Week-Long Celebrations Rile Up Student Body

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students were allowed to choose from a variety of activities designed to relieve stress and enhance well-being. The events included yoga classes, meditation workshops, and outdoor nature walks. The popular "Mindful Monday" initiative encouraged students to take a moment to pause and reflect, fostering a sense of mindfulness and balance.

The highlight of the week was the "Mindful Monday" event, which featured a keynote speech by a renowned mental health expert. The expert discussed the importance of self-care and strategies for managing stress in today's fast-paced world. The audience was engaged and many left feeling inspired and empowered to implement these strategies into their daily lives.

The week-long celebration was highly successful in raising awareness about the importance of mental health and promoting well-being among the student body. It demonstrated the university's commitment to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment for all students.

The Santa Clara

Thursday, February 6, 2015

Week-Long Celebrations Rile Up Student Body

Queer or Not, Have a Gay Ol’ Time at This Friday’s Dance

Annual Rainbow Prom brings spirit of love and acceptance to campus

Summer Meza

Sant Clara

Some Bronco find a tight-knit community early on— Institute for their freshman-level courses, within their sports teams, through their Greek organizations. But some students struggle to find this sense of community that many Bronco so treasure here on campus. Sadly, for many LGBTQ students around the country, and even here at Santa Clara, feeling a part of the big, happy student body family just isn’t reality.

Enter Rainbow Prom 2015: Big Queer Party a night where people of all genders and sexualities can feel free to enjoy a dance in a safe space and educate others on the LGBTQ experience.

"The goal is a big celebration of the LGTQ community," said Kristin Green, program coordinator of Gay and Straight People for the Education of Diversity, the organization that hosts Rainbow Prom. "Whether that’s those individuals celebrating themselves, allies celebrating that they exist or just celebrating our efforts to try and make Santa Clara more visibly accepting, we want to give people the opportunity they may not have gotten in high school."

This aims stems from the high school students that inspired rainbow proms around the country. After two girls were prohibited from attending their prom together, such events began cropping up as a form of resistance and challenge against such strict gendered restrictions.

Past forward a few years, and Rainbow Prom at Santa Clara has become one of the most popular on-campus events of the year, complete with a DJ, a photo booth and hundreds of students filling the Activity Center to the brim. The semi-formal attire imitates a high school prom, but there is more to it than the limos and hometowns of students past.

"We decide with this event what we want to say to the community," said Greene. "We focus on queer empowerment, queer history, the queer movement and what it means to be queer on this campus and in the world."

The educational element of Rainbow Prom, raising awareness for the struggles and discrimination often faced by the LGBTQ community and encouraging action by allies, is essential to the goals of GASPPD. There are also efforts to break stigmas.

"You can be queer and all the other things that make you a Bronco," said Greene. "We want to break down walls between LGBTQ and the rest of the community, because there’s not really a difference."

Creating unity between the queer community and its allies is a key part of the vision of Rainbow Prom.

"I think it’s great that it’s a chance to learn about LGBTQ at our school from their perspective," said Casey Caronna, a sophomore planning on attending for a second time. "It’s a dance for everyone, which is important, but it’s also a chance to be a better ally."

This Friday, students will relish the opportunity to open their minds and hearts by hearing the voices and experiences of a diverse group of Broncos in the Santa Clara community. And while the spotlight will be on celebrating the diversity of our LGBTQ students, Greene assures that all are equally welcome.

"In the end," Greene said, "we still want everybody to just come and dance their pants off!"

Contact Summer Meza at sanmeza@scu.edu or call (408) 554-4682.

Students show their best silly and sweet poses at the photo booths from last year’s Rainbow Prom. The annual dance aims to create a welcoming environment for all Broncos, regardless of gender or sexual orientation.
### TOP REASONS TO LEAVE YOUR COUCH THIS WEEK

#### 2/5 THURSDAY
- **Basketball Game**: Gonzaga vs. Santa Clara
  - **Location**: Leavey Center
  - **Time**: 8 p.m.

#### 2/6 FRIDAY
- **SCCAP's Rainbow Prom**
  - **Time**: 9 p.m.
  - **Location**: Lucanelli Activity Center

#### 2/7 SATURDAY
- **Junior Class Hike with Into the Wild and APB**
  - **Time**: 9:30 a.m.
  - **Location**: Rancho San Antonio

#### 2/9 MONDAY
- **President's Speaker Series: An Evening with Andy Ackerman**
  - **Time**: 7:00 p.m.
  - **Location**: Louis B. Mayer Theatre

#### 2/10 TUESDAY
- **Bascom Institutes: Interreligious Dialogue and Leadership: Building Relationships as Persons**
  - **Time**: 4 p.m.
  - **Location**: Harrington-Learning Commons, St. Clare Room

#### 2/11 WEDNESDAY
- **Mystery Bus Ticket Sales**
  - **Time**: 11 a.m.
  - **Location**: Benson Memorial Center

#### 2/8 SUNDAY
- **Liturgy**
  - **Time**: 10 a.m., 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.
  - **Location**: Mission Church

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**The Santa Clara**

Students interested in applying for Santa Clara Review editor, The Santa Clara newspaper editor, The Redwood yearbook editor, or KSCU General Manager are invited to participate in the selection process.