Aqueycha Chavira

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Section 1

ID: 820157202

Gen S 420 Assignment #5: Culture Plunge

1. **About**
   1. Name: Speaker Series; Jesse Billauer
   2. Location: Union Theater
   3. Date: February 28, 2019
   4. Link: liferollson.org
   5. Since the culture plunge I chose to go to was a presentation, there was not as much interaction. Thus, when I was there, I spent my time listening intently, taking notes and formulating questions to ask Jesse at the end of his presentation. During the approximately hour-long presentation, the audience was there to listen to an amazing motivational speaker discuss his journey after a life changing event that left him as a quadriplegic. One aspect of Jesse’s presentation that was interactive however, was when he asked everyone to close their eyes. He asked the audience members to think about their dreams and aspirations, they could have been from the near future or in the future in general. As I was closing my eyes, a lot of things came into mind such as what I was going to do after graduating from San Diego State University, my family and potentially forming a family of my own. Furthermore, one of the disabilities that was primarily discussed during Jesse’s presentation was his experience as a quadriplegic. Other disabilities were not necessarily represented in his presentation however, he did showcase a video of the organization he founded, Life Rolls On, that displayed a wide range of individuals with distinct disabilities. In this video, one could see people that have cerebral palsy, prosthetic limbs, are quadriplegics and have other various disabilities. Although these different disabilities were not necessarily discussed in Jesse’s presentation, one of the goals of the organization he founded was to form a unity within the disability community. Getting these individuals into the water surfing or skating at a skate park is what brings the disability community together in these inspirational events created by Life Rolls On. Seeing the smiles on the faces of all the people in the video displayed in Jesse’s presentation was extremely heartwarming.
2. **Reflection:**
   1. Before watching Jesse Billauer’s presentation, I did not know what to expect. I assumed that we were going to hear a motivational speaker discuss his journey on becoming quadriplegic and the road to becoming a world champion in adaptive surfing.
   2. One new thing I have learned about attending this culture plunge is that there exists this amazing organization, Life Rolls On, that hosts some events around California that not only brings together but also encourages individuals that have a disability to get out in the ocean or a skate park and surf or skate. This organization pushes the boundaries in order to provide individuals with a disability a memorable and liberating experience.
   3. One thing that this event left me wondering about was about the different types of physical therapy there exists for someone that is quadriplegic. I recall Jesse saying that he had to learn how to brush his teeth all over again, so I wanted to know a little more about the different exercises that one may be able to do in order to get the muscle memory almost fully restored if possible. Furthermore, it would also be interesting to learn on average how long it takes for someone to have an effective outcome from the physical therapy.
   4. After watching Jesse’s presentation, the way that I can contribute to the lives of individuals with disabilities is by potentially volunteering for events, such as the one that Life Rolls On hosts, around my community in order to uplift individuals with disabilities. Additionally, I can be aware of those around me and be mindful of the things we have discussed in class such as assuming someone needs help, not giving eye contact, patronizing, etc. On the other hand, people with disabilities can contribute a valuable lesson in my life by being the prime example of individualism and awareness of self-identity.

A flat screen tv sitting in front of a television

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Jesse Billauer, motivational speaker, on stage with the logo of the foundation he established, Life Rolls On, right behind him on the screen.

A picture containing indoor, person, floor, wall

Description automatically generated

Audience members crowding around after the event waiting for Jesse Billauer to come down and greet them.

A group of people sitting in front of a television screen

Description automatically generated

Jesse Billauer on stage with one of the student hosts during the Question and Asnwer portion of the presentation.

A picture containing wall, indoor, person, floor

Description automatically generated(From left to right) Aqueycha Chavira (me), Jose Parra and Jasmine Camacho posing for a photograph with motivational speaker Jesse Billauer.