

DEAD

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"It is a time when everybody comes together — the living and the dead," Morales said.

Traditional foods are prepared and eaten during these two days, and most popular is the "pan de muerto" (bread of the dead), a rich coffee cake topped with bone-shaped meringue that sometimes holds a plastic skeleton inside, which is said to bring good luck to the person who bites into it. Other foods include spicy meat dishes,

egg-batter bread, candies shaped into animals and skulls and a dessert made from pumpkin, cinnamon and dark sugar cones.

Morales grew up celebrating the Day of the Dead in Guanajuato, Mexico, and he has continued this tradition in Eugene. He is community advisor for the University student group MEChA, which will be hosting the 23rd annual Day of the Dead event on campus. A celebration with poetry, music and an exhibition of Hispanic ceramics with take place on Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. in the EMU Fir Room. Mexican ceramic artists Mar-

tine and Blas Guevara will show their work and speak. Both have taught free workshops on creating death-themed Hispanic pottery for the past two weeks.

The Maude Kerns Art Center, located at 1910 E. 15th Ave., is also exhibiting art for Día de los Muertos. The display will run until Nov. 14 and features a mix of traditional and contemporary pieces. Included in the show are eight locally created altars, photographs of Day of the Dead celebrations in Mexico, skeleton paintings and skeleton creations in papier-mâché and pottery. Maude Kerns co-

ordinator Tina Schrager said the event is quite popular in town.

"It takes on its own character here," she said. "It's a blend of Eugene and Mexico."

Nontraditional Día de los Muertos art dominates the show and includes a Japanese-themed altar displaying handguns and bullets. Schrager said the show highlights the festive spirit of the holiday.

"The show is light and playful," she said. "The incorporation of nontraditional pieces expands and enriches it." The show is open Monday through

Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Saturday from noon to 4 p.m.

While Día de los Muertos is rooted in Mexico, its transition into other cultures has changed the methods of celebration. However, Moore said the holiday has remained a happy occasion throughout its integration.

"It honors family and loved ones," he said. "It is a time of respect and joy."

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SHAKRA

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least as much makeup?)

Of course, there are laws against corporations owning too much. However, recent legislation — such as the Federal Communications Commission's June 2 vote that decided to further deregulate corporations, (since overturned) — continues to attempt to loosen these laws, which I suggest aren't working very well as is. Let's see, there's CNN, MSNBC, CNBC, FOX News and what else? Is this it for diversity in news coverage? Help me out here. There's probably a few more.

So far, you may have noticed that I've chosen to focus solely on television news. "Well, what about the printed word?" you ask. "Isn't there any integrity left in that?" To which I answer, "Yes, but it isn't in one of those blue or yellow boxes you find on street corners." It may not even be in the green one.

Of course, the sensationalism claim is slightly more difficult to make regarding the printed word. A newspaper story is more lengthy, uses a (slightly) higher vocabulary level and requires at

least SOME modicum of objectivity. So here I'll take issue not with reporting methods but again with what's being reported and what isn't.

I think one "big picture" we tend to overlook is that we aren't always the good guys. But we cannot shy away from this, and this is precisely what "the news" tends to ignore. Yes, we can be the very same enemies we claim to be fighting against. Here is an excerpt from an Oct. 12 story that ran in The Independent, a British newspaper that can be found at <http://www.independent.co.uk/>:

"U.S. soldiers driving bulldozers, with jazz blaring from loudspeakers, have uprooted ancient groves of date palms as well as orange and lemon trees in central Iraq as part of a new policy of collective punishment of farmers who do not give information about guerrillas attacking U.S. troops."

Who would, in a million years, see this on any corporate news network? No, this doesn't fit the story they want to tell; it makes the plot too sloppy and the characters more than one-dimensional. So how about this, from an Oct. 9 story in the Independent Media Cen-

ter at <http://www.indymedia.org/>:

"While the corporate media were regurgitating the Bush administration's lies about Weapons of Mass Destruction and giving Saddam Hussein's Human Rights Abuses record prominent play, what went unreported was the fact that people like Paul Wolfowitz, Donald Rumsfeld, William Kristol and Dick Cheney have been putting together a plan for American Military Occupation of the Middle East and control of the region's oil for decades."

From these small snippets, I conclude that we must search for news outlets that provide us with depth and factual information — not just homogenized nonsense. Let's get away from these dramas and fictions, start finding the truth and speaking it loud and clear so people can finally hear something different than the sanitization of what's really going on. Until this happens, don't believe what you hear or read.

Contact the Pulse editor at aaronshakra@dailymerald.com. His opinions do not necessarily represent those of the Emerald.

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