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FEBRUARY 2008

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A 5TH GRADER?

JESSICA SARABIA, CHAPTER PRESIDENT, SANTIAGO CANYON COLLEGE



Inspired by the popular television show, the future teachers of Santiago Canyon College organized an event to pit 5th graders against college students to see which team could answer more questions correctly.

The SCTA Santiago Canyon College (SCC) chapter, also known as Teachers for Tomorrow, staged their own version of the famous show “Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?” The goal was to see if the SCC students were smarter than a group of fifth graders. “I couldn’t answer the first three

questions without using the lifelines!” one of the SCC contestants said. The night was not only fun but also served as a tool to expose young students to the possibility of college now.

Students from Jordan Elementary in Orange, studied with the help of their teacher, Kim Carey, (a member of Orange Unified Education Association) who took time out of her schedule to prepare them for the big

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2008: MAKE IT A YEAR OF GREAT CHANGE

SHELLY SMITH, STATE COUNCIL REP., CAL. BAPTIST UNIVERSITY

2008: Resolutions are made, new school goals are set, choices are evaluated, and the list goes on. At the beginning of the New Year, we, as Americans, seem to reflect on the previous year and how we can make this new one even better. I was once told by one of my professors that a good teacher reflects on the past to see what changes can be made to improve the future.

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Deadline for submissions
Friday, March 14th



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FEBRUARY 2008

- 1-3 REGION 3 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, LOS ANGELES
- 9 CBEST & RICA EXAMS
- 8-10 AFRICAN-AMERICAN CAUCUS CONFERENCE
- 18 HOLIDAY (PRESIDENT'S DAY)
- 29-MAR. 2 URBAN ISSUES CONFERENCE, SANTA CLARA

MARCH 2008

- 3 READ ACROSS AMERICA
- 7-9 GOOD TEACHING CONFERENCE, ORANGE COUNTY
- 8 SCTA NORTHERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE
- 15 CSET
- 21 HOLIDAY (GOOD FRIDAY)
- 28-30 EQUITY & HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE, IRVINE

APRIL 2008

- 4-6 STATE COUNCIL/SCTA BOARD MEETING, LOS ANGELES
- 12 CBEST & RICA
- 25-27 REGION 4 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, PALM SPRINGS
- 26-27 SCTA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY, BURLINGAME

MAY 2008

- 17 CSET
- 26 HOLIDAY (MEMORIAL DAY)

JUNE 2008

- 6-8 STATE COUNCIL/SCTA BOARD MEETING, LOS ANGELES
- 14 CBEST & RICA
- 26-29 NEA STUDENT LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE, WASHINGTON, DC

JULY 2008

- 1-6 NEA REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY, WASHINGTON, DC
- 4 HOLIDAY (4TH OF JULY)
- 19 CSET
- 21-25 PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE, ASILOMAR

GO BOOKS, GO!

KEVIN WOLFE, SOUTHERN REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, CSU SAN BERNARDINO

Read Across America 2008 is coming! Read Across America is hailed as a national day to remind kids, students, and youth alike about the importance and fun of reading (though it doesn't need to be isolated to a single day). This year's festivities will be held on **Monday, March 3**. Each year, California joins in the celebration by creating a special theme. This year its "Go Books, Go!"

California's honorary co-chairs are award-winning actor Hector Elizondo and glamour specialist Jayneoni Moore. Go to CTA's website to download bookmarks, certificates, a multicultural reading list as well as "6 Keys to Helping a Child Become a Good Reader" in several languages.

<http://cta.org/community/Read+Across+America>

Read Across America is approaching its tenth year. It was launched by the National Education Association (NEA) March 2, 1997, in honor of the birthday of children's author, Dr. Seuss. For more information go to <http://www.nea.org/readacross/index.html>.

SCTA MEMBERS BRING JOY TO ORPHANS

VIELKA ELVEBAK, PRESIDENT, UC BERKELEY

SCTA members brought Christmas home to 35 orphans in Las Glorias, Mexico. On December 1, 2007, members from Riverside Community College, San Diego State University, UC Riverside, UC San Diego and UC Berkeley, delivered toys, food, clothing and donations raised mainly by Riverside Community College students. This effort was directed by Dulce Gonzalez, local SCTA member at Riverside Community College, and Cindy Ramos, local SCTA member at UC Riverside, who have coordinated this event for the past two years on their own. This year they invited SCTA chapters to join forces to raise donations and promote awareness of the needs of a community just across the border.

All the SCTA members were excited to make a difference in the lives of these children, and hope to do it again this spring. If you are interested in helping out at the next event, please contact me directly at viek@yaho.com, so that I can direct you to Dulce Gonzalez.

THE YOUTH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

VIELKA ELVEBAK, PRESIDENT, UC BERKELEY

Votes multiply! Through AmeriCorps and the League of Women Voters I learned to get involved by encouraging young people to register and vote in the 2004 elections. The largest gap in non-voter registration is the 18 to 24 age group. This amounts to countless numbers of people who aren't voting. This is where Student CTA members are most needed.

You can start by joining the voting program with the League of Women Voters within your community. They will prepare you to do presentations at different high schools that are already emphasizing the need for greater numbers in the voting pool. The program usually last two to three months and will give you all the information necessary so you can be confident and motivated while stimulating the minds of young people who aren't sure why they should vote or how it will count.

Make a difference today by joining the League of Women Voters at <http://www.lwv.ca.org/>.

ARE YOU SMARTER THAN A 5TH GRADER?

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night. As the students and their families arrived, they were amazed to find that a regular classroom was transformed into the TV show. Each of the fifth graders had their own name tag in front of the table at which they were seated — Jesus Fernandez, Krystal Perez, Tamiia DeAzevedo, Rachel Herrera, Alodra Miranda and Jonathan Chavez. Jordan Elementary Principal, Bertha Anderson was also in attendance.

As the SCC students arrived, they felt confident they could beat the fifth graders. Little did they know fifth grade has changed since they were in school! One by one the contestants tried to answer first through fifth grade questions. The SCC contestants were given three lifelines. The show ran about one hour in length and our chapter's advisor, Kalonji Saterfield acted as host. He brought excitement to the show and also got the audience to participate as well. As the show went on, each of the four contestants failed to successfully answer all the questions correctly. Once a contestant answered a question wrong, they had to face the crowd and recite the famous line "I am not smarter than a fifth grader." The fifth graders couldn't believe they were smarter than college students!

The planning for this event started back in September and throughout the semester the chapter held fundraisers. During the month of November, a drawing was held to determine which SCC students would be the contestants and pit themselves against the fifth graders. The event was held on December 7, 2007 around 7 p.m. in an auditorium. The fifth graders came prepared and left with a sense of pride and confidence about themselves. As the night came to an end, awards were presented to all the participants and the chapter realized that all the hard work paid off in the end.

LOOKING INTO SCTA

CRISTAL PADILLA, NORTHERN REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT, CSU MONTEREY BAY

SCTA offers many benefits such as liability insurance and low rates on auto insurance, but these are not as important to me as learning more about the educational field and meeting people all over the state. Becoming a teacher seems like a long and stressful process, and I feel lucky to be surrounded by people who understand where I am coming from. SCTA has much to offer and it is up to you to take advantage of it!

The conferences that SCTA hold throughout the year provides information that is essential for me to become successful once I enter the classroom, such as classroom management, and my rights as an educator. At these events, I am also able to meet a variety of people. I get to learn about their experiences in their schools and chapters. I never thought that I would have the opportunity to meet so many great people who have similar interests.

SCTA members also have the opportunity to apply for scholarships such as the L.Gordon Bittle Memorial, Ed Romeo, and Herb Foreman. As a full time student myself, I find it difficult to work while taking the classes I need. I need all the money I can find, especially when my student loans can only go so far.

Conferences, networking and scholarships are only the tip of the iceberg. As members, it is up to you to look into SCTA and see how involved you can become. It is up to you to attend events and meetings at your own local chapters, and the state and regional conferences. SCTA is here to serve you. If you have questions the Executive Board is here to assist you and make SCTA a representation of your needs.

CSU TUITION GOES UP, ALONG WITH ADMIN PERKS!

ANGELA DROPE, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CSU SACRAMENTO

This might be the first you've heard of the Assembly Bill 1413, but it's probably not the first you've heard of CSU administration being paid lavish salaries and given perks all at the expense of state taxpayers. As we, the CSU students, go to school everyday and pay our ever increasing tuition each semester, the CSU administration continue to get salary increases without accountability to the taxpayers.

Assembly Bill 1413, which since has been vetoed by Governor Schwarzenegger, was simply to hold the CSU administration accountable to the taxpayers. I don't know if the CSU administration has ever acted as quickly as they did to try and defeat this bill. On top of the ever increasing raises and perks the administration is receiving, they also hired outside lobbyists, spending over \$100,000, to defeat this bill.

On October 9, 2007, I went to the State Capital on behalf of you, the students of California in support of Assembly Bill 1413. I gave a personal account of student loans and proposed a question to the Governor – if we, the students are accountable to the CSU administration, why can't the administration be accountable to the students and taxpayers? How are we supposed to teach in the great state of California on the average teacher's salary of \$33,000 and student loans totaling \$35,000?

Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero was gracious and set a great example for the future leaders of California to follow. We tried to persuade the Governor to sign the bill into law. All we asked for was accountability, but apparently he wasn't interested.

2008: MAKE IT A YEAR OF GREAT CHANGE

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Personally, I am no different than the next person! A few of my goals include losing those few extra pounds and completing the RICA which will be my final task to obtain my Moderate to Severe Special Education Credential and finishing my Masters Degree in Education. This seems like a lot of major items, yet they are all attainable.

But as a State Council Representative for SCTA, there are only a few things that we can do to improve our program as a whole. I think that our motto of "I am SCTA, You are SCTA," has a lot to say about the vision of what all of us face. We look to others, such as those already in CTA, to help solidify how we as educators will pursue our future and how that will be implemented. But as SCTA members, I believe that we need to stay strong within our ranks at the college level as we continue our education. This is why I believe it is important to seek out those students that are involved in our classes, within our colleges and universities, and to encourage them to be a part of the SCTA. Students need to be aware that there is power in numbers. Likewise, encouragement is key to the success for our future profession. Students need to be aware of whom David Sanchez, Dean Vogel and Dan Vaughn are and what they represent. Do you? Yet the list of names can go onto infinity for those that fight in the name of betterment of education.

So my challenge to you is to seek out, challenge, engage, and encourage your classmates to become a member of SCTA. Likewise, as a member, we would like to encourage each and everyone to attend the upcoming events listed on the website. You will be amazed at all the activities of which you can be a part! And let's make 2008 a year of great change!

David Sanchez (CTA President), Dean Vogel (CTA Vice President), Dan Vaughn (CTA Sect-Treas)

RAP CAN'T STOP, WON'T STOP

JEREMY DE NIEVA, SECRETARY-TREASURER, UC BERKELEY

“Shoot up the household, even the young toddlers/ Brigade barricade to bring the noise/ While the bullets break your bones up like Christmas toys,” reads the lyrics to one Eminem song. Selling over 70 million albums worldwide, Eminem must be doing something right if the entire world is buying his music. Many find the concept of violent rap music difficult to comprehend and appreciate. Some even dismiss rap as “real music” for being supposedly so detrimental and purposeless to the masses.

In a fast-paced society, information travels at an intensity too fast to control. Due to factors such as the media and internet, children learn about sex, drugs, and violence at surprisingly early ages, and censoring such harsh realities proves to be a challenge in and of itself.

However, this is exactly the purpose of hip hop music: to unveil the harsh reality that America is ignoring. These are harsh realities that students have to come to terms with sooner or later, and with the current speed of information, sooner has progressively become the only option.

Earlier this past month, President George Bush attempted to visit Israel, but when has he ever made the attempt to visit Compton or South Bronx? How long did it take for governmental action to take place in reaction to Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans? Many do not care or are not even aware of the culture of poverty that these urban centers have bred. Rap, as a form of music, is an artistic expression of this culture of poverty that is currently being swept under the rug. When Americans denounce rap as “real music,” they convey their racist attitudes against this culture of poverty and their lack of desire to initiate a plan to attempt to fix this social problem.

This culture of poverty cannot afford recreational activities that the common American takes for granted everyday. They cannot afford to go shopping or watch a movie, so they resort to spending their time elsewhere on the streets. They cannot express their emotions through expensive recreational classes such as dance, basketball, or tae kwon do, so they resort to violence in order to express their pent-up emotions. Because they cannot afford such traditional artistic practices, they invented their own through rap. Condemning rap as a form of trash furthers racism in modern America. You can take all their money, but you cannot take their voice.

The best way to address the violent, sexual nature of such music to children is to classify rap as a form of Postmodernist art. Through this, children can understand that these lyrics tell the story of the culture of poverty, a life that many students in the classroom may very well be enduring. As an educational activity, students can annotate and interpret rap lyrics as poetry or they can even make their own rap about their own life and developing identity.

