



El Dia De Los Muertos!



The Day of the Dead (*Día de los Muertos*) is a holiday celebrated mainly in

Mexico and by people of Mexican heritage (and others) living in the United States and Canada. The holiday focuses on gatherings of family and friends to pray for and remember friends and relatives who have died. The celebration occurs on the 1st and 2nd of November, in connection with the Catholic holy days of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day which take place on those days. Traditions include building private altars honoring the deceased by using sugar skulls, marigolds, and the favorite foods



and beverages of the departed, and visiting graves with these as gifts. Observance of the holiday in Mexican-American communities in the United States has become more important and widespread as the community grows numerically and economically according the Wikipedia definition.



One year in Mexico, when I was little, I must have been in first grade, I remember having to wake up very early. We went to the grave yard to visit mi abuelo Pedro. We had a mariachi who played his favorite songs. I don't know how to explain what we did at the graveyard because we **didn't really "hangout"**. We were just there...celebrating his life and some still

Special points of interest:

- Dia De Los Muertos
- Recap of Salsa Night
- Recap of Math, Science, and Tech Day
- Recap of Faces of America
- Multicultural Greek Counsel

mourning his death. After leaving the cemetery we went to mi Mama **Meche's house to eat. We had tamales** and everyone started sharing stories of his past. It was a nice experience because I got to learn so much about him. I didn't really know that much about mi abuelo before Dia de Los Muertos, because not that many people had ever talked about him and he had passed away before I was born.

-Mayra Granados

I am from Mexico and just moved here less than a year ago. In my family we don't really celebrate Dia De los Muertos because I am not from Mexico City but from a small town. Continued pg. 2



In school, however, they spend the day teaching us

the history of this holiday. They put ofrendas up for us to look at. They lace them with pumpkin flowers, Mexican candy made from chile, sweet potatoes, and/or coconut, pictures and candles. When you have this alter you explain to

people that walk by who the people in the pictures are and what you are do-

ing. You eat the pan de



muerto, which is sweet bread. You drink hot chocolate or atole. Its

basically just gathering with your family. Some

families also take things to the grave so that the dead family members can eat their favorite food in the middle of the night. The holiday is really a mix of Catholicism and indigenous Indians of Mexico.

This day is not a day that is meant to be scary. This is a day of memories, a day to

remember those that you loved that are now only present in spirit

Did You Get Your Salsa On?

So how did the salsa-ing go exactly? Well, at the beginning the room was divided, girls on one side, boys on the other. There was a couple in the middle. The woman was wearing a red dress. The man was leading her in an intense, fiery kind of way across the dance floor. Everyone was watching and excited. People started to mimic the moves as best as they could. The instructors stopped dancing. They turned to the crowd and began to instruct. Move by move the dance was broken down and taught to the audience. There were more girls than boys in the room so some friends paired up with each other.

"The way that they broke everything down made it so much easier. When I was first



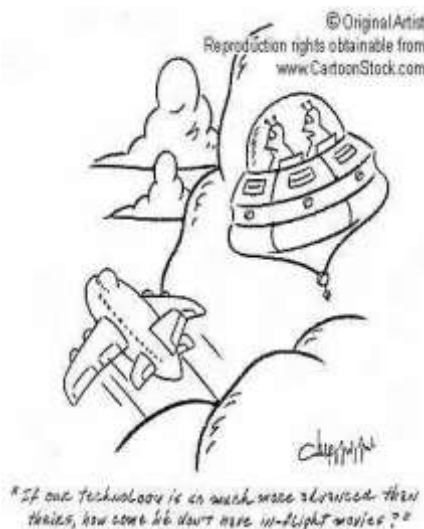
looking at them dance I was telling myself that it was too hard, and I wouldn't be able to do it. Once they slowed it down I got it and could even add in my own flavor! It was a lot of fun!" - anonymous

"It was a fun experience but I was sick so I didn't do much dancing. I was surprised to see all of the people there. There weren't many students at first but at the end it was a great turnout." - Mayra G.

"Although there weren't many people there at first it turned out to be a great way to get students together and learn about National Hispanic Heritage month!" - Rich S.

"It was a good partnership with the other offices, however it was supposed to be Salsa Night and it turned into hip-hop.

How Was Math, Science, and Tech Day!?!



hands-on. "Math, Science, and Tech day introduced the kids to the subjects in which students of color and women are historically under-represented in."- Gabe Barela. We wanted to give the students interest in those particular subjects. The goal was to make it fun which would peak their interest right away.



kids made clouds. They did it in water bottles and got to see how it all works."-Raquel Ramirez

How does one make these usually difficult subjects fun and easier to understand? Make them interactive of course! That was the goal of this program and at the end of the day it felt as though that goal was accomplished. All of the kids enjoyed the activities because the workshops were very

"In one experiment, the

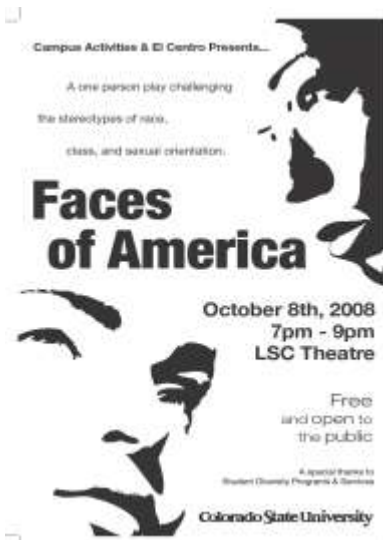


"Algebra class will be important to you later in life because there's going to be a test six weeks from now."

It is so much easier to learn if you do something yourself, rather than have someone just sit and lecture you. This concept plus the people involved, were what made this event so successful! Thank you to everyone who participated and volunteered! It was a really great time!

Faces America

Beverly Sotelo played a great role in this one woman play on stereotypes that we as Americans encounter on a daily basis. She played characters of different races, genders, class, and sexual orientation. "It was cool to see how she portrayed each one of the people. She shared their stories and the conflicts that they faced as minorities," said Wil Galarza after seeing the production.



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"This play was, I feel, a way to debunk stereotypes. She showed how each person didn't really 'fit in' whether it was because of race, sexual orientation, etc..." stated Gabe Barela.

Here at CSU we are working so hard to create diversity and overcome stereotypes. Through programs like *Faces of America* we are educating our campus and helping to better our community.

Up Coming Events!

- ☺ November 18th 12-1pm (El Centro Student Services) Scholarship/Financial Aid Workshop! Find scholarships that best suit you! FREE PIZZA!
- ☺ November 22nd 7pm (LSC Main Ballroom) Step Show! \$10 if you get your ticket on ticketmaster and \$15 vat the door (IBOX) Step Hard or Go Home! This is a big event so get your tickets early! The after party will be at The Cork (\$10 cover 18+)
- ☺ November 22nd 10pm (CB & Potts) Pi Lambda Chi Latina Sorority INC. Presents the 5th annual BLACK \$ WHI TE PARTY! \$6 black and white \$8 without!

Dont forget to visit the office!!!!!!!

**Study Great
Even Late**

**El Centro will now be
OPEN LATE!**

*For a more comfortable study environment,
please use our office.*

Mondays: 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Tuesdays: 5:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
Wednesdays: 5:00 p.m.-8:00pm
Thursdays: 5:00 p.m.-8:00p.m.