras holiday, but for the Jewish celebration of Purim.

The Havurah Shir Hadash Temple in Sunny Brae encourages all to attend its religious carnival Friday, March 6. The Temple celebrates the Purim Carnival with costumes, noisemakers called groggers, and sweets. Board member of the congregation, Janice Olkin, suggests treating the holiday more like Mardi-Gras. "Little girls dress up like princesses," she said. "It is such a celebration. It's just as fun!"

Temple Rabbi Les Sharnberg said, "[Purim] is celebrated with a great deal of humor, a sense of lightness and gaiety," he said.

Rabbi Sharnberg explained that the holiday is derived from a story of an ancient Persian attempt to exterminate the Jewish minority. King Ahasuerus of Persia had an evil advisor, Haman. A Jewish Palace official named Mordechai once refused to bow down to Haman, influencing Mordechai's own death sentence and the elimination of Jewish people.

The heroine of the story was the king's second wife, Esther,

who was Jewish as well. When she publicly revealed her true religion, the king sided with the Jewish people. Esther and Mordechai then wrote a decree allowing the Jewish population to defend themselves against Haman's men. Rabbi Scharnberg describes Esther as "a woman who wanted a woman's way. I don't think any man could have won the battle." The annual commemoration of Purim honors the delivery of the Jewish people from annihilation.

Groggers are used as an interactive way to involve the listeners in the reading of the Jewish tale. Rabbi Sharnberg will be reading the Megillah (the scroll of the story of Esther). In the religion, the reader, whether it is the Rabbi or another Temple member, is supposed to be slightly inebriated. When words are slurred, the audience uses the noisemakers to point out the narrator's mistakes. The crowd also boos when Haman's name is mentioned and cheers when hearing Esther.

Olkin described Hamantash, one of the traditional Purim sweets

Havurah Shir
Hadash Temple

Friday, March 6

served, as a pie-crust pastry with apricot or prune filling resembling Haman's three-cornered shaped hat.

Alex Fisher, a Los Bagels' employee of three years, recalls celebrating Purim when he was younger. "I've always considered it more of a children's holiday," Fisher said, "but I have to admit that it is a lot of fun!"

Traditionally, Purim is held on the 14th day of the Jewish month of Adar. That translates as Tuesday, March 10, this year. Rabbi Scharnberg said the Temple changed the date to the sixth so as many people as possible can attend. He encourages everyone, regardless of faith, "[to] come in peace. Come to celebrate in joy with the spiritual community."

Jennifer MacKaben may be contacted at:
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CampusAction

Mayhem ensues during anti-terrorism talk

Leigh Lawson
Assistant Features Editor

Self-acclaimed ex-terrorist Walid Shoebat thinks he knows the difference between fundamental Christians and fundamental Muslims. He claims that he's been both in his lifetime.

"Fundamental Christians give the whole world a headache. Fundamental Muslims chop heads off," said Shoebat.

Last Wednesday, more than 200 people waited in a line stretching from the Van Duzer Theater to the art building to hear Shoebat, a former member of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), speak about his experiences as a former Islamic terrorist. Many of them were there in protest.

Jesse Smith, an HSU anthropology major from Sacramento, passed out literature against Shoebat. He said that Shoebat helps spread fear and hatred of Muslims, and the violence is caused by the colonization and occupation of Palestinian land.

Waiting outside for the event John Demsey, a conservative from Arcata, was surprised at how many people showed up. "I'm curious if all this is support or if [the speaker] is going to be booed off the stage," he said.

The mission of the PLO is to liberate Palestine by armed

force. During his speech, Shoebat told the story of how he was sent to blow up a bank in Bethlehem. He was relieved when the bomb missed its target, injuring no one.

Now a U.S. citizen and a convert from Islam to Christianity, Shoebat speaks around the country about the dangers of Islamic terrorists. Islam scripture urges its disciples to fight until all people believe Allah is God, said

Shoebat. "Americans know little about terrorism," he said.

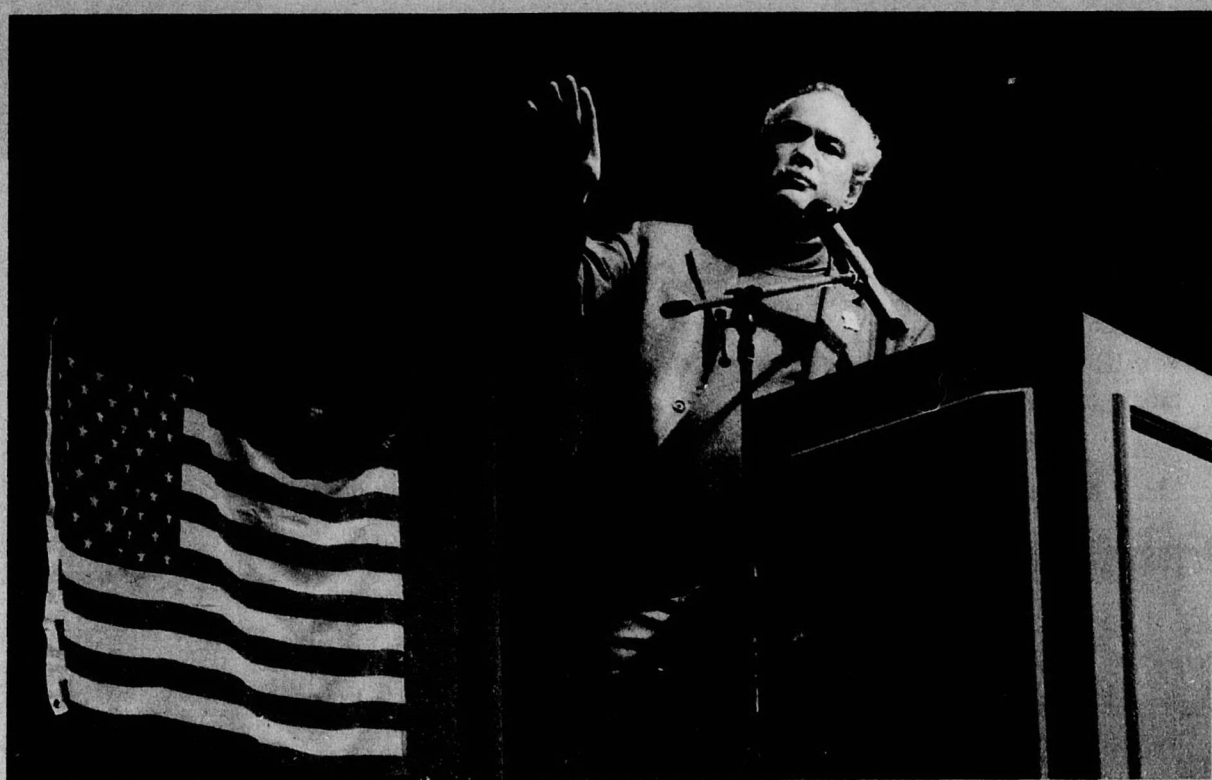
Heather Birchard, a journalism major from Orange, Calif., wonders how a reformed evangelical Christian that is against violence can say that Islam leads to terrorism.

The presence of four police officers from the Arcata Police Department and the University Police Department did not prevent attendees from shouting throughout Shoebat's



Protestors of Walid Shoebat hung signs denouncing his views and presentation during the heated debate and presentation. | Elizabeth Sorrell

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Walid Shoebat was met with protests from various members of the student body during the open question period of "Confessions of a PLO Terrorist." | Allyson Riggs

speech. Members of the audience got into verbal debates with Shoebat, and often refused to let him talk.

Responding to the outbursts, Shoebat announced that the liberal people in the crowd were showing the neutral law-abiding citizens their true colors. "Your focus is to destroy your country," he said.

Dylan Sutherland, a political science major from Shenandoah Junction, West Virginia, said he learned from his program to speak calmly and respectfully in heated debates. Sutherland said he knows people have the right to speak, but wished they did so in a more respectful way. He said the event was the craziest discussion he's attended at HSU.

"This is a terrible representation of HSU," he said.

The tension climaxed when Shoebat defended himself against attacks that he was racist. Asked by an audience member if he thought that there are Christian terrorists as well as Islamic ones, Shoebat said that Christian terrorists do exist.

An audience member called out, "Yeah, George Bush."

Shoebat answered, "If it weren't for men like George Bush and Ronald Reagan, you'd probably be saluting the Nazis right now. Are you done with your civil behavior?"

“Fundamental Christians give the whole world a headache. Fundamental Muslims chop heads off.”

-an excerpt from Walid Shoebat's speech

Then, protesters in the front row responded by holding up signs. President of the College Conservatives club Jerilyn Gashi, who introduced Shoebat on stage, attempted to tear the signs from their hands. Police ran over to subdue the confrontation, and take the signs away.

Gashi said that Shoebat was talking about his personal experiences, so his presentation didn't follow a political agenda. "He was quoting the Koran and the Bible, his arguments were rational."

She said the irrational people are those that came with preconceived notions. They came to hear what they needed to confirm these beliefs, and then blocked out the rest of the presentation, she said.

Alex Fonseca, clubs and activities coordinator, said Associated Students partially funded the event, giving \$3,250. Another \$3,000 came from private donations, he said. Associated Students assists clubs by providing funding for dialogue-promoting activities, said AS President Sofia Periera.

She said AS welcomes all clubs to apply for funds through the Activities Coordinating Board -- where students review the club proposals and determine the allocation of money.

Fonseca said that grants are given based on the club's cultural contributions to the university, not based on the content of the presentations. The goal of granting money is to bring diverse organizations that wouldn't otherwise be here, said Fonseca. Fonseca understands certain events create turmoil but, speaking as a professional, the AC funding board must make sure they don't violate anyone's free speech, he said.

Students who want a continued discussion about Walid Shoebat's visit and other significant issues are encouraged to bring club proposals to the coordinating board, said Periera.

Shoebat said that the goal of his talk was to create a political dialog, and that regardless of people's beliefs, a dialog would ensue.

The dialog is ongoing, as the Women's Resource Center is facilitating a discussion of students' reactions to Shoebat's presentation on Wednesday, Feb. 25, at 6:30 p.m. in Founder's Hall 203.

Leigh Lawson may be contacted at thejack@humboldt.edu

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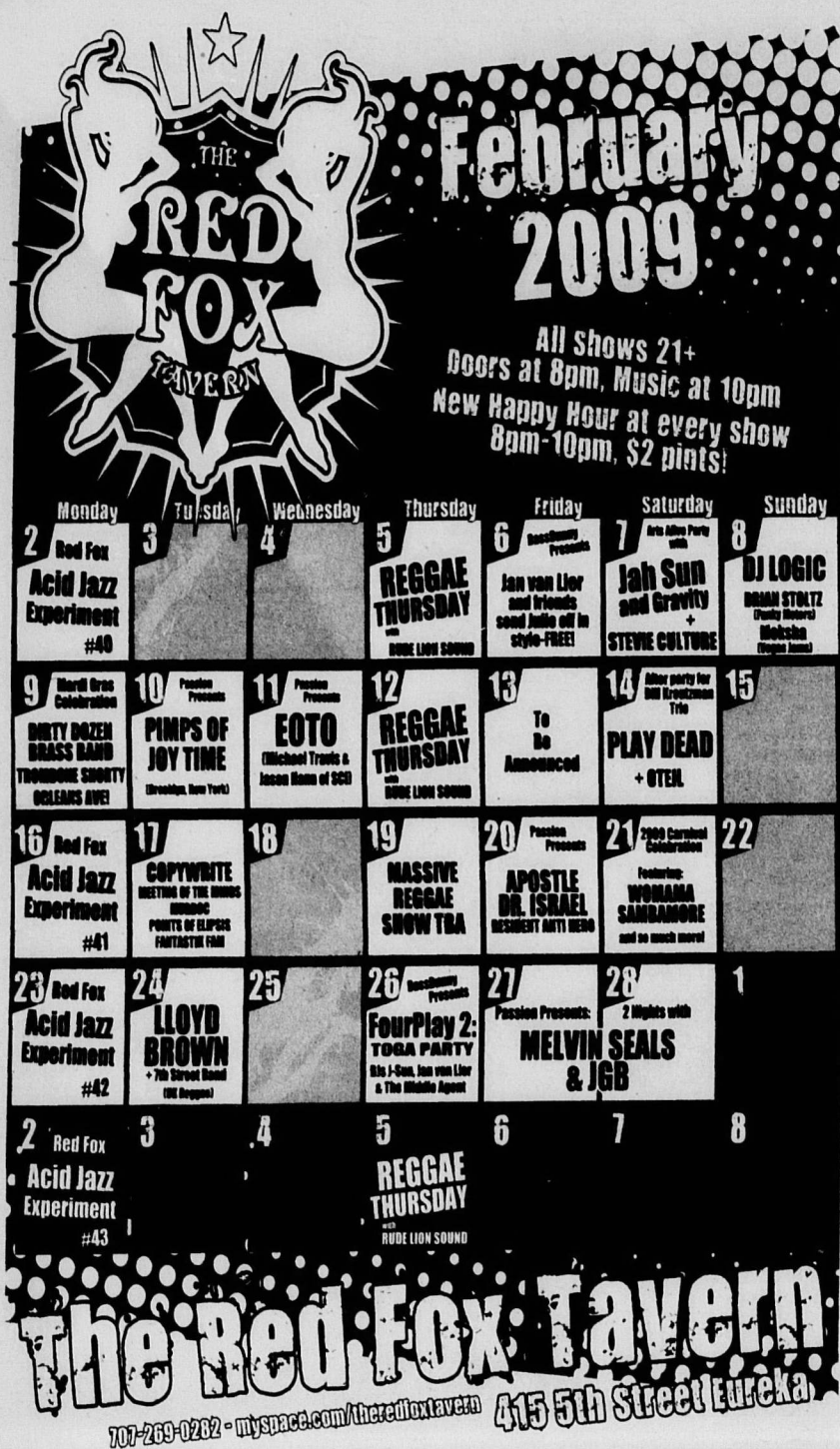
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Application, resume and essay are due at the Department of Politics, Founders Hall 180, by 5pm on Friday, March 27, 2009.

Opinion

2.25.2009

THEJACKONLINE.ORG

15 | OPINION

EDITORIAL

The dividing walls of crisis

Shit has hit the fan. There is no more denying it. This past Friday, our state leaders finally got their heads out of the clouds and agreed on a state budget. As predicted, people are getting screwed.

For the first time in 17 years, the new budget calls for across-the-board sales- and income-tax increases. It also calls for several million in cuts to mental health and public education, including California's university systems.

The budget reduces funding to the extensive 23-campus CSU system for the current fiscal year, 2008-09, by \$97.6 million. It calls for an additional \$66.3 million cut for 2009-10. Overall, the reduction places CSU \$283 million, approximately 10 percent, below its operational needs.

This is the second year in a row the state has withheld funding for enrollment growth. Chancellor Charles B. Reed said plans to reduce enrollment by about 10,000 students will go ahead.

In short, we all have a lot of hurdles to clear. In the coming months there will be a lot of hard decisions we will all have to make.

In uncertain and challenging times many of us will look out primarily for ourselves and our families, but now is the time when we must all look out for each other. This school, amongst others, is at great risk and we cannot do anything about it as long as we allow ourselves to be divided.

The people we try to look up to in our faculty and administration have done the dividing for us long enough. The administration and faculty are so divided that it took a special consulting firm from New York (at the cost of \$65,000) to tell administrators what is obvious, there is a lack of communication between all levels on campus.

The times we live in are raving mad, so let's not act in the same fashion. We all come from a wide array of different places, backgrounds and perspectives, but one major thing we all have in common is HSU.

We are all here together and we are all uncertain about our educational futures.

Now, more than ever, we depend on each other to get out of this sink hole. If we are going to pull ourselves up out of this we have to change and adjust our perspectives.

Most of us came to HSU to see life in a different way. We came to meet new people and share different viewpoints in hopes of bettering ourselves. Yet, it is easy to fall into our old routines and surroundings, especially in Humboldt. It is more comfortable to talk to people like you, who may share your experiences.

But, if we are to ever truly "grow up" as adults, as better people, we must try to understand what it is like to be in another's shoes.

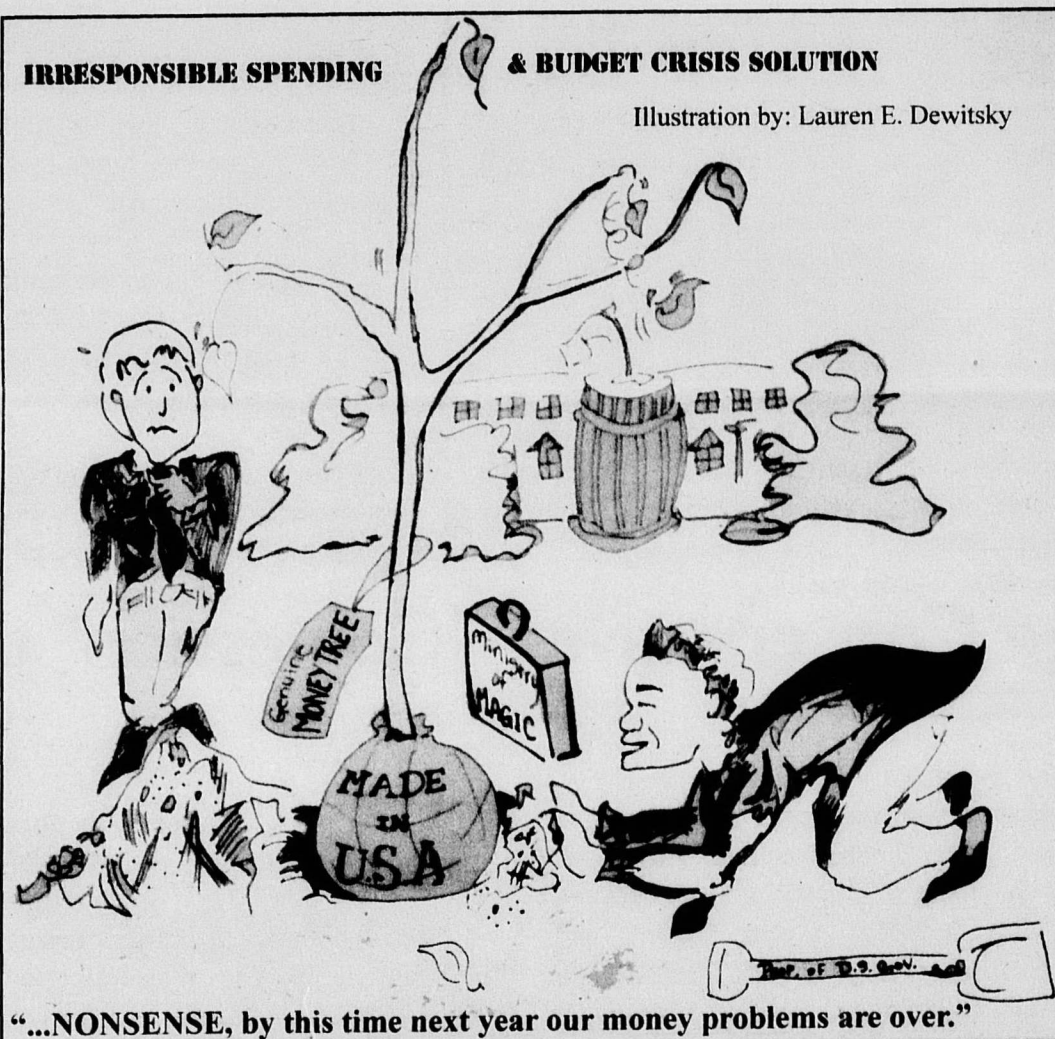
We have come so far in this country. We just need to keep pushing through and facing our own fears and prejudices, knowing that they are based in ignorance.

The problems we face are vast, and the decisions we make concerning them are monumental. We are going to have to make sacrifices in order to work together and stand up against a system that doesn't seem to care about education.

It is time we set aside our differences and step into a new era of thinking, an era where we tear down the walls of separation and build up the foundations of understanding. Only then will we be able to see the solutions to our problems.

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Illustration by: Lauren E. Dewitsky



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The Lumber Jack

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Offended student organization

As students of color, we were deeply offended by Walid Shoebat's speech last Wednesday, February 18.

Many of our club members are Muslims from parts of Asia and the Pacific Islands. Shoebat's presentation was disrespectful, hateful and was completely false in its claims about Islam, the Prophet and the entire Muslim world. All Muslims are not terrorists. We are not terrorists.

Mr. Shoebat has no business speaking about Islam if he is not a Muslim.

We do not condone these types of events at HSU, and we regret funding this particular event with our student fees—yet without our consent.

We will not welcome Mr. Shoebat here again, or any other racist, hateful, disrespectful presenter for that matter.

A.P.A.S.A.

Asian Pan Asian Student Alliance

Shoebat debriefing available

I was an active participant in the demonstration in solidarity with Palestine that took place during Walid Shoebat's presentation on February 18, 2009. Mr. Shoebat's speech was hateful and disrespectful, not only to all Muslims but also to all peoples internationally that are in the same situation as Palestine.

Mr. Shoebat constantly threw out unfounded accusations of peoples of the world and the audience. He shouted and cussed at the audience repeatedly and evaded every single question. This was not the "confessions of a terrorist," it was "rambling of a racist."

Most of the attendants at the event have little knowledge of the true conflict in Gaza and even less of Islam. Our presence in the Van Duzer was necessary for those who were about to take Shoebat's racist, disrespectful, hateful, capitalist and christian agenda as truth.

We offered facts and a chronology of the Israel/Palestine conflict, instead of an ungrounded spread of lies and defamation of the true message of Islam.

Most importantly, we provided a presence for all those whose land have been stolen, those whose lifestyle had been

invalidated, and of those whose lives have ended because of their religion and/or the color of their skin.

If you are concerned or confused about the actions taken last Wednesday, I encourage you to come to a debriefing of the event this Wednesday in Founder's Hall 203 at 6:30 p.m.

J. Aada

Arcata, Calif.

P.S. We stand in full solidarity with the students taking action in New York University.

Speaking out for the truth

As I'm sure most students have heard by now, there was a contentious Campus Conservatives presentation of the anti-Islam speaker, Walid Shoebat Wednesday night.

The Campus Conservatives will no doubt attempt to spin the event to show how horrible we heathen liberal Humboldt students are.

They recorded the event, though I'm sure the racism and hate-mongering will be cut while the outcry for justice will be spun as anti-American commie rants. The demonstrators will be called rude; how poorly this reflects on our university.

But what kind of Orwellian double-speak are we supposed to sit by and endure? Humboldt State is an institution dedicated to intellectual rigor. How can we allow a complete fraud (Jorg Luyken, Jerusalem Post, "The Palestinian 'terrorist' turned Zionist," 3/30/08) to profiteer off false claims that promote violence and religious intolerance?

As students—as people dedicated to scholarly pursuits—we have the right, nay the responsibility to demand the truth and speak against falsities.

For a war-monger to say peace protestors are responsible for terrorism is insulting. Shoebat's attempt to reframe

a call for equity and understanding as support for violence is an attack on intellectual honesty.

The self-proclaimed fundamentalist Christian called HSU students "assholes," and referred to protestors as "bullshit."

Shoebat said "Islamists were hand and hand with the Nazis" and denied any discrimination of Muslims in the United States. He also claimed Reagan and Bush II prevented the United States from falling under Nazi control, which demonstrates a complete lack of understanding of history or world affairs.

I don't begrudge the Campus Conservatives the right to bring right-wing speakers here. There are a number of conservative scholars and figures (the kind that cite sources for their facts, for instance) that would likely have been welcomed and politely listened to.

Of course that assumes the organizers wanted to spark honest intellectual debate. In fact they brought an inflammatory figure to incite anger. This is a political move. It was an attempt to scare people into racist ideology, induce religious fervor and produce propaganda. Frankly, they should be ashamed.

Josh Aden

International Studies -
Globalization, junior

Where's the College Conservatives' "Confession" to Affiliation Fraud?

GUEST COLUMN

Those multiple-hundred students that attended and/or protested the "Confessions of a PLO Terrorist" speaker event in the Van Duzer on Wednesday, Feb. 18, don't need to explain the level of tension and back-and-forth aggression that preceded and surrounded Walid Shoebat's visit to campus. Those that think that all that was sparked was the same dichotomous friction of "conservative" versus "liberal" ideology are, however, gravely mistaken.

This presentation by the supposedly reformed terrorist was our campus's first big event to even touch on Palestinian issues, a breaking to the surface that should have expanded our cultural understanding. Instead, we receive a so-called scholar who can't decide whether "there's significant distinction between liberal and fundamentalist Muslims" or "every single Islamic Web site proclaims that Shar'ia must engulf the world through violence." His foundation had been said publicly to be rejected by the Pennsylvania State Charity Board.

Even those who vehemently disagree with this characterization can't quite claim surprise that so many raised loud objections. It wasn't that we weren't being civil; myself and

many others with similar views were among those shouting, "Let him speak," earlier, honoring the chain of respect until he broke it with such phrases as "shut-up," "idiot," and my personal favorite, "local whacko." In terms of preceding person-to-person interaction, it seemed for every conversation that started civil and degraded, there were just as many that started combative and became mutually self-empowering.

Most who were angry enough to stay for the vigil on the Art Building steps were understandably ready to bash every single organization that allowed him safe passage here. From the posters, one would be lead to believe those were the Collective Leadership Association and Associated Students, the governing body of students. The former hasn't been heard of by anyone I know on campus before, and, as the Student Affairs VP of AS Council, I can assure you the latter was in no way directly involved.

There are only two ways event funding can be said to have the full support of AS: if a representative of that affiliation files a grant request through the subset of the AS Funding Board or comes directly before the 22-student Council. Being one of the two students

to sit on both, let me make very clear that this event was never brought to our attention this way.

Jerrilyn Gashi, the student hostess of this speaker, is the known secretary for the College Conservatives. She has both come before the AS Funding Board to help with another event and appeared before the Council to have us deliberate on passing the 9/11 Anniversary Moment of Silence resolution.

There is always a variety of opinions that arise, but as long as she pursued these goals ethically, we were happy to accommodate in the most reasonable way we could agree on. Despite what I've heard is her insistence to the contrary, that was not the case this time. She used to request a lot of information of me about committees not even within our jurisdiction, and now I believe I know why.

The funds sought for this event were provided through our very separate allocation to the Clubs and Activities Office. I was under the impression we were notified of how they disburse the funds, but this decision happened to elude us until after the fact. It was a mockery of the due process of our funds and the only reason our logo got onto the poster is due to the misguided stipulation that posters

for all events directly and indirectly related to us have to have it.

A Council colleague of mine tried to make this distinction to those assembled for the after-vigil, but was greeted with mostly manipulated deaf ears. Students have to understand not only that, but that the Collective Leadership Association was convinced to be involved. They were obviously a front so the College Conservatives could be both the main operator and the only one not disclosing affiliation.

This same colleague sent all Council an email that night that deliberate misinformation has been spread about us. I wasn't inside for the opening statements, but apparently Gashi insinuated it was fully-supported by AS and tried to lie directly to my colleague's face before storming away when confronted. This is not about ideology, it is about truth of disclosure. I ask her to apologize and urge cultural clubs that feel abandoned in the face of this monstrosity to email me (vaporfall@gmail.com) for direct information or assistance.

Gabe Shames

Student Affairs VP
Associated Students Council

Season for nonviolence

I am writing to remind your readers that we are currently in the Season For Nonviolence, which falls every year between the anniversaries of the assassinations of Mahatma Gandhi (Jan. 30) and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (April 4). During this 64-day period, we are called upon to commemorate the teachings and example of these two great human beings.

During this time, as part of being more peaceful, I hope that we can all begin to realize and reduce the immense violence we commit towards animals used for food and help raise consciousness in our culture that nonviolence begins on our plates every time we feed ourselves. If we yearn to contribute to peace, a terrific opportunity presents itself at every meal to move ever closer to a vegan way of being in the world. Veganism is radical inclusion—including all sentient beings within the sphere of our compassion.

Dr. King said, "Violence anywhere hurts everyone everywhere," and Gandhi's basic entreaty was to, "Be the change you want to see in the world." He claimed the table fork to be the most violent weapon on earth.

With the new administration of Barack Obama, there is a palpable sense of relief and optimism in the country, even in the midst of the enormous challenges we face.

Many believe that all change will be coming from the grass roots, so we must insist on peace, justice, sustainability and equality from our leaders. This means we must live these values in our own lives, and communicate them as best we can through all levels of our culture.

I am inspired by the book "WORLD PEACE DIET: Eating for Spiritual Health & Social Harmony" by Will Tuttle, Ph.D., a revolutionary vegan.

Check it out at www.worldpeacediet.org.

Obama is in possession of a copy of this book. Contact him and urge him to read it! Our message to him:

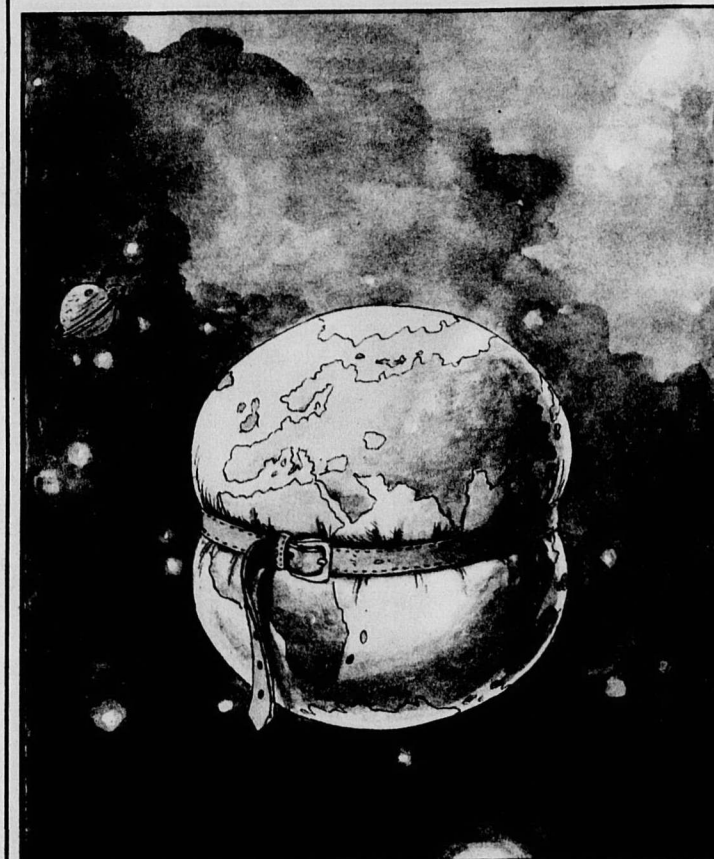
YES WE CAN CHANGE and be more peaceful towards animals!

Eating a more plant-based diet reduces environmental devastation, improves human health and saves the lives of many innocent creatures.

Love animals; don't eat them,

Martha Devine
H.S.U. Over 60 student

"World in Crisis" cartoon by
Marian Kamensky of Slovakia



A picture of adoption

The California Department of Social Services Adoption Services in Arcata recently displayed photos of foster children as "art."

Well, adoption isn't always a "pretty picture." When adopted children become adults, they WILL be discriminated against.

I am an adult adoptee born in the State of California in 1969. I do not have the same civil rights as non-adoptees in this country. I cannot access my original birth certificate or my sealed adoption records. My "amended" birth certificate has been falsified showing my adopted parents as my biological parents. My original birth certificate with my true biological identity and names of biological parents was sealed when my adoption was finalized a year after I was born.

I do not have access to family medical history and cannot locate family members to give or receive organ donations, if needed. I can't fill out the "Family

History" on any doctor's forms. I have to put: "N/A I'm adopted." This endangers my health and the health of my children.

Since 9/11, adoptees are being denied passports out of the country because their birth certificates are amended. We are being kept captive in our country just because we are adopted!

I should be able to go down to the Vital Record's Department and purchase a certified copy of my original birth certificate like non-adoptees can. My heritage and my ethnicity are being withheld from me. This is a gross injustice.

Adoptees are not second-class citizens and should not be treated as such.

Mare Rigge
Trinidad, Calif.

Michael Phelps does not owe an apology

To whom does Michael Phelps have to apologize? Political representatives not paying their taxes? Good Christians caught in sex scandals? The man or woman who polishes off a case of beer or sits down to their fifth martini every night? A child-porn browser on the Internet? Or that CEO, perhaps even at Kellogg's cereal that canceled Phelps contract, who took a million dollar bonus while Americans suffer trying to pay their bills.

Cannabis is an ancient plant sometimes called "The God Plant" by indigenous cultures for helping with pain and illness. It should have been legalized decades ago, as it has been in other countries, finishing the violence from illegal growers and drug runners and freeing police and the courts to zone-in on hard drugs like cocaine, meth and heroin.

Legalization would also give a hefty profit to our government coffers. As would the farming of hemp, a by-product,

which makes a variety of things including paper, that would benefit our environment. Hemp is legal in other countries, who are also way ahead of us in health care and education too.

Marijuana is not a dangerous drug—alcohol and cigarettes are. Nor does it lead to other drug use. It relaxes, eases pain, prevents glaucoma and helps people who are ill and cannot eat to have an appetite. Perhaps even softening the pain of dying.

Phelps does not owe this American an apology for being "caught" smoking marijuana. Obviously it did not stop him from winning Gold for America. An apology would be the height of hypocrisy given the other indiscretions of this modern world.

Kate Tour
Fortuna, Calif.

The Lumberjack Submission Policy

- Submissions must be addressed to
Opinion Editor Rose R. Miller at
rcm28@humboldt.edu

- Include "Attn: Opinion" in the subject line for e-mail submissions.

- Letters to the editor may not exceed 350 words.

- Guest columns may not exceed 750 words.

- All letters and columns may be edited for grammar and spelling.

- We reserve the right to edit profanity and obscenity and may hold content for any reason.

- New contributors may be given preference over return contributors.

- Please include your name, telephone number, city of residence, and affiliation with relevant campus or community organizations.

- HSU students should provide their major and class standing.

- We also welcome cartoons, spoof articles, and other items.

**All
submissions
must be
received by
4 p.m. the
Friday
preceding
publication.**

Sports

18 | SPORTS

THEJACKONLINE.ORG

2.25.2009

Perez brings the heat to Jacks' softball

Tyler Collins
Staff Writer



Gracie Perez gears up to deliver a monster pitch as a Chico State player looks to steal a base during Friday's double header against the Wildcats. | Elizabeth Sorrell

The anterior cruciate ligament, better known as the "ACL," runs from the back of the femur to the front of the tibia to prevent excessive forward movement of the tibia

Most people will live their entire lives without breaking multiple pitching records, tearing ligaments in both knees and going through four surgeries. But by the age of 22, HSU's new softball pitcher Gracie Perez has.

A fall 2008 transfer from Antelope Valley College, Perez has quite the resume behind her. In 2008, she received conference player of the year honors, and named all-American, all-state, and pitcher of the year in 2006. At Antelope Valley, Perez also broke the strikeout record with 504, and wins record at 48.

"I never really cared about records, they just seemed to happen," said Perez. "I've always thought that every pitch could be your last, so you should just have fun doing it."

With such an impressive career at Antelope Valley, Perez had offers from more than 30 universities wanting her to pitch. Her first pick of Florida Tech was scratched. But after taking another look at her list, she found HSU. "I was actually really excited when I saw HSU on the list. I did a report on it in high school, so I knew a lot about the area."

One thing Perez didn't know was that she was about to join a team that shortly after her acceptance would take the No. 1 seat in the nation. "I was very excited once I figured how good they really were."

Already stepping up in Jacks softball, Perez received the "athlete of the week" award for her performance at the Jacks' last tournament. "It was really unexpected, especially coming back after a double-knee surgery just this last Christmas Eve."

Perez's knee problems go back to when she was 13 and tore her anterior cruciate ligament (ACL) for the first time. The ligament is important to stabilizing the knee. "Up until I was 13," said Perez, "I was really into both soccer and softball, because they were in different parts of the year I could play sports year round. But then when I tore my ACL in soccer, that was the last time I played. I have focused on softball since."

Softball Coach Frank Cheek agreed that Perez is well deserving of the "athlete of the week" position, and said she will only get better with time as her knees continue to recover.

Coach Cheek admitted that bringing Perez here was a bit of gamble because of her knee problems. "We knew she was a great player, and had a very impressive career in high school and junior college, and just hoped that her knees would make a full recovery," said Cheek.

As a student at HSU, Perez says that her major is still up in the air, but she has a personal commitment to her

See Perez, next pg.

Francesca West's walk-off double highlights opening weekend

Rory Smith
Sports Editor

The HSU women's softball team hosted Sonoma State for its home opener last Thursday and Friday, playing a doubleheader both days.

In the first game on Friday, the Jacks tied the score 5-5 in the bottom of the seventh. With two outs and the winning run on third base, Senior Francesca West stepped to the plate. West came through for the Jacks driving in the winning run on a double to right field.

"We pulled it off in the end. We're clutch people," said West.

The Jacks trailed Sonoma State by one run going into the final inning, but a string of hits capped off by West's double had the crowd going nuts and the dugout piling out onto the field.

"They (the fans) support me very well around here and I appreciate them," said West.

After losing the first game on Thursday 4-1, the Jacks bounced back and outscored the Seawolves 10-0 in the second game. They struck early scoring five runs on five hits with a two-out rally in the bottom of the first.

Coach Frank Cheek said, "[Sonoma State] made us hit the ball, they played a well executed weekend."

HSU Freshman Nichole Parada was the standout pitcher of the weekend, throwing in three of the four games for a total of 10 innings only allowing two earned runs. She also recorded her first win of the season.

"She's throwing her hat in the ring to become one of our starters," Cheek said. "She's pitching really well right now."

See Softball, next pg.



First basemen Natalie Galletly (#20) stretches out to beat the Chico State Wildcat runner to first base during Friday's afternoon game. | Elizabeth Sorrell

Perez: Record-winning pitcher credits family for success

Continued from prev. pg.

minor of sign language, because it connects her to a dear family friend. Her friend suffers from a number of diseases that will inevitably take away her voice, so Perez decided to begin taking signing classes with her so they would never lose communication with each other. "If I am with her and she is in pain, I want her to be able to tell me what is wrong," said Perez.

Though this is only her first year here at HSU, Perez feels like she has made a real connection with the team. "I love it," Perez said, "I've never been on a team where everyone got along. We practice six days a week, but still all hang out on our off day. The team has really become a family, and I think that's what makes us winners."

Another thing Perez likes about HSU's softball program is that they have six pitchers on the roster, including herself. "I've always been used to being the only pitcher, and it was really nice to know that I

wouldn't have to pitch every game."

Accrediting all of her current talent to her family, Perez said each part has helped in a different way. "My dad has given me my talent, my sisters have given me support, and my mom has given me my strength. My mom has put so much time and support toward me, and is helping me with school. When I work hard it is because she has taught me that when you work hard for something, you get results."

Freshman softball player, Felicia Viveiros, is happy with the results so far. "I love having [Perez] on the team," said Viveiros, "she is so supporting and strong. After two surgery's, the way she is playing, it is just amazing."

Viveiros said, "Gracie has a hilarious personality, and is just a great well rounded person. If she sets a goal, she is not the type that will give up on it!"

Tyler Collins may be contacted at thejack@humboldt.edu

Softball: Jacks take on Sonoma state.

Continued from prev. pg.

The Jacks split their four-game series against Sonoma State 2-2. The Jacks are now 6-2 overall and are tied for fifth place in the California Collegiate Athletic Association.

The team goes on the road this weekend for doubleheaders against UC San Diego on Friday and Saturday. They return home for two games against Western Washington on March 4.

Coach Cheeks is optimistic about the season: "We're a good ball club. We just need to learn from our mistakes," he said.

Rory Smith may be contacted at thejack@humboldt.edu



Outfielder Katie Mohr (#23) jumps up for saving catch during the start of the game on Feb. 20. | Elizabeth Sorrell



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H 12:07 6.2'	H 23:43 6.7'	H 12:31 6.5'	H 24:24 6.5'	H 12:59 6.7'		L 7:48 0.8'	L 19:34 1.7'	L 8:37 0.6'	L 20:08 2.2'	L 9:34 0.5'	L 20:48 2.8'	L 10:39 0.4'	L 21:41 3.3'

Arts & Entertainment

20 | ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THEJACKONLINE.ORG

2.25.2009

Family troubles come to Gist Hall stage

Kayla Gunderson

Staff Writer

It is a family of three riddled with problems. The absent father is a police officer. The mom is an alcoholic. The son is a kid finding a home on the streets.

The only thing that can help this family face the truths of their dysfunction and cope with life in urban America is a shaman. This is the premise of "Jagun Fly," a featured production of the HSU New Plays Season.

John Heckel, the director of "Jagun Fly," said the play asks the question of whether or not African-American culture, rituals, and myths serve to help African Americans living in urban America. The Shaman, played by Dion Davis, conducts a cleansing ritual to find out if his skills and beliefs are any help to this family. The family wants to keep it together and be complete, but there is a separation barrier that can't be broken.

The shaman's rituals are supposed to help the dysfunctional family cope with adapting to American life without losing its own history. This is the core of the play, the audience wants to find out whether the shaman can help this family, or whether their history is decimated so they can no longer connect with their old ways of life.

Christina Focht, stage manager and HSU junior, said, "The play is unique in the fact that all the actors don't interact with each other." The actors tell their own stories without involving other cast members, even though their stories are interrelated. Focht believes that ADEkoje did this to show the high level of dysfunction and the problems facing this family.

Former HSU graduate John Olumole ADEkoje wrote Jagun Fly when he discovered that African-American urban life is broken. ADEkoje said he wanted to write an intellectual play that would "connect people emotionally to the story."

He chose a small family because he thought the audience could connect easier on a micro level rather than a macro level. "The family structure is important and I wanted people to connect with that sentiment and see the relationship between the small and large scale of urban America," said ADEkoje.

ADEkoje started the play while going to school at HSU. It is a conglomerate of three plays that he started working on over a five-year stint. He went on to become a successful playwright on the east coast. He wanted to make HSU the site of the world premiere, because that's where he started.

Over the course of three months he collaborated with Heckel, and they bounced ideas off each other. "I felt I could do a good job with this play, so I asked if I could direct it," said Heckel. The play's preproduction began in October. After winter break, rehearsals started.

Heckel also chose to direct the play because he wanted to show his students that an HSU Theater and Film graduate has become successful in life.

ADEkoje said, "I just want people to see the play, and I hope everyone will see and take away from it something different."

Kayla Gunderson may be contacted at thejack@humboldt.edu



Natasha Harrell on stage for the play Jagun Fly | Photo courtesy of the Department of Theater, Film, and Dance.

The play runs from Feb. 26-28, and March 5-7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Gist Hall Theatre at HSU. Tickets are \$10 general, \$8 student/senior.

You've got to laugh to keep from crying

Nathaniel Ochoa

Staff Writer

A little laughter goes a long way, particularly in the midst of a recession. "The Cody Rivers Show" brings its comic sensibilities to Arcata in a show entitled "Meanwhile Everywhere," which will mark the beginning of its four-month "awesome road trip from coast to coast."



Andrew Connor and Mike Mathieu bring their act to Arcata. | Courtesy of John Meloy & Paul Hood

The comedy duo of Andrew Connor and Mike Mathieu first met in at Ohio Wesleyan University, where, according to Connor, they became "fast enemies based on little misunderstandings when we first met." After taking six months or so to work out their differences they became inseparable friends. "We found each other endlessly hilarious," said Connor, so the two of them began doing improvisational comedy together at local comedy clubs.

After four years of "goofing off" they were given their shot at stardom in 2004 by a theater director in Bellingham, WA., who offered them a late-night slot at his theater to do a comedy show. After the success of the late-night show the two friends decided to take their show on the road, performing in various comedy clubs and venues across the U. S. "It has been a fast and delirious ride," Connor admits.

The duo try to stay off the beaten path of celebrity impersonations that frequent the world of Saturday Night Live and MadTV, and instead choose to bring their own personality into the world of comedy.

Mathieu, the other half of the sketch duo, describes their form of comedy as "high concept and surreal,

with bizarre movement and dance and singing pieces. It's an eclectic mix for sure." The duo does short scenes that tell funny stories that weave in and out of each other. The result is an hour-long show that offers a glimpse into the crazy universe that Mathieu and Connor inhabit.

Halfway through the show Connor thanks his brain for its capacity to remember. "Dear Brain," he sketches on an imagined pad, "thanks for the memories." In another sketch Connor gravely intones "If at first you don't secede, then you're not South Carolina."

David Ferney, the theater manager of the Arcata Playhouse, said that the duo's brand of comedy takes unexpected twists and turns, and he is looking forward to seeing the audience's reaction to their antics. "They're not afraid to be silly, wild and wacky."

Connor and Mathieu are both quite proud to have spent the last five years traveling the country, and are excited about jump starting their tour here in Arcata. "We started out as an obscure midnight hit," said Connor, "and now we're touring the continental U.S. It's a dream come true."

Nathaniel Ochoa may be contacted at thejack@humboldt.edu

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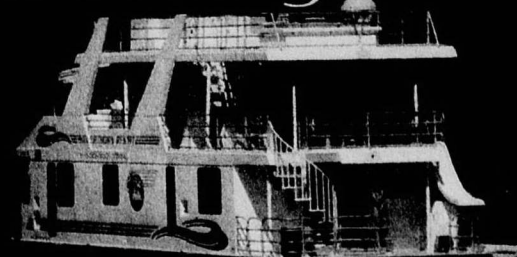
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WHAT'S GOIN' ON?

WEDNESDAY February 25

How to Find an Internship
Where: Nelson Hall West
Rm. 130, HSU
Time: 5:15 p.m.

Tibetan Buddhist Group (Meditation)
Where: Green Life
Evolution Center, Arcata
Time: 6 - 7 p.m.
Cost: Free

Reggae & Dancehall Wednesday
Where: Jambalaya
Time: 9 p.m.

THURSDAY February 26

Jagun Fly
Where: Gist Hall Theatre,
HSU
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Cost: Adults \$10, Seniors
and Students \$8, Limited
Free Tickets to Students

Vagina Monologues
Where: Aunty Mo's Lounge,
Eureka
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Cost: \$15

FRIDAY February 27

Miles Ahead
Where: Muddy's Hot Cup,
Arcata
Time: 8 p.m. - 12 a.m.

Jagun Fly
For details, see Feb. 26
listing.

Lyric Barn
Where: Van Duzer Theatre,
HSU
Time: 9 p.m.
Cost: Adults \$15, Students
\$7.50, Ages 18+

Humboldt Folkdancers
Where: Arcata Presbyterian
Church
Time: 8 - 11 p.m.
Cost: \$3

SATURDAY February 28

International Cultural Festival at HSU
Where: Kate Buchanan Room,
HSU
Time: 2 - 5 p.m.

Papa Houli and the Fleas
Where: The Logger Bar,
Blue Lake
Time: 9 p.m.
Cost: Free

Lambda Theta Phi Fundraiser with local DJ's
Where: Humboldt Brews,
Arcata
Time: 9 p.m.
Ages 18+

Shadow Puppets
Where: Muddy's Hot Cup,
Arcata
Time: 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

The Ethniks (International)
Where: Cafe Mokka
Time: 8 p.m.
Cost: Free to all ages

Jagun Fly
For details, see Feb. 26
listing.

March 1

Jazz Piano Brunch
Where: Muddy's Hot Cup,
Arcata
Time: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Open Mic
Where: Muddy's Hot Cup,
Arcata
Time: 7 p.m.

Piano Student Recital
Where: Fulkerson Recital
Hall, HSU
Time: 2 p.m.
Cost: Free

MONDAY March 2

Open Mic
Where: Humboldt Brews,
Arcata
Time: 8:30 p.m.

Lindy Hop/Swing Dance Class
Where: Redwood Raks
Time: 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.
Cost: \$5

TUESDAY March 3

Inner Space Talk Presents "The Four Ways Toward Consciousness"
Where: Science B Rm. 135,
HSU

Natural History Museum Free Admission Day
Where: HSU Natural History
Museum
Time: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Guitar Blues Masters
Where: Van Duzer Theatre,
HSU
Time: 8 p.m.
Cost: Adults \$38, Seniors and
Kids \$35, Students \$25

International Cultural Festival

Admission Free
Kate Buchanan Room at HSU
Saturday, February 28 1pm

Sponsored by Office of Extended Education, HSU Diversity Program
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Clubs & Activities, HSU Dining Services, and Global Connections Club

www.humboldt.edu/clubs/club_sites/ICF09
This event is wheelchair accessible. Persons who wish to request disability-related accommodations, including sign-language interpreters, should contact: Hiro Kajino, hk23@humboldt.edu or (707) 826-5968. Please request accommodations as soon as possible.

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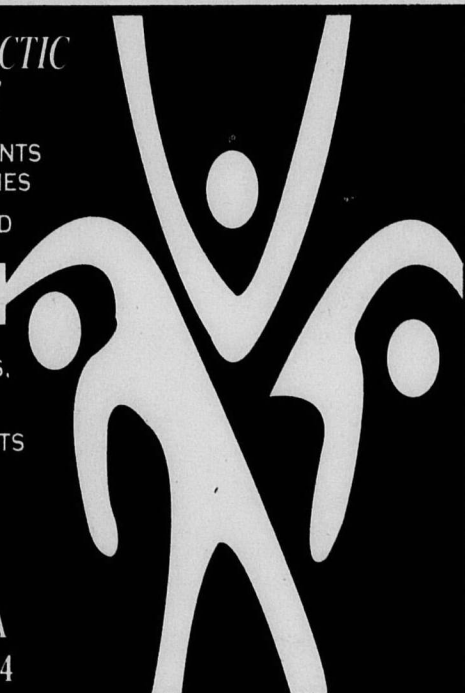
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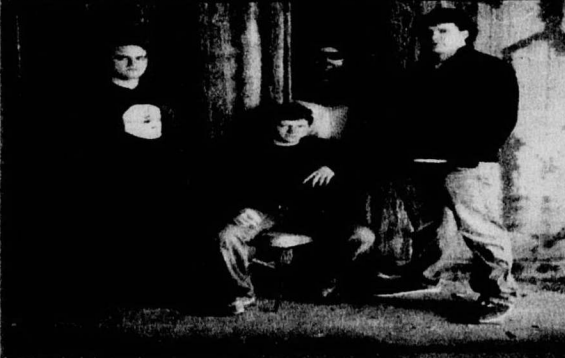
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