A time to reflect, honor, and remember our ancestors. From September 15th to October 15th this country proudly celebrates Latino culture through Hispanic Heritage month. The significance of the celebration is to educate people on the diversity of Latinos and to devote this time period to commemorate our heritage. Latinos are not all the same. Some have the mentality that one Latino has the same cultural traditions, spiritual beliefs, and the such as any other Latino. On the contrary, within the Latino population there exists a vast variety of cultural beliefs and traditions. Latinos do have a lot in common; there is an unspoken understanding of the culture, however there are also many differences. Through Hispanic Heritage month, we hope we can educate Colorado State University about the similarities and especially the differences within the Latino community. To be educated is to have a better understanding and to have an understanding is to be culturally aware. The simple step of attempting to familiarize oneself with other cultures is the first step to becoming knowledgeable. The minimal effort of attempting to learn about other cultures is the foundation of unity.

Film is a mode of expression. It is an art form to convey a certain message to a multitude of people. Or as Jesus Nebot, an actor, director, producer and writer, expresses telling a story through film. Nebot’s film, No Turning Back, was shown September 29th in the Lory Student Center Theater. The film was inspired by true events and has won 20 international film festival awards. Not only did Nebot direct and write this film, but he also starred in it. Nebot started his career as an actor in Spain and from there he branched off into the United States and turned to writing and producing his own movies. The purpose of his movies are to entertain but also to carry a meaningful message that will touch peoples heart’s. The take home messages for Sysco Guajardo were: the importance of family, the opportunities available in the United States, and some of the issues surrounding immigrants. The film was a journey into sympathizing for an unlikely candidate.
The Student Athlete

Class, practice, homework, games, and money. These are some of the things you would find in the mind of a student athlete. We usually don’t stop to think about the stresses that athletes are confronted with. After talking to several students the general consensus was that athletes are enjoying the luxury of free tuition. And that’s it. None of the students I spoke to ever mentioned the struggle of balancing practice, games, homework, and school. After speaking to the assistant coach of the men’s basketball team he made it clear that athletes have their time cut out for them.

Not to mention family and the inability to go home for the holidays, being a student athlete is not as easy as perceived by most of the CSU population.

Loretta Martinez, a Colorado native, earned her law degree from Harvard Law School and her bachelor of arts in political science from Yale University. She is an exceptional minority role model especially for women of color. Her endeavors and accomplishments are exemplary and motivating to people across the nation. She has paved the way toward pushing for equality in the workplace and in higher education.

Martinez articulated in her speech at the 2006-2007 Latina/o Empowerment series that she felt she needed to obtain extra credentials (Ivy League) in order to be considered in the same pool as white people that went to schools like the University of Colorado. Martinez shared her experiences with racial and gender discrimination and how she dealt with them. According to Martinez, women are finding the same barriers that were in place many years ago. These barriers are holding women back. Her focal point was that “access barriers are not gone.”

An additional challenge that most women are confronted with is the role of a “house wife.” She stated that men are paid more because of the perception that men have a family to take care of. For women with careers and family the load is twice as heavy.

Alternative Spring Break!

Alternative Spring Break is an opportunity to travel to an unfamiliar terrain and to help a community in need. For many individuals this experience is a time of personal growth and enlightenment. Going beyond daily routine allows human beings to obtain a better understanding of life. This sort of experience builds character and broadens the understanding and empathy for other people. We greatly encourage everyone to participate in this extraordinary event. Please do not let money be an issue. There will lots of fundraising to alleviate monetary stress.

“The mission of the Alternative Break program at Colorado State University is to create active citizens that think about and seek solutions to societal problems and continue to contribute to their respective communities as a lifelong process. The Alternative Break program is a week-long immersion into different cultural, environmental and socioeconomic communities across the nation. Students provide service in exchange for education about current social and cultural issues facing the host communities.”

Why Harvard?

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An Evening of Music & Dance

Sound waves rushing to intently absorbing ears. The smooth, relaxing, and at times sudden burst of guitar cords chiming and piano keys marching to the beat of Latin Jazz. An engaged audience awaiting to be surprised once again. Palms colliding in praise of Manuel Molina y su Combo Caliente. This was the scene at the 2006 Evening of Music and Dance presented by El Centro Student Services.

The audience received an extraordinary show last Thursday. In addition to the sounds of Latin Jazz by Manuel Molina y su Combo Caliente, there were four additional performances.

The show opened with an original song by CSU students Tania Vjarro and Nate Easley. They gave a genuine performance and demonstrated true artistic creativity. Next was the Quetzalcoatl dance group who performed two stunning Bachata and Salsa dances which left the audience in awe. Grupo Aztlan was the opening act for Manuel Molina. This group has a more mellow and pleasant sound. Grupo Aztlan played Bolero, Cumbia, Cha-Cha, and Samba. All of the performers did an excellent job of opening for the main act. It was an unforgettable night for spectators.

Hispanic Natural Resources... Getaway!

The Hispanic Natural Resources Career Camp took place at Pinngree Park this year. It was an exciting opportunity to get away for the weekend and at the same time enhance your learning. This event includes about a dozen high school students from the Poudre school district and a few faculty members and CSU students to serve as role models. According to CSU student Christian Gallegos, the purpose was to get the students to enjoy the outdoors and to expose them to positive role models with the hope of encouraging them to attend college. Gallegos described the environment as being cool, crisp, and fresh smelling air. The career camp is a hands-on experience with things such as measuring stream velocity, creating model wildfires and how to efficiently put them out, etc.

“I recommend this to all high school students and I encourage college students to help them find their goals,” stated Gallegos about the program.

Colorado State University

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