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THE INTEGRATOR

*"There is a New America every morning
when we wake up. It is upon us whether we
will it or not."* -Adlai E. Stevenson Jr. (1900 - 1965)

"The Grass is Greener in Greenwich"

by Amanda Joseph



As I walked down the street in Greenwich Village New York, I knew that I had come home when I looked up and saw rainbow flags on every other building. seeing homosexuality so widely accepted made me feel like my life was complete. When I walk the streets in Carmel, Indiana, this is so far from the truth. How can this great nation be so widely divided?

When I've walked the streets of Carmel with my girlfriend, I've felt alone and hated when people stare at me. Were I were to do the same in Greenwich Village not many would think twice about seeing us together. This to me is such a mind boggling debate. I know it is a matter of the way people are raised but why is the Midwest so behind? Why have the Red States taken over my bedroom debate? It is my choice who I make my bed with; politics do not have any place in my bedroom.

Why should it matter who I live or create a life with? This is something that I need to be concerned about, not the government or the radical Christians. It is not like I knock on Christians' doors asking about their divorce rate. The fact that homosexuals are not, and cannot "convert" and are just trying to live out The American Dream is something that many people need to understand. If a person's version of The Dream consists of sharing a life with someone of the same gender, why does it matter?

The current election is something that many people in the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender dread and look for hope in every four years. Many in the GLBT community dread politicians who might make false promises to win votes and then fail to create effective laws and policies. The other hope GLBT voters hold on to is that these promises and policies will be effective and plausible. I do not hold my breath when I hear the promise to legalize gay marriage. Realistically, the president is only one person who is out to change thousands, if not millions of people's minds in only a short time. To be able to marry my love no matter what their gender is – this is a fantastic dream, but only a dream.

I can do what I want in my own ceremonies. Despite private ceremony, what I want is to have my marriage legally recognized. Until that dream comes true, I plan on being a frequent visitor to the Gayborhood of Greenwich Village and I plan to hold my girl's hand proudly on the streets of Carmel.

Native American Stickball

by Corey LeRoy

It is all in the wrist when you play the Native American game of stickball. The object of the game is to throw a golf ball sized ball made of leather at a 35-foot pole that has a painted cow skull mounted on top. You use two, small, lacrosse style sticks to throw the ball. There are two teams that can have as many as 600 people or as few as 2. You play to 21, with ten points for hitting the cow skull and one point for hitting above a certain mark on the pole. There are two different versions of this game. In one version, it is men versus women; the other is men versus men. In the gender-based version, the men get to use the sticks and the women have only

their hands. However, the women can use any type of force they wish to steal the ball from the men without the threat of retaliation. This includes tackling, punching, and poking in the eye. The men only version is much more aggressive and brutal. The men all have sticks and they can be as brutal, as they want. Like many other Native American traditions, the origins of this sport differ depending on what tribe you ask. However, most would agree that it originated in the Southwest somewhere and that the sport helped train warriors for battle. In hopes to revive this traditional sport, the Native American Student Alliance (NASA) here on IUPUI's campus put up a stickball pole of their own behind the Natatorium. If you are interested in participating in the upcoming stickball games you can stop by the Multi-Cultural Center and ask to speak with a representative of NASA. In addition, like all NASA does, all people are always welcome.

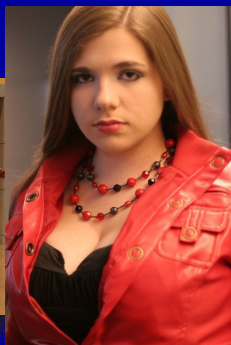


CSO and Friends Show Us Their Culture

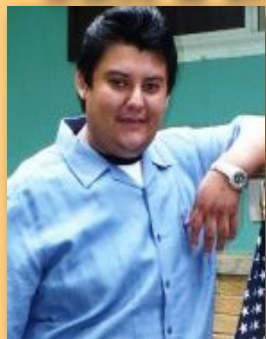
article by Dominic Dorsey
photos by Mercy Shitemi



The first ever Caribbean Student Organization (CSO) Fashion Show: Show Me Your Culture did all that and so much more. The show featured original designs, international flavor, fierce modeling and the all important ingredient of swagger, the night did anything but disappoint. The show highlighted segments in white, business, night-life and even had an elegance section all highlighting cultures from around the globe supported by such organizations as Student African American Sisterhood, Black Student Union, International Club, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated, Lambda Eta Chapter and African Student Association. With a diverse offering of musical selections that included everyone from Lil' Wayne and T.I. to 2face and Greenland. The Kappas did a stroll demonstrating their culture and the finale was a special dance performance that featured two models in traditional Carnival costumes. This is one event that truly showed not only the fashion flair, but the innovation and dedication of the students; who worked so diligently to put together a great show. Congrats to the CSO, let's hope "Show Us Your Culture" becomes a long standing tradition that instills both multicultural and Jaguar Pride.



"Just a Dream" by Mario Oviedo



I've experienced immigration first-hand. I know what it's like to be "one of them". But, I am also an American, one who is eager to wave my country's colors and defend our freedom at all cost. I have been the high-school student, the fast-food-working, junk food eating teenager. I've been the under-paid dishwasher, the over-worked construction worker, the "have nothing but dreams" 14 year-old kid. I am part of the past, the present, and the future of America. I am the American dream.

As with any situation, in order to appreciate the opportunities immigrants create for our country we must better ourselves, further our education and dedicate more time to developing our own culture and society. It wouldn't be correct to say that the United States would be the same prosperous country it is now if immigrants, undocumented immigrants, were not present in our nation. We often misunderstand what is really a political game of name calling, used to divert our attention from an even greater threat. We routinely seem to be blinded by all the problems our government has failed to alleviate. We fail to see immigrants as what they truly are, hard-working, tax-paying, dream-oriented human beings. Individuals trying to get ahead and provide their families with a better life, isn't that a basic right in America's constitution? If it isn't, it should be.

Wars, ill-treated veterans, bankrupt companies, housing crashes, our social security deficit, wall-street's instability. These are only a few of the real, valid issues, we should address in our country as threats to our way of living; not a person down the block trying to make an honest living by working in the fields. The unemployment rate has escalated, not because of immigrants taking our jobs, but because of job outsourcing, which would be far greater weren't for the cheap labor immigrants provide to companies not willing to pay our demanded salaries.

Instead of finding a viable solution that would benefit our country, our politicians care about making war with an invisible enemy, endangering so many innocent lives in the process, and lying about our stability on foreign affairs. We need to elect a socially sensible and responsible government, a government that would put its citizens and their well being first. A government less worried about ruling by fear and more inclined towards running our country with fairness, and democracy. Then immigration would not occupy our minds so much, immigrants would be our brothers, not our competition; and we would all reach the "American dream". Imagine a country where everyone is equal, a place where the less fortunate are not retaliated against, but instead are given a chance. A country where people can once again dream, imagine the U.S. once again as "the land of the free". I have a dream. Help me make it a reality.

DID YOU KNOW?

The IUPUI Multicultural Center has Study Tables every night of the week hosted by a different organization within the MCC?
To find out more about this and other resources, visit <http://mcc.iupui.edu>