

November 2008



UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO

United Front Multicultural Center
Newsletter

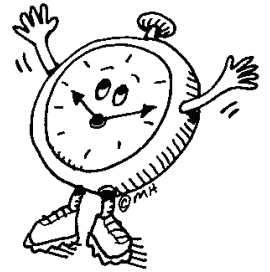
A Time to Change...

It seems appropriate that as the time change allots us an extra hour to our zany days, we also experience “a time for change” occurring within our daily lives. We are surrounded by discussions of the presidential elections, local propositions and class registration and much more. This student-centered newsletter sets out to fill the

needs of the community and discuss these very things. The United Front Newsletter proudly allows students to reflect on issues that shape and affect our everyday lives.

Moreover, in hopes of fulfilling student needs and desires, the UF newsletter is offered as another option to the Vista. Student voices

need to be heard and this is the place to do so. Show your support and use this space to express your thoughts, your opinions, and your values. Now is a time for change...



A Time to Change...

The moment has arrived.

November 4, 2008 stands out as a long awaited moment in our historical struggle as often oppressed minorities for human dignity, civil equality, and freedom from oppression or psychological colonization. For all those who have fought for civil rights, for those who have laid down their lives seeking a better future, this year’s presidential election is the fulfillment of many hopes and dreams that, as Langston Hughes so forcefully reminds us, have been “deferred.” Throughout the nation, we’ve seen the joy and pride behind the smiles and tears of many who contributed to electing the first African-American as the 44th elect President of the United States. Barack Obama—the candidate of the People and for the People—holds the promise of uniting the youth and the elderly; Blacks, Latinos, Whites, Asians; homosexuals and heterosexuals; conservatives and liberals. All of these diverse constituencies are behind the one leader who asks each American to support this nation through the promise of hope and a commitment to

change. Even his campaign slogan, “Yes We Can,” implicates us all in the charge of being socially conscious, making sacrifices for the good of others, and developing responsible relationships at home and abroad. Obama’s promise, at the very least, inspires millions, whether they are first time voters or those who have been discouraged by the voting process, to actually exercise their right to vote. In fact, Obama’s candidacy has contributed to a record-breaking voter turn-out of over 120 million Americans. While some might argue that this is only indicative of how desperate the opposition is to squelch the progress of under-represented social groups, the voices of millions of Americans, from every walk of life and every ethnicity, have defeated that notion. Yes, the moment has finally arrived. No longer is the dream deferred.



California Stagnant During Elections

No one can deny the events of Tuesday, November 4th were historic. It was a night full of progressive changes for the nation and for many individuals across the states. However, in



our own home state of California, unjust legislation was about enter our state constitution. Specifically, Proposition 8 sought out to eliminate rights of same-sex couples to marry. The supporters of Prop 8 claim “Voting yes on 8 protects our children from being taught in schools that same-sex marriage is the same as traditional marriage, and Californians from facing mandatory compliance regardless of deeply held personal or religious beliefs”, according to the Protect

Marriage website www.protectmarriage.com.

Unfortunately, November 4th proved to be a tragic night for the gay and lesbian community as well as for its allies, as we watched a discriminatory and unjust proposition pass with approximately 53% of voters. One can't help but question how such a liberal state such as California curtsied to Obama's campaign but allowed for the rights of other human beings to be

“Yes on 8” Article Motivates Response

In the weeks before the election more USD community members turned to the media for information. At USD, many turned to The Vista, for updates on issues. In the Vista, there was an opinion article in which the writer spoke out against Proposition 8, and week later, an article ran promoting Proposition 8. The first, beginning with the title, proved to be misleading. The article entitled “Proposition 8: Ensures Marriage Equality For All”, was written by an author who was not in support of the proposition despite the implications of his title. The article was clearly an opinion

piece and narrated a personal experience. A week later, the counterpart to this article appeared in The Vista. ; This article, in contrast to the “No on 8” article, did not convey personal experience but rather presented opinion as fact. Many students, while recognizing the writer's right to present his opinion, were offended by the harsh and derogatory language used by the writer to defend his opinion.

In the United Front, we value the right to freedom of speech and allowing students to speak their mind. Nonetheless, once speech becomes

hateful and targets a certain group of people, actions should be taken to prevent this form of bias-motivated behavior. Though this may not have not been the intention of the writer, many felt that the hurtful words were an attack. Many students, such as MRB members, have come together and decided to respond back to the writer and appeal to the school to uphold its dedication to inclusion and diversity. If you have a desire to be heard, submit your thoughts to The Vista or the UF Newsletter. Also, keep a look out for student responses in The Vista.

USD: Voices Within

Dear Editor...

Response to “Yes on 8:” USD's mission calls us to create an “inclusive community, and value the inherent dignity of each individual.” Last week's opinion piece is in direct violation of this statement. My response is written to ensure no USD community member feels that this discriminatory opinion is representative of the entire community.

Mr. Mulvey wrote of the deterioration of our nation, and that banning gay marriage is an act of protection of our children. If we want to raise the bar on morality in this country we must start with ourselves. I plan to teach my children morals and values that convey open-mindedness and acceptance of all people; regardless of color, religion, age, gender, or sexuality. I believe as our forefathers did, that discrimination itself is the vessel of deterioration of our nation.

Laws change over time for a reason. We move forward by necessity and new understanding of our founding principles. We abolished slavery, granted women suffrage, and decriminalized inter-racial marriage. The idea that any of these progressive acts, including permitting gay marriage, leads to “bestial, incestuous or polygamous marriages” is completely unsubstantiated by the historic absence of this occurrence. Continued on p. 3

USD: Voices Within...

(Continued from p. 2) Mulvey denies his homophobia yet contradicts himself as he refers to the LGBT community as perverse and a force that deteriorates our institutions and harms our children.

As a student at USD, I'm proud to be part of an institution that seeks to create an inclusive environment in which to learn. While I respect Mr. Mulvey's right to voice his opinion, I respectfully reject his argument, which denies respect for many members of our USD community. I hope we can all agree that here at USD we do not promote discrimination; rather we value and respect the inherent dignity of each person.

Jessica Swetin



October is recognized as Filipino Heritage month, and as Commissioner of Cultural Activities (CCA) for FUSO, I was assigned to organize the Keynote Speaker event. It's setting up events like these that make me realize what being on executive board really means. It's about the community you bring together to share just a little part of your culture.

Hula from Channel 93.3 San Diego came to speak on October 28 in Salomon Hall. He was a great speaker, and he definitely hit the points that I wanted him to mention

to the audience: what it's like to be a Filipino-American in the entertainment business and what it's like growing up. He shared his journey and where he started to get to where he is today. He went from wearing lingerie in the middle of a public place to the producer of the morning show on channel 93.: AJ's Playhouse. I am super glad that the audience enjoyed what he had to say and they even asked questions, they were very interactive. Hula was somewhat of a comedian and was even nice enough to waive the fee for his appearance, and so instead we decided to donate the money to the charity project he is currently working on with the radio station: AJ's Kids Crane. Hula seemed like the

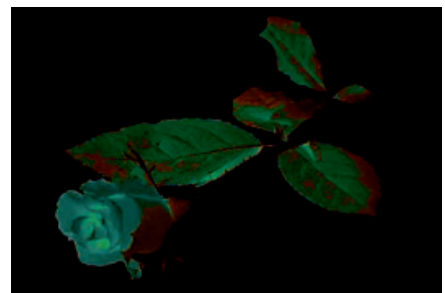
FUSO: Previous Events

type of person who likes to give back to the community, and that is awesome because it's like you remember your roots and where you came from and that keeps you grounded. At the end, he offered help to any students who were looking into pursuing a career in the radio business or any other similar fields.

Thank you again to everyone who came!

By: Maria "Ria" Francisco

Commissioner of Cultural Activities
Filipino Uganyan Student Org.

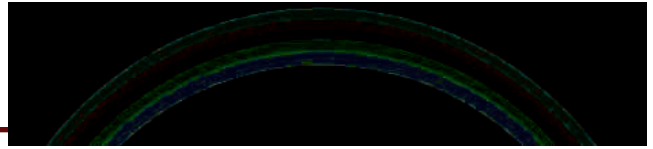


AChA: Previous Events

Continuing the momentum from Latino Heritage Month in September, Association of Chicana Activists (A.Ch.A), began October with a powerful performance by the Mujeres de Maiz, followed by a motivating lecture by Enrique Morones. October 7th was filled with wonderful dance, music, poetry, artwork by the women who spoke on the beauty and the struggles of the Latino culture in and out of the United States. In addition to their performances, Morones revealed the hardships behind an undocumented migrant's struggle across the U.S./Mexico border. Thank you to all the supporters and even the Minuteman representative who showed up to express his appreciation for the empowering artists and speaker. Also, A.Ch.A, with M.E.Ch.A, Dr. Perez and Dr. Murillo, hosted a discussion with Chicana activists who shared their stories during the Chicano movement and their accomplishments over the years.

To start off November, A.Ch.A has celebrated Day of the Dead with a skull-decorating workshop, Chicana scholar, Dr. Medina, and activist, Sal Castro. All fantastic turn-outs, Achistas were honored to share learning moments with Dr. Medina and Sal Castro.

A Week of Pride



In October, Pride celebrated Coming Out Week for the first time. In the past, Pride has celebrated National Coming Out Day, but this year extended the celebration to include an entire week. The week kicked off with keynote speaker Todd Gloria, a USD alumnus and recent winner of the race for city council. Todd Gloria was one of the original Pride members (when the organization was still called SAESO- Student Alliance Embracing Sexual Orientation) and was instrumental in the writing of the Rainbow Visibility Grant proposal. This grant was accepted in 2000, and provided money for programs, like the Rainbow Educators, that would

increase awareness of LGBTQ issue at USD. Todd's talk was a mixture of personal experience, hopes for the future, and encouragement for Pride. As Coming Out Week occurred during Todd's campaign for city council, he expressed excitement to talk about subjects that are near and dear to his heart, rather than discussing pot holes and stop signs. Pride took Todd out to dinner afterwards in Hillcrest to celebrate his amazing contribution to Pride, USD, and San Diego. Coming Out Week included several fundraisers featuring rainbow merchandise and the famous Pride brownies, and ended with a concert

featuring Seattle-based band Alabaster. Performing during Coming Out Week was special for Alabaster because a couple of their members are out lesbians. Alabaster provided an energetic, powerful show filled with personal songs and interaction with the audience. Alabaster was on hand after the show to talk and take pictures with the audience. After the performance, the consensus was clear: Alabaster rocks!

By: Claire Kelly
PRIDE Co-Chair

UF Events

Sticking to Halloween tradition, the UF hosted a Pumpkin Carving which allowed students to create their own designs onto miniature pumpkins. For many, this was a first time experience that brought them and for others this was a long time tradition that helped make Halloween feel like Halloween. The fun merely halted when the pumpkins ran out, but the keepsakes were taken home to add to Halloween decorations, that is, until the pumpkin picked up any funky smells...

Skate world: Certainly another world

A night to boogie down in roller skates was a hit for many students and staff of the USD community. We were able to dress in our most creative outfits to fit the 70's theme and skate circles around one another. Whether it was falling down on our tushes, or limboing to funky music, we all got a chance to get out and have some fun on a Monday night.

EOP Events

Beginning new customs for the students, EOP hosts Wednesday Socials that take place in Maher 253 from 12-2. The turn outs have created a fun environment that allows students within the program and out to mingle with one another as well as staff, enjoy some food and drinks, and play some games.



Upcoming Events

Keep your eyes open and support all organizations!

Filipino Urganay Student Organization
FUSO

Tues. Nov. 11: Boba Night at Tapioca Express

Thurs. Nov. 13: Karaoke Night in Aromas!

Fri. Nov. 21: Thanksgiving Dinner

Association of Chicana Activists
A.Ch.A

Thurs. Nov. 20: Entre Mujeres—Discussion

UF at 8 pm,
Food Provided

NASO

Native American Heritage Month

Wed. Nov. 12th: Film Screening—Smoking Signals

Followed by a

Discussion with Professor Michelle Jacobs

Wed. Nov. 19th: Dinner and Dum Circle Performance

Faculty/Staff Dining Room at 6 pm

Space is limited. Please RSVP to

Frank Pancucci at

Fpancucci-09@sandiego.edu

Tues. Nov. 11th: Around the World Picnic

Sat. Nov. 22: UF Showcase
UC Forums 6-8

International Students Organization
ISO

International Educational Week
November 17th–21st

