

What's Inside

*Sustainable Communities
Paid My Debt, Waiting for Change...
Second Class Citizen*

THE INTEGRATOR



The Director's Corner

Greetings!

Zephia Bryant First let me wish each of you a Happy New Year, may this year propel you to do the unimaginable and may all of your hopes, dreams and desires come to pass. I am excited to serve as the newly appointed Director of the Multicultural Center. The Center is designed to be a resource to not only students but to faculty, staff and community partners. We will be working diligently to support diversity efforts across campus. While creating sustainable programs to support underrepresented students and the entire campus community, we seek to enhance the environment by being a catalyst in creating a culture that celebrates diversity and all of its many different facets.

We have had a great fall semester under the leadership of Kimberly Stewart-Brinson. I thank her for laying a strong foundation. Under her leadership we hosted Cultural Cafés, panel discussions, built many critical relationships and solidified many administrative functions.

We have developed many liaison relationships both internally and externally. We recently welcomed two Fulbright Scholars from Cameroon, West Africa in an effort to forge a long-term partnership. We will be working closely within and outside of our division to create valuable programs and initiatives. This year look for many opportunities to get involved through the Center. We will host a comprehensive Men's Awareness program, monthly Leadership Institutes, Experiential Learning opportunities, keynote speakers, roundtable discussions and a holistic development series for students and we will offer opportunities for the campus community to build cultural competencies through facilitated workshops.

The Center has an open door policy, we hope that you will feel free to stop by or schedule an appointment with me to speak about ways we can partner and impact the IUPUI campus. Please visit our website to gain additional information. Have a wonderful semester!

Zephia Bryant



"May your thoughts, resolution and actions unify and become one so that 'unity' becomes possible." -Atharva Veda

Let YOUR VOICE Be HEARD!!!

Have a flair for journalism? Have you ever experienced tokenism? Do you have an opinion or do you represent a voice that has been silenced all too often?

mcc.iupui.edu/ourvoice.html is your headquarters and source for the student voice of the Multicultural Center Community. Check out these and more exciting articles online now!



The Diary of a Complicated Mixed Girl and Her Hair

Pt. One

by Ebony Barney



Is it ever enough?... (diversity in Administration appointments) Part I

by Dominic Dorsey II

Visit us and comment on these and other articles, take our online polls and help drive the topics of future articles that YOU want to read. If you'd like to contribute as a potential columnist, e-mail the Multicultural Center at communications@mcc.iupui.edu

Multicultural Center

ORGS.

Asian Students United

Office Location:

B02G

Phone#: 274-5469

Black Student Union

www.iupui.edu/~blacksu

blacksu@iupui.edu

Office Location:

B02B

Phone#: 278-8331

Gay-Straight Alliance

Office Location:

B02H

Phone#: 278-8336

Latino Student Association

www.iupui.edu/~latinosa

latinosa@iupui.edu

Office Location:

B02D

Phone#: 278-8334

Native American Student Alliance

www.iupui.edu/~nasa

nasa@iupui.edu

Office Location:

B02F

Phone#: 278-8335

SECOND RATE CITIZEN

An opinion essay by OurVoice Blogger: Amanda Joseph

Why would anyone choose to be a second rate citizen? I say this all the time when people tell me they still believe that homosexuality is a choice. In a country where all men are supposedly created equal, the forefathers had no idea what that would mean today in this great US of A. This has been something that many other marginalized groups have brought up in the past when fighting for what they deserved. These groups have moved miles, even though they have a million more miles to go, the GBLT population seems to be stuck.

Not so much the people who are apart of the population, but the people who are not sure how to think. These are the ones staring at me or my friends wondering why we would be dating people of the same gender when we can have a hunk of a man. Well I look at them and say I would love to have a foxy lady and my friends can have the hunk of a man. I am quite content with the people around me and the people I date. I prefer the men in my life that I have near me to be gay and not date females, which makes them some of the better people around to talk to about my dating problems. We can have the conversations without either side wanting anything more than a great discussion.



When we look at what society is trying to tell our future leaders by approving Proposition 8 in California; something that defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman, (overturning the huge victory we recieved only a few weeks earlier) by the passing the recognition of same-sex marriage in California. We took one huge step forward then in a matter of weeks we got pushed miles back by people who do not understand. We as Americans only want what others are able to have freely but are denied since we chose to be different. Then again, why would one want to choose to be different? To have all of our rights taken away and not be seen as someone worthy to have the right to marry or have the right to see our ill partner in the hospital? Some hospitals *still* deny life long partners of their patients into the room. They could be on their final breath but the person that they have spent a number of years sharing their lives with must wait down the hall not allowed to go near their partner due to the legality of health care.

All I want is to be equal. I chose to be gay the same day you chose to be straight. Why do I deserve any less than you?

JANUARY 28-31
2009



IMAGES
EXPECTATIONS
...REALITY

DID YOU KNOW?

The Multicultural Center will be hosting the first Men's Awareness Week at the end of January? For more information contact Megan Mitchell at mm73@indiana.edu

Paid My Debt and Waiting for Change: Election '08

Author: Tarah Reid



By now, I'm sure you have read numerous articles and watched plenty of news stories about how Obama's election as our next President will impact our economy, foreign policy, and the like. You've felt the pre-election buzz, lived through Obama-mania, and did not dare to cut the awkward silence around the water cooler Wednesday morning. Two months removed from all the hoopla

surrounding Election '08, we are all left asking "So what now?"

Barack Obama's battle cry was change, but two months, a cabinet full of Clintons and Clinton aides, a spiraling economy, a fallen governor later, I ask "Change...really?" Now I know

as much as the next person that there are two things you don't talk about: politics and religion; but after the ephemeral high that was Election '08, I can't help but question this change. As a nation, we would like to believe that America has made a major statement about race relations. What that statement is exactly, I'll let you hash that out amongst yourselves.

The day after the election, I had a conversation with a Peruvian friend of mine who took issue with the million Facebook statuses that read "My President is Black". She argued that first and foremost Obama is not black, but rather of mixed heritage. Her second point is that he has not faced the kind of racism that most African Americans have endured. She also felt that this statement and ideology is arrogant and promotes separatism. Once again faced with the task of representing my entire race in conversation, I did my best to explain the emotion behind the statement...

I described to her the metaphoric shattering of the unspoken glass ceiling. How it feels to it feels to work your whole life realizing that as a black man or woman, society, the workplace, and history have told you that you can only go so far. To this group of Facebookers and myself, that statement expresses pride and relief that the "One day..." Dr. King promised us had come to fruition. Finally, someone who looks like us and has a similar story to ours was chosen to represent us. Finally, it was okay for that African American child to actually pay attention in class and be smart because now he or she has someone to look up to besides athletes and entertainers. Finally, there was an accomplishment that couldn't be erased from the history books. Finally, America had gotten its wheels turning on change. So I thought.

Over the holidays, my boyfriend's family and I traveled to the Southside of the city to visit his grandmother. Within two minutes of turning into the neighborhood, we were swarmed by unmarked police cars from all directions, tailing us and running plates. Sadly enough, we were used to it...It's a fact of life. Live long enough and you will get caught DWB (driving while black). About an hour later, his stepfather arrives to join in the festivities, also driving a luxury SUV. About a half hour after that, someone yells that one of the SUVs is being towed...

Multicultural Center

STACK

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Director

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Communications

Meagan Mitchell

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Assessment

Student Specialists:

Jocelyn Hurst

Tolvi Patterson

Theron Evan Wilson

Courtney Robertson

To read the remainder of this and other exciting articles, visit
<http://mcc.iupui.edu/ourvoices> to read and comment on the student blogs!!!

DID YOU KNOW?

The Multicultural Center website has many new additions and features including links to Student Organizations, Scholarships and More!

Sustainable Communities

Cultures Going Green...part one by Johnny P Flynn PhD

Folks,

So, what does the fight to save the whales and rain forests have to do with us; members of the minority communities of the world? "Going green" would just add another color to the barriers faced by people who are seen to have an undesirable color in the first place. It is a given among the poor and people of color that most organizations in the environmental movement do not take the time to frame their message so it makes logical sense to African Americans, American Indians, Latinos or anyone else who is not white or middle class.

Recycle? We know that from wearing hand-me-down clothes, shopping at thrift-stores, and always buying used cars; usually the gas-guzzlers shed by the well-to-do who can afford hybrids and the expensive gas-sippers now coming into vogue.

The truth is that most minorities view the environmental movement as a "hobby" of the white middle class not relevant to larger issues of education, jobs, and endemic poverty. On both sides there is a lack of communication between communities who should be on the same side. There is no doubt that poor and minority communities suffer more under the present system of unbridled consumption without responsibility. Want to see the effects of environmental racism? Go to an Indian

reservation and see that they are waste dumps for toxic chemicals and the scene of strip mining echoed in poor white communities in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Politicians demand laws that send the poor and minority for ever-increasing sentences to over-flowing prisons and then build more prisons among the rural and poor who can not protest either the targeted prosecutions, harsh sentences, or the prisons in our back yards. Unreasonable sentences and more jails and prisons do not lower the crime rate but do contribute to an ever bleaker future for the poor and minority populations on both sides of the barbed wire.

The December 2008 coal ash slurry spill in Tennessee did not suddenly turn when it reached the houses of African Americans in the community. Ground water inevitably contaminated from that spill will flow to all homes; Latino, Asian, Gay or white. A release of toxic fumes from spills or contamination of ground water goes into everyone's air, everyone's water supplies.

Poor, minority, and rural communities are often the targets of pollution, over-crowding, and are always considered first in the placement of belching factories or toxic dumps. Those communities are often the least organized and the most likely to be ignored during the process of considering the political and environmental

impacts of those issues.

Although health problems among the poor and minority communities could benefit from community gardens and recycling programs, our people are almost never considered when those efforts are planned and put into practice. Go in any grocery store on a reservation or a Black community and what you will see are produce sections filled with limp lettuce and bruised fruit even though we suffer the highest rates of diabetes and heart disease. When Blacks and Indians pass by the displays of impulse buys near the check-out stands they are always, as in always, high fat and high sugar items.

Environmental groups and activists who work in minority communities have a lot in common and the first task should be to sit down and talk to each other.

Johnny P. Flynn
PhD
Nishnabe podwewadmi

