Que Viva Mexico!

Story by Mary Castillo

My whole adult life I have made it a mission to go to as many marches, rallies, and anything else that had to do with the positive support of my community and/or culture. Most of the time it has been a let-down because, from my experience, not very many people in the Mexican/Mexican-American culture have wanted to be a part of anything that would bring attention to them. So as you can imagine, many of the events that I’ve gone to that have to do with anything political haven’t received support from the Mexican community.

When I decided to go to the first march for immigration rights, I didn’t expect more than fifty or so people there. You can imagine my surprise when I got off the bus downtown, walked up to 3rd Ave., and was engulfed by a sea of brown faces. I walked into an ocean of chants that was just mind boggling. Everywhere I turned, I heard my native language being spoken. Like an idiot, I turned to ask a young man if he knew where the march was and he gazed up at me and said, “You’re in the middle of it.”

I was in shock. I had to sit down. I sat there for about an hour and a half watching in awe. Thousands of my people came out to support each other. I had never in my life been so proud of being a Mexican as in that moment.

My 15 year old son was going downtown a week later and found himself in another march. When he returned home that evening he told me what had happened. He said, “I have always known I was Mexican, but today was the first time I really knew what it meant. I never felt the pride of being Mexican until today.”

I looked at him and in that moment we bonded in a way that had absolutely nothing to do with being mother and son but had everything to do with being Mexicans. As he left my room, smiling from ear to ear he said, “Hey Mom, ‘Que Viva Mexico!’”

Gay Pride Month: History & Meaning

Story by Trista Martin

June is an important month to many. It is a month in which most Americans celebrate graduations, father’s day, summer solstice, and Gay Pride.

Gay Pride, a time to celebrate our pride in who we are, is also a time to recognize injustices and remember our past pain so that we can move forward with our brothers and sisters.

It is important to remember that gay bar raids were regular occurrences in 20th century America. Many times police would take down names and release them to the press, outing many individuals. Reasons for arrest included indecency charges such as kissing, handholding, and cross-dressing. By 1965, the raids had slowed due to public awareness of gay rights court cases.

June was chosen as Gay Pride month because of an incident that took place on June 27, 1969. Although the raids had nearly ended, the cops raided a popular gay bar in New York called the Stonewall Inn.

Although the raid itself was not anything new, the resistance by the LGBTQ community and the power it gave the gay rights movement was. This was the first time in modern history that a considerable group of gay people resisted arrest. Many symbols of Gay Pride have come from the ashes of tragedy.

Gay Pride Month: History & Meaning

Miguel Bocanegra and Truc Nguyen Speak on Immigrants’ Rights @ Rainbow Fest 2006

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To me Gay Pride means recognizing the beauty, enjoyment, art, family, friends, and love that comes from the LGBTQ community, as well as celebrating ourselves and each other as human beings. It also means recognizing our tumultuous past and working on ensuring a safe and happy future.
Dean & Director’s Corner

**Cessa:** “Greetings and welcome to summer quarter 2006.

Members of the Diversity & Retention Staff are excited to return to South Seattle Community College after attending the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Chicago, Illinois. Cindy Sousa, CeCe Smith, Jo Anderson, and I attended this conference to get ideas on how to increase student of color retention, develop diversity initiatives, and better the campus climate for underrepresented groups at South.

The conference was like medicine for me – I am rejuvenated and full of plans on how to make South an even better place.

The Diversity & Retention Staff will be spending the summer months developing our annual calendar of events and strategic goals for 2006-2007. Look out folks ‘cause here we come.

Sincerely,
Cessa Heard-Johnson
Dean of Diversity, Retention & Student Leadership
chjohnson@sccd.ctc.edu

**Jo:** “I would just like to echo Cessa in that NCORE has inspired me to get a jump on the 06-07 academic year.

My first two months here at South have gone by in lightning speed. I appreciate everyone who has reached out and welcomed me to campus. Expect great things to come from our department, we are working hard to ensure that all students unlock their potential, enjoy the college experience, and persist through graduation. Congrats ‘06 Grads!”

The Cultural Center

**CeCe Smith,**
**Program Coordinator**

Our staff is committed to providing cultural events and activities that educate members of the campus community. We are also committed to providing support services to members of underrepresented communities here at SSCC.

We are very excited about our 2006-2007 events. The Cultural Center Staff will be working hard to provide programs that the campus community will enjoy. Please look forward to:

· Cultural Demonstrations
· Workshops & Annual Events
· Cultural Forums & Discussions

If you have any questions or concerns, please stop by the Cultural Center (JMB 146) during our hours of operation. You may contact us by phone at (206) 764-7969 or by email at scccultralcenter@sccd.ctc.edu

Need a textbook? The Cultural Center has a textbook loan library available to students!

The Women’s Center

**Cindy Sousa,**
**Program Coordinator**

The Women’s Center is dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of the women of our campus community by providing personal support and creating a friendly campus environment that will contribute to academic and professional success.

Everyone is welcome! We are located in JMB 148 or call (206) 768-6831.

We provide resources and referrals – crisis intervention links, emergency and low-income housing, job search, financial aid, legal assistance, domestic violence advocacy, etc.; educational skill-building and social opportunities; campus and community information & networking; & support. Students can drop in, meet with staff (Xuan, May, Aimee, and Bonnie), or make an appointment. We provide a safe & supportive environment where people can express themselves & feel confident that their voices are heard.
**Chicano(a)/Hispanic/Latino(a)**

Hola Amigos! My name is Alejandra Martinez, the Chicano(a)/Hispanic/Latino(a) student commissioner. I will be coming back for another year in this position because I loved it.

Another academic year has gone by so quickly. Throughout the year, I had many different events like Dia de los Muertos, the 2nd Annual Cultural Craft Day, and the 6th Annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration. Of course there were other workshops like Latin Dance and much more! Well this was a year of learning in this job; now I am looking forward to a better and exciting 2006-2007 school year.

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**African American/Black**

Hi, my name is Acquilla Cranshaw. I am the current African American commissioner. This has been a great learning experience for me both in and out of class.

I have learned so much about other cultures, which I will take with me when I leave SSCC next year. I am excited to be rejoining the staff for 2006-07.

This summer, I will be in school and working part-time, so I won’t be enjoying the sunshine. I hope everyone has a great summer and I hope to see everyone next year at Cultural Center events.

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**Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgender/Questioning**

**Patrick:** “The sun is getting stronger for Summer and so are we. Hi! I’m Patrick Passapong, LGBTQ Commissioner.”

**Trista:** “How this year has flown by!”

**P:** “In the past year, we have been doing many educational and fun events such as Coming Out Day, Drag Night Extravaganza, Pride Celebration, HIV/STD Screenings, & the Safe Zone Project.”

**T:** “For me, the highlight event of this year was the 2nd Annual Drag Night Extravaganza. It was a blast and really showed me that with hard work and friends anything can be accomplished.”

**P:** “In 2006-07, I will have as many events as I have had before and I even added World AIDS Day as one of my events. So there will be even more for you to enjoy next year. I hope to see you around campus. Don’t be shy to stop by and say ‘hello’.”

**T:** “Thank you everyone for helping out and showing up to all of our events this year; you have really made our events memorable! I’d especially like to thank my co-commissioner, Patrick Passapong, for working so hard - every minute was appreciated - and most minutes were fun. Good luck next year, Patrick! I’d also like to thank all of my friends in the Cultural Center. I know many of you had to leave before the end, but I had fun getting to know you. Have a great summer! Wish me luck at Evergreen State College!”

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**African Community**

Hi my name is Mohammed Hussein; I am the African Commissioner and this is my 2nd year working in the Cultural Center. I am involved in student organizations on campus, such as the Somali Student Association & Muslim Student Association.

I organized two big events last year and this year, which were the 1st Annual African Culture Day and Sambusa Workshop Day. Both events went very well and each had a huge turn out - thank you to everyone who supported me with my last event and making it a great success.

I am graduating this year, 2006, and am looking forward to moving on with my future and continuing my education. I am transferring to UW and finishing my major there.

This year, I would like to see more students getting involved in student clubs, the Cultural Center, and the Office of Diversity & Retention. Also, I would like to work with new staff, like Jo and I encourage others to work with good and friendly people on this campus.

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**Asian Pacific American**

Aloha! As you know by now, I’m Janice the Asian Pacific American Commissioner at the Cultural Center. I’m so sad the year is ending and so is my stay at South Seattle.

Let’s take a walk down memory lane of my events this year: APA Meet and Greet, Papaya Salad Workshop, 3rd Annual Day of Remembrance of Japanese Internment, Wellness Workshop, and 4th Annual Lei Day. I can proudly say that all of my events were a success; I would like to personally thank everyone who helped me throughout the year, it would not have happened without you guys!
South Seattle Community College’s
Diversity & Retention
Department
Dean of Diversity, Retention, & Student
Leadership, JMB 135
Office of Diversity & Retention, RS 158
Cultural Center, JMB 146
Women’s Center, JMB 148
6000 16th Ave SW
Seattle, WA  98106

Diversity matters.

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Diversity matters.

DRUM Book Club: The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

The DRUM (Diverse Readings to Understand Multiculturalism) summer selection is “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time” by Mark Haddon.

There is still room, so join the club and pick up this book—for free— in the Office of Diversity & Retention, RS 158.

The DRUM Book Club will meet in August or early September for discussion. Participants will be notified of the specific date and time based on everyone’s schedule.

Review by Mary Whipple:

“My memory is like a film….And when people ask me to remember something I can simply press Rewind and Fast Forward and Pause like on a video recorder….If someone says to me, ‘Christopher, tell me what your mother was like,’ I can rewind to lots of different scenes and say what she was like in those scenes.”

Writing his first novel from the point of view of an autistic 15-year-old, Mark Haddon takes the reader into the chaos of autism and creates a character of such empathy that many readers will begin to feel for the first time what it is like to live a life in which there are no filters to eliminate or order the millions of pieces of information that come to us through our senses every instant of the day. For the autistic person, most stimuli register with equal impact, and because these little pieces of information cannot usually be processed effectively, life becomes a very confusing mess of constantly competing signals.

More on this book can be found at http://mostlyfiction.com/contemp/haddon.htm