

GO!

CALENDAR

TODAY

Concert
The indie band The Silent Years will be performing at 5:30 p.m. at Mac's Bar, 2700 E. Michigan Ave., in Lansing. Opening acts will be The Darts, Elliott Street Lunatic and The Word Play. Tickets are \$8. Call (517) 484-6795 for more information.

FRIDAY

Dracula film festival
Triple Goddess Bookstore is hosting an educational take on popular Dracula films starting at 4 p.m. Friday at Traveler's Club International Restaurant & Tuoba Museum, 2138 Hamilton Road, in Okemos. Stop at Triple Goddess for educational pamphlets before heading to four vampire movies. For more information, call (517) 347-2112.

Spartan Hallowscream
University Activities Board and Akers Hall Residence Life will hold a night of frightening events at 8 p.m. Friday in the International Center. A costume ball is accompanied by a costume contest with prizes, palm readings, games and treats. All events are free.

Halloween bash
The Cadillac Club, 1115 S. Washington Ave., in Lansing, is having a Halloween party at 8 p.m. Friday. Costume or no costume, Elvis and Elton John tribute artists will perform. Tickets are \$5. Call (517) 853-1915 for more information.

SATURDAY

Comedy
Preacher Moss from the "Allah Made Me Funny" comedy group will be performing 9 p.m. Saturday in the International Center. Moss has been a writer for Damon Wayans, Darrell Hammond and George Lopez. Free to MSU students with ID, plus a guest.

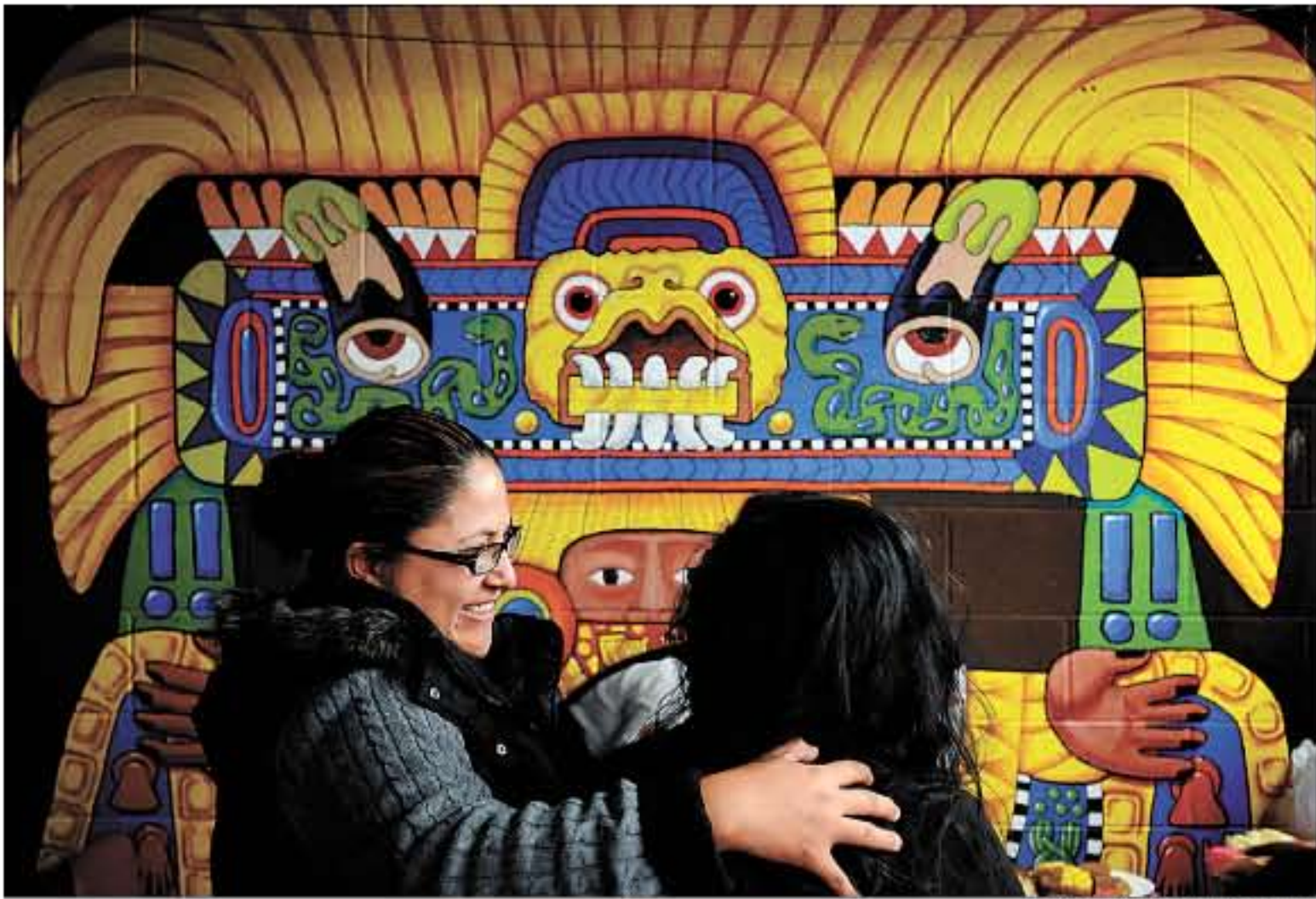
SUNDAY

Zoo day
Potter Park Zoo, 1301 S. Pennsylvania Ave., in Lansing, teaches families to recycle by placing pumpkins around the zoo and allowing the animals to eat the treats from 1-3 p.m. Sunday. Price is \$4 for residents and \$10 for nonresidents. Call (517) 483-4222 for more information.



CALENDAR
For the lowdown on what else is up this week, check out the calendar at lansinglowdown.com.

entertainment
lowdown



Office of Cultural and Academic Transitions employee Paula Sandoval, left, embraces advertising sophomore Adriana Abundis during the Día de los Muertos celebration Tuesday night at Wilson Hall.

Día de los Muertos

On Sunday, community will celebrate Mexican holiday to honor dead family, friends

By Kara Paliokas
THE STATE NEWS

While most students are looking forward to the tricks and treats of Halloween, some will be celebrating Día de los Muertos.

Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a Mexican holiday celebrating loved ones who have passed away. The holiday is Sunday, with homage paid to deceased children separately on Saturday.

"Day of the Dead is one of the most important and vibrant traditions for people of Mexican descent both in Mexico and the United States," history professor Juan Javier Pescador said.

"Originally, it was a religious ritual in which for 40 days families and communities in ancient Mexico got together to remember their departed ones, honor them as ancestors and renewed their connection with the cycle of life and earth as the pre-eminent life giver."

Cultural celebration

Spanish senior and Mexico native Sergio Espinoza is a member of Culturas de las Razas Unidas, or CRU, a Chicano/Latino cultural organization at MSU.

"CRU is more about keeping your culture alive," he said. "We just want to keep our culture alive here at Michigan State."

The group celebrated Day of the Dead on Tuesday in the basement of Wilson Hall, where almost 40 people showed up. The celebration included a history presentation, food, music and crafts such as painting skulls.

"It's a way of remembering the good things of our loved ones that have passed. We dance, we sing their favorite songs," he said.

Espinoza was born in Montemorelos, Mexico, and moved to Texas when he was



Sugar skulls are traditionally painted for the Día de los Muertos celebration. The skulls are used to decorate altars and honor the dead.

6 years old. He remembers celebrating Day of the Dead with his family as a child.

"We have prayers and we comment on how they lived and things we remember about these people," he said. "It's just a festival where we mourn and we celebrate the dead and we hold a little ceremony."

Since moving to Michigan to attend MSU, Espinoza said he has found a home away from home in CRU and in his Latino-based fraternity, Sigma Lambda Beta.

"I haven't celebrated that much in Michigan because there hasn't been that many opportunities, but with these two organizations we have a program where we can celebrate it," he said.

Recently married, Espinoza plans to pass his Mexican traditions, including his lan-

guage, to his future children.

"I'm a first generation — I came in when I was 6 years old and it's been shown through a lot of studies that the language is lost by the fourth generation," he said. "So I think keeping these cultures and these traditions alive with our language, our mother tongue, we can influence that statistic and maintain all our culture, all our language throughout the generations, so that's what I'm trying to achieve."

Elementary education and Spanish senior Piper Marunick is the president of La Casa, a student organization that promotes the Spanish language and Hispanic traditions.

La Casa celebrated Day of the Dead on Wednesday in the McDonel Hall Kiva with a his-

See HOLIDAY on page 2B

"Our goal for this year is to break open misconceptions and show that in Mexico, Día de los Muertos isn't just a Mexicanized Halloween."

Piper Marunick, elementary education and Spanish senior

Day of the Dead celebrations

Church gathering

When: 6-9 p.m. Saturday

Where: All Saints Episcopal Church, 800 Abbot Road

Featuring: Mexican food, live mariachi music, folkloric dancers.

Admission: Free and open to the public.

Contact: The Rev. Kit Carlson (517) 351-7160

Student group celebration

When: 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday

Where: Union Ballroom

Featuring: Food and dancing.

Admission: Free and open to the public.

Contact: Culturas de las Razas Unidas (CRU), cru@msu.edu.

Museum Exhibit

When: November

Where: MSU Museum

Featuring: Works of Diego Rivera and Gabriella Pescador.

Admission: Free and open to the public, \$4 donation is suggested.

Contact: Curator Juan Alvarez (517) 355-7678

SOURCE: MUSEUM.MSU.EDU, WWW.MSU.EDU/CRU/

THE SHORT LIST

THE BEST OF YOUR MEDIA

THE TOP FIVE BOX OFFICE MOVIES, AS OF TUESDAY

- 1 High School Musical 3: Senior Year
- 2 Saw V
- 3 Max Payne
- 4 Beverly Hills Chihuahua
- 5 Pride and Glory

THE TOP FIVE SONGS ON BILLBOARD, AS OF TUESDAY

- 1 Whatever You Like T.I.
- 2 Live Your Life T.I. featuring Rihanna
- 3 So What Pink
- 4 Womanizer Britney Spears
- 5 Hot N Cold Katy Perry

THE TOP FIVE DVDS, AS OF TUESDAY

- 1 Sleeping Beauty Walt Disney Home Entertainment
- 2 Iron Man Marvel
- 3 The Happening 20th Century Fox
- 4 You Don't Mess With The Zohan Sony Pictures Home Entertainment
- 5 Sex And The City: The Movie New Line Home Entertainment

SOURCE: BILLBOARD.COM, MOVIES.COM

To see a video from CRU's Day of the Dead celebration Tuesday, visit lansinglowdown.com.