

The Student Affairs Diversity Council (SADC) strives to cultivate an environment that embraces and promotes the broad scope of diversity within the division.

Cultural Appropriation or Appreciation?

By Amerique Phillips, a Sophomore and Black Student Union Social Justice Director, and Alexis Baker, a Senior and Black Student Union President

There have been many conversations regarding what cultural appropriation vs. cultural appreciation looks like, and to what extent we all participate in it. Cultural appropriation can be defined as the “cherry picking” or selecting of certain aspects of a culture, and ignoring their original significance for the purpose of belittling it as a trend. Appreciation is honoring and respecting another culture and its practices, as a way to gain knowledge and understanding. Within this article, we highlight examples of what both cultural appropriation and appreciation look like, and how we can practice the latter. In short, we aim to define, exemplify and practice what we preach.

In 2016, Rachel Dolezal was president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and a former African studies teacher. She had curly/kinky locs, tanned skin, that she used to gain the trust of African Americans, and bond over common struggles. She was a Black woman...or so most thought. When asked in an interview to identify her parents, who are white, she did so and it became known that she was a white woman performing Blackness. She self-identified with the struggles that Black people face, adopted a darker skin complexion and kinky hair, and ultimately took up space and opportunity within the Black community. Dolezal adopted these aspects that are intrinsic to African American culture for the greater purpose of being accepted into spaces she would not have otherwise had a seat at the table in. This belittles the significance of protective hairstyles uniting generations of Black

people to pioneer new standards of beauty and social value. It ignores the resilience that has been forged through historical and systemic trauma. Dolezal reduced the culture to the seemingly easy aesthetic ability to pass in Black spaces, Black thought, and Black history. In this case, Dolezal appropriated black culture via exploiting the narratives/ struggles, the traditional and physical attributes of Blackness, and gaining status in spaces meant for black people.

Kylie Jenner is another example of cultural appropriation as she attempts to physically embody black culture. She has adopted box braids- a traditionally African hairstyle meant to protect the hair, bigger lips and curves for the greater purpose of looking “good”. Physical features are an important aspect of black culture, because they are used to discriminate against black folk or justify oppression of Black folk American society. In short, black features and culture are preferred to be performed by non-Black folks, but Black folks who do not have the choice to not perform their culture (because it’s not a performance but an aspect of who they are) are demonized for being authentic or too Black.

On the other hand, appreciation is like an invitation from said cultural group to participate in one’s culture with the intention of learning more about the culture and respecting its members. Ways in which you appreciate a culture would be to attend a wedding or celebration and educate yourself on the significance of their traditions. For example, there is a huge difference between you and your friend having a luau themed party and actually attending a traditional luau. Of course, there is a fine line between appropriation and

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appreciation.

As you get ready for Halloween here are some tips you can put into practice. Think to yourself: 'Does the actual name on the costume packaging say "tribal", or "traditional"? Does the costume include race related

hair or accessories (dreads/ locs, afros, cornrows, a headdress)? Does the costume play into racial stereotypes? Does this costume represent a culture that is not my own? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you should rethink the costume and try again.

Upcoming SADC Training Modules

Date	Module	Location	Time
Tue., Oct. 3	Module 1 - Exploring Self & Others	Union Pano East	1-4pm
Thu., Oct. 19	Module 2 - Exploring Power, Bias, & Values	Union Parlor A	9-11am
Fri., Oct. 20	Module 3 - Putting it all Together: Dialoging About Social Justice	Union Parlor A	9-11am

To register for these upcoming modules, please visit: <http://sadc.utah.edu/events/training.php>.

TED TALKS



Courage is contagious

When artist Damon Davis went to join the protests in Ferguson, Missouri, after police killed Michael Brown in 2014, he found not only anger but also a sense of love for self and community. His documentary "Whose Streets?" tells the story of the protests from the perspective of the activists who showed up to challenge those who use power to spread fear and hate.

[Explore more TED Talks on www.ted.com.](http://www.ted.com)



What we're missing in the debate about immigration

Between 2008 and 2016, the United States deported more than three million people. What happens to those left behind? Journalist Duarte Geraldino picks up the story of deportation where the state leaves off. Learn more about the wider impact of forced removal as Geraldino explains how the sudden absence of a mother, a local business owner or a high school student ripples outward and wreaks havoc on the relationships that hold our communities together.



Upcoming Seminar

Travel Ban Update: Impact on our Campus & Community

Presenter: Faeiza Javed, LCSW

Date: October 18, 2017

Time: 12-1:30pm

Location: Pano East, Union

[\[more information\]](#)



On The Spectrum, On The Screen

In some ways, Hollywood portrayals of people with autism have come a long way since “Rain Man.” The new Netflix series “Atypical” and the forthcoming ABC show “The Good Doctor” showcase main characters who are on the autism spectrum and show them dealing with romantic and work-related plot lines, respectively.

But in other ways, depictions of autism on-screen have a ways to go. How can writers and producers tell honest, diverse autism narratives that will entertain audiences and challenge our ideas about a mental condition that affects more than 3.5 million Americans?

[Listen on NPR>>](#)



When People With Autism Encounter Police

Missed social cues are awkward. But what happens when poor communication is a matter of life and death?

People with autism are significantly more likely to have an encounter with law enforcement over the course of their lives. Now, more police officers are being trained to better understand their interactions with men, women and children on the autism spectrum.

What should first responders know when a situation involves someone who is autistic? And how can people with autism and those who love them help authorities de-escalate events with the potential to be dangerous?

[Listen on NPR>>](#)

Upcoming Events

Oct 2 @ 9-11:45am

Inclusivity In The Classroom

Gould Auditorium [[registration and more info](#)]

Oct 2 @ 12-1pm

Pizza and Politics: Queer Futures

Hinckley Caucus Room [[more info](#)]

Oct 2 @ 1:30-3pm

Afternoon Dialogue Session

Gould Auditorium [[more info](#)]

Oct 2 @ 6-8:30pm

Community Zine Workshop

Utah Pride Center [[more info](#)]



Oct 3 @ 6-8pm

Diego's Dream: Film Screening & Discussion

Okazaki Community Meeting [[more info](#)]

Oct 4 @ 11am-12pm

Women, Work, and the Will to Lead

350 SSB [[more info](#)]

Oct 4 @ 6-8pm

Reimagining Queer Resistance Through Art

Union Ballroom [[more info](#)]

Oct 5 @ 5-7pm

LGBTQIA Faculty, Staff and Students Pride Mix and

Mingle, SW Okazaki Community Room [[more info](#)]



Oct 4 @ 11:30am-1:30pm

I am a Queer Artist of Color & I'm Still Alive

Union Pano East [[more info](#)]

Oct 4 @ 1:30-3:30pm

Free Film and Pizza— "The New Black"

Marriott Library Room 1150 [[more info](#)]



Oct 5 @ 12-1pm

It Is My Duty To Spit: An Afternoon With J Mase III

Gould Auditorium [[more info](#)]

Oct 5 @ 4-6pm

Bystander Intervention Training

Center for Student Wellness [[more info](#)]

Oct 23 @ 1-4pm

Open Gender & Sexuality Workshop, Annex 151 [[info](#)]

Every Friday @ 3-5pm

Fabulous Fridays, LGBT Resource Center Room 409



Debra Daniels (Co-chair), Women's Resource Center
Kari Ellingson (Co-chair), Student Development
Michael Bard, Registrar's Office
Gabriella Blanchard, LGBT Resource Center
Ella Butler, Career Services
Branden Dalley, Union Administration
Tim Davis, Housing & Residential Education
Kyle Ethelbah, TRIO Programs
Cairisti Flatley, Campus Recreation Services
Morgan Gallegos, University Guest House & Conference Center
Darrah Jones, Center for Student Wellness

Roberto Martinez, Counseling Center
Chuck Masoka, Assessment, Evaluation, & Research
Paul Morgan, Veteran Support Center
Belinda Otukolo Saltiban, Office of Inclusion Excellence
Natalie Pinkney, Office of Admissions
Matthew Plooster, Scholarships & Financial Aid
Nomani Satuala, Center for New Student & Family Programs
Laura Schwartz, Bennion Community Service Center
Ulysses Tongaonevai, Office of the Dean of Students
Melissa (Lissa) Wanserski, Center for Student Health