

Winter Quarter

Week 3

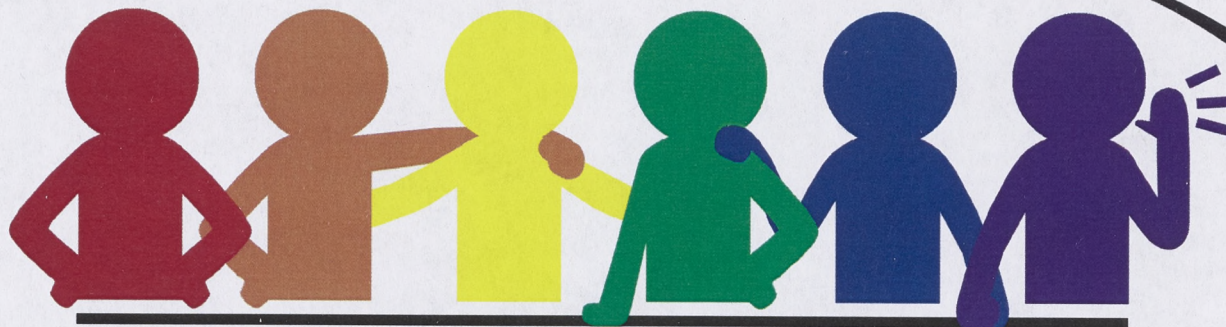
Jan 18 – Jan 22

THIS WEEK AT...

The LGBT Resource Center



MON		No School	
TUE	3:30PM-5:00PM	Volunteer Appreciation Social	Conference Room
	5:00PM-7:00PM	SAAC Meeting	Conference Room
WED	3:00PM-3:30PM	A.S. Cabinet	Conference Room
	7 PM – 8 PM	Men's Group	Heritage Room
	5 PM - 7PM	Speaker's Bureau Panelist Training	Conference Room
THU	2PM-4PM	(TIA) Transgender Intersex Alliance Meeting	Heritage Room
	4PM - 7PM	Queer Chinese Cultures Seminar	Conference Room
	7 PM – 9 PM	(QPOC) Queer People of Color GBM	Family Room
FRI	8 AM – 9 AM	LGBT RC Staff Meeting	Conference Room
	3PM-4:30PM	Advisory Board Meeting	Family Room
	4:30 PM – End	Friday Movie	Conference Room



SPEAKER'S BUREAU

***"We have stories to tell, stories
that most people never heard."***

Who: Speaker's Bureau

is a group of LGBT and allies (student, staff, and faculty) trained to represent the diversity of the UCSD LGBT Community to a variety of groups and organizations interested in providing education regarding LGBT issues.

WHAT: PANELIST TRAINING!!!

When: Wed. Week 3 @ 5pm

Where: LGBT RC Conference Room

Winter Quarter

Week 4

Jan 25 – Jan 29

THIS WEEK AT...

The LGBT Resource Center



MON	2:30PM-3:30PM	CGS- April's Office Hours	Heritage Room
TUE	5:00PM-7:00PM	SAAC Meeting	Conference Room
	7:00PM-9:00PM	QWOC GBM	Conference Room
WED	3:00PM-4:30PM	DR. Roberts' Office Hours- Human Sexuality	Heritage Room
	7 PM – 8 PM	Men's Group	Heritage Room
	5 PM - 7PM	Wednesday Night Program-Reading Rainbow	Conference Room
THU	2:00PM-4:00PM	TIA Meeting	Heritage Room
	4:00PM – 7:00PM	Queer Chinese Cultures Seminar	Conference Room
	5:00PM-6:30PM	Conversation on Social Justice with the Director	Heritage Room
	7:00 PM –9:00PM	(QPOC) Queer People of Color GBM	Family Room
	7:00 PM –9:00PM	VOX GBM	Conference Room
FRI	8 AM – 9 AM	LGBT RC Staff Meeting	Conference Room
	4:30 PM – End	Friday Movie	Conference Room



reading rainbow

a look at resources and guides for queer youth

Wednesday, Jan.27, 5-7pm LGBT RC Conference Room

Reading Rainbow...don't be mistaken by the title, this program isn't about the PBS children's television program that ran from 1983 to 2006, even though it's greatly missed by some (some days I miss it)! Join me in exploring issues around queer youth having access to resources (centers, educational material, mentors) and how it influences their growth and development with their sexuality. We will dialogue about available resources, who has access to them and conceptualize our own ideas for a resource guide. Hope to see you for a night of good conversation, good vibes, and good free food! If you have any questions please feel free to email cmdatiles@gmail.com.

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Join us at the San Diego Black Film Festival 2010



JAN. 28TH - 31ST

Films featured at "The GLBT Meet Up" Film Shorts Series

Standing-N-Truth: Breaking the Silence

(Feature, Documentary, USA, 2009, 70 mins., Dir. Tim Daniels)
A personal narrative of African American men, women and children in the face of the HIV/AIDS pandemic transcending differences of sexuality, class, and gender.

Truth Hurts

(Dramatic Short, World Premiere, USA, 13 mins., Dir., Shera Threet)
A woman is stalked by her homophobic boyfriend who suspects she's cheating on him with her gay male friend. He eventually discovers what he thinks is equally abominable.

Jackson Parish

(Dramatic Short, USA, 2009, 13 mins., Dir. Edward McDonald)
A young man returns to his roots to discover the values of heritage, tradition and sacrifice.

Fix Me

(Dramatic Short, World Premiere, USA, 2009, 11 mins., Dir. JC Whitehead)
Frankie and his girlfriend find themselves fugitives at odds with the world in which they live that not only frowns upon, but forbids their love and relationship.

Down Low

(Dramatic Short, World Premiere, USA, 2009, 10 mins., Dir., Kevin Norman)
A young man recently infected with HIV comes in contact with a past lover. An ensuing fight sends his already fragile emotional state into free fall, leading him to a resolution that he may forever regret.

A Silent Whisper

(Dramatic Short, USA, 2009, 12 mins., Dir. Darrell Lake)
A man reveals his deepest, darkest secrets to a person of trust, only to have his trust betrayed. How will he respond?

Saturday, January 30, 2010

2pm—4pm

UA Horton Plaza

E-mail Jan (jeestrellado@ucsd.edu) for tickets.

Limit one per student.

Tickets are given on a first come, first serve basis.

**Free tickets for
UCSD students!**

UCSD

HONORS

BLACK

HISTORY

MONTH

**RECOGNIZING THE
HISTORY OF BLACK
ECONOMIC
EMPOWERMENT**

**“The future belong to those
who prepare for it today”**

-Malcolm X

**See over 20 more events @
blackhistorymonth.ucsd.edu**

Sponsors: Alumni Association, Chancellor's Diversity Office, Chancellor's Office, Faculty Club, Housing and Dining and International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS), John Muir College, Office of Graduate Studies, Staff Association, Thurgood University Events Office, Vice Chancellor External & Business Affairs Office, Vice Chancellor Resource Management, and V

Ken Anderson
Director of UCSD Gospel Choir (since 1989)

FEATURED EVENTS

Week 1: Black History Month Opener
Tuesday, February 2, 2010, 12:00pm–2:00pm
at Price Center Plaza

This program is to kick off Black History Month with speakers and performers and fun. Our goal is to bring everyone together at our school and San Diego community to learn more about each other.

Sponsored by UC San Diego Black Student Union
Contact: Theresa Richards, tlrichar@ucsd.edu

Week 2: Black History Luncheon
Empowerment: Out of Many We Are One
Wednesday, February 10, 2010, 12:00n–1:30pm
at the Revelle Plaza Café

Revelle College hosts the 13th Annual Black History Luncheon. Come experience the celebration of culture and diversity through dance and music. Free entertainment. More info at hdh.ucsd.edu/bhm

Sponsored by UC San Diego Housing, Dining, Hospitality (HDH)
Contact Davell Jackson-Brown (dajacksonbrown@ucsd.edu) for more information

Week 3: The Edge of Each Other's Battles
Thursday, February 18, 2010, 5:00pm–7:00pm
at UCSD Women's Center

This documentary powerfully brings Audre Lorde's legacy of poetry and politics to life and conveys the spirit, passion and intensity that remains her trademark.

Sponsored by UCSD Women's Center
Contact: Marnie Brookolo, mbrookolo@ucsd.edu

Week 4: 8th Annual Scholarship Brunch
Saturday, February 27, 2010, 10:30am–1:00pm
at the UC San Diego Faculty Club

UC San Diego will hold its celebration of Black History Month which includes a tasty soul food brunch, keynote address, gospel choirs, and much more. This is always a sell-out event so purchase early!

Sponsored by UCSD UJIMA Network, 2010 Black History Month Planning Committee and key campus partners. Contact Pamela Fruge for more information at pfruge@ucsd.edu.

Winter Quarter

Week 5

Feb 1 – Feb 5

THIS WEEK AT...



The LGBT Resource Center

MON	2:30PM-3:30PM	CGS- April's Office Hours	Heritage Room
	7:00PM-9:00PM	LGBTQIA GBM	Family Room
TUE	12:00PM-2:00PM	UCSD SFA Lunch	Conference Room
	5:00PM-7:00PM	SAAC Meeting	Conference Room
	7:00PM-9:00PM	QWOC GBM	Conference Room
WED	3:00PM-6:00PM	Cat Thompson's Office Hours	LGBT RC
	5:00PM-7:00PM	Wednesday Night Program: Femininity & Masculinity in Queer Black Communities	Conference Room
	7 PM – 8 PM	Men's Group	Heritage Room
THU	2:00PM-4:00PM	TIA Meeting	Heritage Room
	4:00PM – 7:00PM	Queer Chinese Cultures Seminar	Conference Room
	5:00PM-6:30PM	TRIO Meeting –SRP Planning	Heritage Room
	7:00 PM –9:00PM	(QPOC) Queer People of Color GBM	Family Room
	7:00 PM –9:00PM	VOX GBM	Conference Room
FRI	8 AM – 9 AM	LGBT RC Staff Meeting	Conference Room
	4:30 PM – End	Friday Movie	Conference Room



University of California, San Diego

DATE: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 3, 2010

TIME: 5:00PM

LOCATION: LGBT RC

Femininity and Masculinity in the Queer Black Community

Join us for an informal discussion about the construction of femininity and masculinity in the queer black community and its ties to historical, social, and current expectations around gender and sexuality.

Light refreshments will be provided.

For more information, please contact Jan Estrellado (jeestrellado@ucsd.edu).

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The LGBT Resource Center honors

Black History Month

LGBTQIA@UCSD presents the 15th annual

QUEEN

BEHALF

Drag Fashion Show

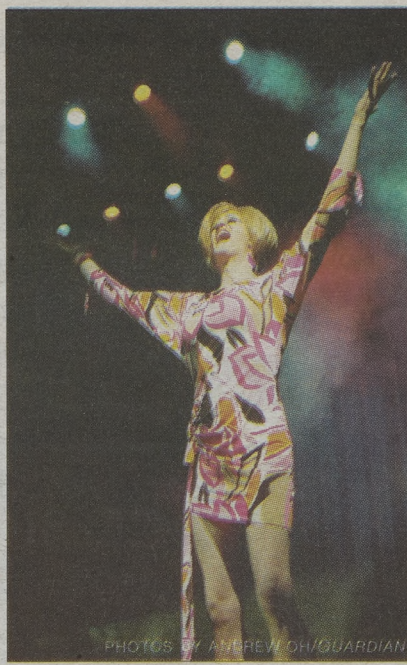
February 6, 2010

Early arrival is encouraged.
PC East Ballroom at 7pm
Show at 8pm



FOCUS

The rest of the royal court.
Page 9



FOR THE LOVE OF RUPAUL

Far left: The UCSD LGBTQIA held its 15th annual Divas in Denial Drag Show on Feb. 6 in the Price Center East Ballroom. The event celebrated the culture of cross-dressing. **Left:** Fifteen UCSD students threw on their best drag and performed for audience members — many of whom also dressed up for the occasion.



Last Saturday, UCSD's proudest cross-dressing divas and divots put their alter-ego stashes of sequin dresses and baggy jeans to good use in the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Intersexual Association's 15th annual Divas in Denial catwalk extravaganza.

Participating kings and queens shook, sashayed and otherwise got low to a packed Price Center West Ballroom.

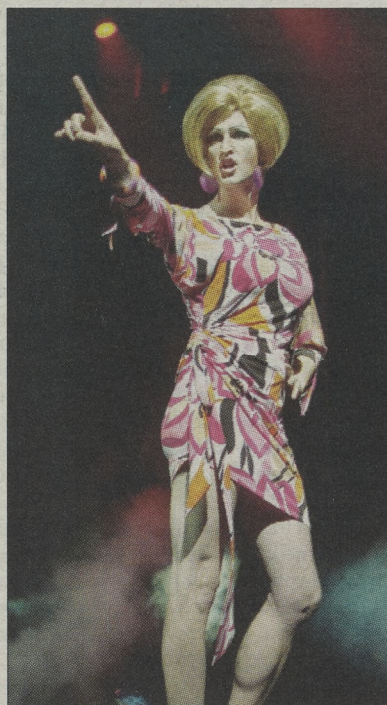
Divas in Denial staple Swedish Sapphire (sometimes known as Muir College senior Daniel McDonald) passed out tampons and Mardi Gras beads — "But don't show me your tits," he warned, "I don't want to see them!" — during his Lady Gaga mashup/striptease.

Comedian Carlos Mencia even made a guest appearance, performing standup (word is still out on whether the material was stolen), as did the Little Mermaid, who sang "Wish I could have... a vagina" to the tune of "Part of Your World."

Daughters of Triton — an all-female student singing group — was also on hand to belt out acapella renditions of drag-show standards such as Gloria Gaynor's "I Will Survive," as well as new classics like Beyoncé's "Halo."

The show climaxed with a fashion show that included all the performers and any audience members dressed in drag — a fierce finale to close out two hours of good old-fashioned gender-bending.

— **APRILLE MUSCARA**
ASSOCIATE FOCUS EDITOR



PHOTOS BY ANDREW OH/GUARDIAN

Winter Quarter

Week 6

Feb 8 – Feb 12

THIS WEEK AT...



The LGBT Resource Center

MON	2:30PM-3:30PM	CGS- April's Office Hours	Heritage Room
	7:00PM-9:00PM	LGBTQIA GBM	Family Room
TUE	5:00PM-7:00PM	SAAC Meeting	Conference Room
	7:00PM-9:00PM	QWOC GBM	Conference Room
WED	3:00PM-6:00PM	Cat Thompson's Office Hours	LGBT RC
	5:00PM-7:00PM	Wednesday Night Program: Second Glance: Body Image in the LGBT Community	Conference Room
	7:15PM – 8:45PM	Face AIDS Movie Showing	Conference Room
THU	2:00PM-4:00PM	TIA Meeting	Heritage Room
	4:00PM – 7:00PM	Queer Chinese Cultures Seminar	Conference Room
	7:00 PM –9:00PM	(QPOC) Queer People of Color GBM	Family Room
	7:00 PM –9:00PM	VOX GBM	Conference Room
FRI	8 AM – 9 AM	LGBT RC Staff Meeting	Conference Room
	4:30 PM – End	Friday Movie	Conference Room



Second Glance!

Body Image in the LGBT Community



Wednesday, Feb 10 5-7PM @ UCSD LGBT Resource Center

We all struggle in a continuous process with our own body image. When we are constantly bombarded with messages about an ideal or “normal” body type -whether from our peers, family, complete strangers, and even from ourselves- it is kind of hard not to see why. What are the ways the LGBT community subscribes to these messages? Where do we get these ideas from? And most importantly, how can we be gentle with ourselves when it comes to being comfortable in our own skin? Come share your stories as we engage in conversation, watch film clips, and discuss just what it might mean to have a healthy attitude about our bodies. As always, there will be snacks and light refreshments. Contact Red Galura at rgalura86@gmail.com for more information.

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Winter Quarter

Week 7

Feb 15 – Feb 19

THIS WEEK AT...

The LGBT Resource Center



MON

No School

TUE

12:00PM-1:30PM

Queer Brown Grrrrl: Selected Readings from
Audre Lorde

Conference Room

5:00PM-7:00PM

SAAC Meeting

Conference Room

WED

5:00PM-8:00PM

LGBT RC: Facilitator Training

Conference Room

7:00PM-8:00PM

Men's Group

Heritage Room

THU

2:00PM-4:00PM

TIA Meeting

Heritage Room

4:00PM – 7:00PM

Queer Chinese Cultures Seminar

Conference Room

7:00 PM –9:00PM

(QPOC) Queer People of Color GBM

Family Room

7:00 PM –9:00PM

LGBT RC: Bullying Part 2

Conference Room

FRI

8 AM – 9 AM

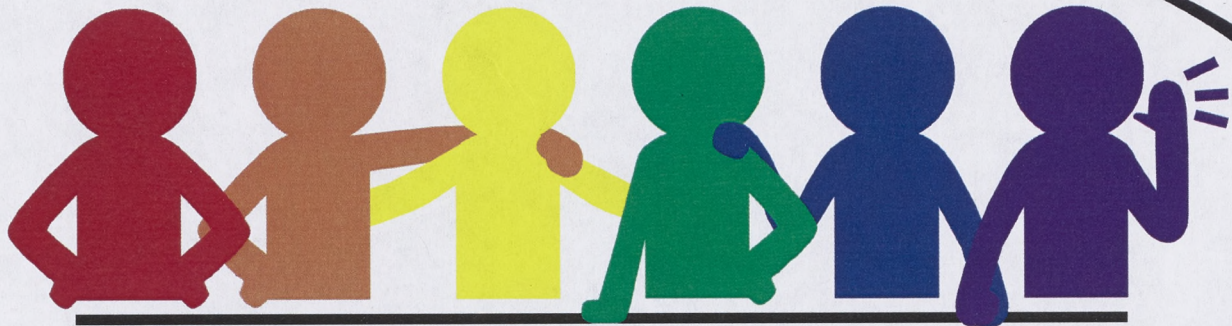
LGBT RC Staff Meeting

Conference Room

4:30 PM – End

Friday Movie

Conference Room



SPEAKER'S BUREAU

***"We have stories to tell, stories
that most people never heard."***

Facilitator Training

**Wednesday, February 17
@ 5pm**

LGBT RC Conference Room

Western Regional LGBTQIA College Conference

@Cal Poly San Luis Obispo February 19-21, 2010

Are you interested in attending this year's WESTERN REGIONAL LGBTQIA CONFERENCE?

This conference is a chance to meet others like you, participate in workshops aimed to educate, inform and raise interests of LGBT issues.

UCSD has agreed to fund a delegation of 28 students to attend this educational conference. In order to be eligible for one of these spots, please read and follow these steps:

- ▶ Get the Interest Form
 - WEBSITE:
<http://lgbt.ucsd.edu/WesternRegionalLGBTQIA.asp>
 - EMAIL: email ucsdwesternregional@gmail.com and we will send you a copy of the form!
- ▶ Fill out the Interest Form
- ▶ Submit the form ELECTRONICALLY to ucsdwesternregional@gmail.com starting at: Noon on Friday, January 22, 2010.
 - No early submissions will be accepted
 - Slots will be filled on a first come, first served basis
- ▶ We will contact you either way by January 30, 2010 with further details about the conference.

Questions? Comments? Concerns?

Contact: Kenzie Haygood or Beta Hampton at ucsdwesternregional@gmail.com and we will respond within a day.

Winter Quarter

Week 8

Feb 22 – Feb 26

THIS WEEK AT...



The LGBT Resource Center

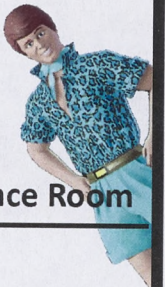
MON	2:30 PM-3:30PM	CGS: April's office Hours	Heritage Room
	5 PM – 6:30 PM	Queer Talks	Conference Room
	7PM – 9 PM	LGBTQIA	Family Room
TUE	5:00PM-7:00PM	SAAC Meeting	Conference Room
	7PM – 9PM	Queer Womyn of Color (QWOC) GBM	Conference Room
WED	5PM - 7PM	Wednesday Night Program: Cooties: Girls and Boys Understanding Our Gendered Histories	Conference Room
	7:00PM-8:00PM	Men's Group	Heritage Room
THU	2PM - 4PM	TIA Meeting	Heritage Room
	4PM – 7PM	Queer Chinese Cultures Seminar	Conference Room
	4PM – 6PM	Reading Racism Group	Heritage room
	7PM – 9PM	Queer People of Color (QPOC)GBM	Family Room
	7PM – 9PM	VOX GBM	Conference Room
FRI	8 AM – 9 AM	LGBT RC Staff Meeting	Conference Room
	4:30 PM – End	Friday Movie: "Saving Face"	Conference Room

Cancelled moved
to Sp'10

COOTIES

GIRLS AND BOYS

understanding our gendered histories



Wednesday, Feb. 24, 5-7pm LGBT RC Conference Room

From our birth we are introduced to a world that believes in a gender binary with statements such as "It's a boy!" or "It's a girl!" It doesn't stop here, through playground games such as cooties to high school dances we are expected to meet expectations of what it means to be a "real man" or "real woman," but what does this really mean? Join us to question these expectations, understand our own gendered histories and learn about activism around gender identity. Hope to see you for a night of good conversation, good vibes, and good free food! If you have any questions please feel free to email cmdatiles@gmail.com.

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Winter Quarter

Week 9

Mar 1 – Mar 5

THIS WEEK AT...



The LGBT Resource Center

MON	2:30 PM-3:30PM	CGS: April's office Hours	Heritage Room
	5 PM – 7:00 PM	Sonia's Program	Conference Room
	7PM – 9 PM	LGBTQIA	Family Room
TUE	12PM – 2 PM	UCSD SFA Lunch	Conference Room
	2PM – 5 PM	Professor Kheshti's Class	Heritage Room
	4:30PM-5:30PM	LGBT RC Scholarship Writing Workshop	Conference Room
WED	4PM – 5PM	LGBTRC Info Session	Conference Room
	7:00PM-8:00PM	Men's Group	Heritage Room
THU	2PM - 4PM	TIA Meeting	Heritage Room
	4PM – 7PM	Queer Chinese Cultures Seminar	Conference Room
	7PM – 9PM	Confronting Internalized Phobias	Conference Room
FRI	8 AM – 9 AM	LGBT RC Staff Meeting	Conference Room
	2:30PM-4:30PM	Kamalayan Kollektive: Step by Step Organizing	Conference Room
	4:30 PM – End	Friday Movie: "Saving Face"	Conference Room

A Letter from Jody Blanco, UCSD Professor of Literature, to the students of Kaibigang Pilipino (KP) Regarding Recent Events on Campus

Dear Filipina and Filipino students, colleagues, and friends:

I hope that you don't mind my sending a mass email to you, which is something I don't think I've ever done. While I know some, maybe many of you individually, I haven't been to a KP GBM in many years, and haven't had the opportunity to work as closely with you as I would have liked and would like to. Hopefully this is something we can begin to address and repair over time.

What has prompted this unusual message is the recent spate of events that have transpired the past week, and have caused or exacerbated the perceived lack of support for many historically underrepresented minorities – not just blacks, but Latinos, Arab- and certain Asian-Americans, Filipinos and Filipino-Americans included. I don't need to tell you the details, which I'm sure you already know – a private party involving hundreds of UCSD students, framed as an expression of contempt for Black History Month and the free use of hate speech (which, as it turns out, was downloaded from a website); a follow-up televised program on the Koala newspaper website, expressing support for hate speech.

By now, if you've been listening to the local and national news, you may also have a sense of the fallout: black students at UCSD threatening to withdraw or transfer out of UCSD en masse; the administration's simultaneous condemnation of these events and declaration of non-commitment to any further significant actions to be taken in response to the outbreak of hate speech on campus; the intervention of the San Diego city council and California state assembly members committed to take responsibility and hold people accountable (because the university won't); a public statement made by the NAACP promising to conduct its own investigation into the matter; national coverage of our campus and university on network TV, featuring reporters and analysts who express open disbelief at the campus's presumed commitment to its principles of community, and bewilderment at the administration's failure to take any meaningful or effective action defending and protecting its students from injury and insult.

For those of you who have close friends in the black community, you may have witnessed or heard stories of their trauma and insecurity: students weeping in the halls and on Library Walk at their helplessness and inability to represent themselves against the violence of having other people represent them. If you are like me, you are familiar with this feeling: you have grown up seeing your parents scolded by an angry grocery clerk or policeman for appearing ignorant or slow; you have been denigrated or mocked by whites for excelling at the things you love or feel passionate about; you have felt betrayed by an authority who witnessed your persecution at one point or another, and pretended not to notice. You are familiar with the mistrust, lack of confidence, and sometimes, the outright fear, of the world outside your immediate family and friends; you have struggled consciously or unconsciously to accept or refuse the possibility that the world outside this insulated circle neither values nor encourages your participation and contribution to a wider community. If you can't relate to what I'm

saying, perhaps it's all for the best, because I wouldn't wish that consciousness and psychological conflict on anybody. But if you can relate to what your African-American brothers and sisters are feeling, you probably also understand that this is what most ethnic and / or historically underrepresented minorities, in the US and in every country, experience to one degree or another. It is the experience we share in common, an experience that oftentimes draws us close to one another in times of danger.

I want to underline this last point in order to foreground my basic message: I'm asking you to become or stay involved, and to make sure there are always Pinoy and Pinay voices, in the responses and activities to this event that will occur in the following weeks or months. I'm asking you to become or stay involved, first and foremost, because as historically underrepresented minorities we are directly implicated in both acts of racial hate speech and the university's responses to it. As many of you who have taken my classes before may know, when the US conducted a near-genocidal war against the Philippines at the beginning of the twentieth century (which left between 500,000-1,000,000 dead, mostly civilians), both US soldiers and commanders often referred to Filipinos as "niggers." In the 1920s and 30s, when Filipino Carlos Bulosan and his compatriots came to the US to escape the US-driven poverty in the Philippines, they were identified as "niggers," and they were lynched, beaten, and murdered without any recourse to the law. To this day, the word retains the same popular meaning as it did at the turn of the century: to be a "nigger" means to be identified as an available target for extra-judicial violence and social exile, without right of appeal to an established or legitimate authority. This is what the word means, regardless of who uses it in what context. That is what makes it a dangerous word and concept. It is a word that attacks what it identifies, and paves the way for further violence.

My second reason for asking for your committed involvement is that your African-American friends, collaborators, and co-sponsors need you. They need you to defend and protect them, to promote and cultivate a climate and community that respects, safeguards, and enhances our humanity: our right to belong, to participate and contribute to the realization of common dreams. You may think that, because you don't have as many co-sponsored activities with BSU, MEChA, or APSA, you don't have much in common with them. You are wrong. We are all fighting to increase student recruitment and retention of historically underrepresented minorities at UCSD, whereas the groups that comprise the majorities at UCSD don't need to do this. We are all faced with constant underfunding and are obliged to conduct recruitment and retention activities that are regularly performed by hired full-time staff in most other universities. We are all passionately invested in reproducing and reinventing the originality of our cultural heritage, its joys and sorrows, which help us understand how and why we remain separate from a greater cultural heritage that might be simply defined as "American." They need you to give them respect, and ask for their respect in return. They need you to validate their humanity and their belonging; and to ask that they validate ours. They are our kababayan, whether they know it or not. In the past, African-Americans have historically fought for our rights to self-determination, both in the Philippines and in the United States. Whether we, or our parents, know it or not, we owe a great debt to them: both directly and indirectly, through the ways we have benefited from their pioneering struggles and sufferings. It is time to begin repaying that debt.

The third reason I ask for your concern and involvement is that it is time for our presence to be felt as a

strong and united constituency within the UCSD academic community. Many of our parents raised us under the idea that if we wanted to pursue the American way of life, we have to shut up, avoid any negative attention, do our work quietly, respect all established authority, and pray that our efforts would be recognized and rewarded on earth as they would be in heaven. Our employers and managers tell us that our proper attitude towards authority should be a submissive form of gratitude. But to be a constituency means to actively participate in the constitution of governance, and one of the tasks of governance is the administration of justice. Have we been assigned the task and given the authority to act as judges over this case? No. Can our voices frame the way justice is administered, or imagined? As a constituency, yes.

A fourth and final reason for our support and involvement is that it gives us the opportunity to have the courage to use our own reason in the understanding and exploration of our racialized past and present. University administrators by and large have chosen to exonerate themselves from responsibility for the actions of the students and groups involved in these expressions of hate speech. Their reason for doing so, among others, is that they are afraid of legal repercussions if any reprisals implicate the university for infringing on the right to free speech, particularly when students are "technically" off campus.

In my opinion, this question does not rank as one of the more important questions to be asking about the implications of hate speech associated with our university. As Marx once said, the answer always depends on the form of the question that's being asked. Do the events of the past week all boil down to the question of whether or not students have the right to exercise free speech? No. The scandal isn't that the right to free speech might even include the right for individuals to denigrate and stereotype people: I can turn the TV to Fox News Channel and see the proof of that for myself any given day. The scandal is that an event like this could only happen in or around a university or institution that has failed in its commitment to academic and cultural diversity. The scandal is that many students at UCSD consider black people and communities as a product of their imaginations and consumer habits: an entertainment commodity we pay to watch on MTV, or hear on the radio. A stereotype we have the "right" to enjoy and take pleasure in, because we have paid good money to possess and consume it in the privacy of our homes and TV screens. The scandal is that many whites – and even Asian Americans – do not belong to a community that involved and involves the active participation and vital humanity of another person or community of color, another historically underrepresented minority. It's not hard to see why: only 1 of every 50 students on this campus is African American, and only 1 of 10 students is Latina / Latino.

As those of you involved in the recruitment and retention of Pinay / Pinoy students on campus must know, when you deny a person, or group the right and opportunity to be part of a community, you deprive that person or group of the opportunity to represent and express their humanity. The dehumanization involved in the promotion of stereotypes is just a surface expression of a deeper, systemic dehumanization that has taken place, and that continues to take place in our university. The tragedy is the system that allowed, and even promoted, the permanent exile of a group of human beings from any meaningful participation in any form of community in America.

What can we do to change this? That's my question. What's yours?

Thank you for your time and attention. If anyone is interested in talking to me about this letter or the events more broadly, feel free to email me (jdblanc@ucsd.edu) or pass by my office hours (Thursdays 10am-12pm) at the Cross Cultural Center.

Sumasainyo,
Jody Blanco, Department of Literature