



Tony
C.
Yang

The Asian persuasion

If I didn't know any better, it seems like Asian Pacific American History Month is upon us, and damned if you don't know how to use chopsticks.

Like the knight's sword and bow, the keyboard and mouse are today's weapons of choice. The skyrocketing influence of Pacific-rim pop culture (i.e. Zhang Ziyi, Wong Kar-Wai, Jet Li, etc.) has become a global phenomenon. Indeed, white suburban hipsters often know more about the latest BoA, Naruto series or Hirajuku girls than the typical nose-to-the-books Japanese teenagers.

The fact is, the typical American doesn't have Asian friends. This is an alien concept for us Californians, particularly in the almond-eyelid-rich Bay Area. Where sushi, pho, lumpia, tandoori and kim-chee mix, they combine to form a powerful influence in a region. We grow in solidarity when we share the food of our neighbors, and we expand our political and social horizons, as well as our taste buds.

Dining with knife and fork was a challenge for some, the 1.0 generation, who never ordered drinks at restaurants, ate with chopsticks or their hands and preferred the indigenous flavors of their own cuisine to the melting pot of American-style dishes. On the other hand, a lot of native-born Americans, most of whom have never ventured far past their area code, much less borders, are just as reticent to try new things.

One time when I asked a friend to eat some Vietnamese noodles, she met my enthusiasm with skeptical eyes. "Are you sure it's edible?" she asked. "I'm not sure it's sanitary – you know how dirty those restaurants are." I replied not by saying that I knew the sanitary conditions of hole-in-the-wall joints of any variety were suspect as hell. Instead, I talked about how flavorful and cheap Asian cuisine was; I went over how service was the same no matter what you tipped – poor. Then I took her to a Pho joint in Milpitas and she asked me the biggest question of them all: "What's that red rooster sauce?"

I said it was chopstick-learning sauce. The more you use, the better you get at. She tried it, and learned the art of chopstick slurping. Excellent. That's how we roll – Asian-American style: 2.0.

When we appreciate and respect other people's cultures and traditions, approaching each person-to-person interaction uniquely and individually, we also exemplify the ultimate respect for our own values.

So respect yourself – go out and eat some Asian food. And learn to use chopsticks.

Ohlone's hidden pond: Natural spring across parking lots revealed

By JESSICA LOSEE
Staff writer

Unbeknownst to many at Ohlone, the pond behind Building 5 is not the only body of water on campus. Another one lies quietly within sight, but out of mind.

It is a small trek, across the parking lots on the southern side of Ohlone to the meridian between the road to the parking lots and the road up the hill to the bus stop at the very

top. But nestled within a coppice of underbrush and a few trees lies a clandestine spring, where all natures of wildlife live.

One can walk down to the edge of the pool before seeing the first "No Swimming" sign posted just at the edge of the water and once more in the middle of the pond. Although the signs are posted, I cannot imagine ever wanting to swim in the spring, as it looks as natural as any that could be found



Photos by Jessica Losee

Ohlone's hidden spring located across from the parking lots and nestled around brush. It is also home to many animals such as birds, deers, insects, bobcats and pigs.



on our hilly campus.

The water is clouded with silt and one can see the skeeter-bugs darting across the surface; even a few frogs dare to show their green faces for a moment.

At one time, the school pumped water from the spring to the pond at the top of the school, but the school wishes to the spring to be left alone so that we do not disturb this organic setting.

In fact, the school recommends that people do not go down to the area, according to Simon Barros, Director of Facilities here on campus.

"We try to leave it as a natural

environment as much as possible," said Barros, who said that the spring has been there for a very long time.

The front of the pond is mowed to allow relatively easy access, but the rest of the surrounding grasses and brush are left wild, leaving it a home to birds, deer, insects, and ticks. Recently, even a bobcat has been seen darting into the brush surrounding the area.

"At one time we even had [wild] pigs in that area," said Barros.

Ohlone asks to leave the spring alone but its natural setting is inviting to those who just want to get away from a busy school day.

Festival in celebration of heritage

By MEENU KAUSHAL
Staff writer

Campus celebrated Asian Pacific American heritage festival on Wednesday, May 11 from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. in the quad.

The Asian Pacific American student Association of Ohlone College (APASA) hosted their first-ever festival, Can't Stop, Won't Stop in celebration of May, which is Asian Pacific American heritage month.

In 1990, President George H. W. Bush dedicated May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage month to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843.

This also marks the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869 in which the majority of workers were Chinese immigrants.

The street fair created awareness about Asian Pacific Americans amongst students and staff of the campus. Asian Pacific Americans used to be suppressed and alienated, but not anymore.

"We had a lot of support from

the students and staff. Several individuals stopped by our various booth to talk to our vendors. Those who didn't have much time to spare, still took a few moments to read our statistics and quotes on Asian Pacific American leaders," said Marilou Alejo, vice president of APASA.

APASA invited vendors like GK Alliance, Mehrani O'Tehani Productions, Tri-City Health center, MEChA and others.

APASA hosted several entertainers such as a cultural dance put on by Desi Corner, another student organization on campus.

Food was also served at the event such as California rolls and fresh stir-fry courtesy of Fresh And Natural.

Julie Bugarin from Mehrahi O'Tehani Productions did a hula workshop. "The festival was a great representation of how APASA's year has been thus far - full of inspiration, education and fun," added Alejo.

This event was a sequel of other events that APASA has organized in the past. Since last year, APASA has hosted the following



Photo by Melody Marquez

Katherina Bui and Marilou Alejo got a hula lesson with Julie Bugarin during Can't Stop, Won't Stop, the Asian Pacific American Heritage festival.

events: Children in China, Fortune Cookie Fundraiser, Wheelchair Foundation Fundraiser, Showcasing Our Youth, Rollin' With APASA, and Bring a Book: Open Mic Night. APASA has also been actively involved during

Welcome Days, Club Days and Unity Week.

In addition, APASA also has an exhibit on Asian Pacific American history and pop culture. The exhibit can be found in the library until May 26.

Summerfest set to be staged in early July

By ANDREA ADAMS
Staff writer

The main attraction of Summerfest will be the play *Into the Woods* by Stephen Sondheim. Ohlone students and alumni as well as high school students and professional actors will perform in the newly renovated outdoor amphitheater by the Smith Center.

Tom Blank, associate professor of the theatre department, described the play as "very funny."

The first act "completes the fairytales" of *Cinderella*, *Jack of the Beanstalk*, *Red Riding Hood*, and many more.

He added "the second half is very poignant about what the

people learn beyond the fairytale."

Working outside presents unique challenges. The department will have to build the theater before they build the set and construct and stock two dressing rooms.

Technicians will bring the electronic equipment outside and back in every night.

But Blank said, "90 percent of

the play is in forest, what better way to see [it than] at night under the moon."

He added, "The trees on the side [will] melt into trees on stage." Describing the show as more than just a play, Blank said "come for the play, stay for the view." *In the Woods* will begin at 8:15 on July 1, 2, 7, 8 and 9 in the amphitheater.

School from a child's perspective

By **JESSICA LOSSE**
Staff writer

Nestled beneath Ohlone's baseball field is a clandestine paradise, a literal fountain of youth; sometimes one can here the faint echo of laughter when driving up the hill.

This is the place where the future plays.

Masterpieces adorn the great halls of the Child Development Center and Kidango in Building 19 as one walks in the great glass doors.

Children of students who attend Ohlone, as well from around Fremont gather here from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. to be cared for while parents go to classes and work, offering convenient service to parents.

According to Mitchell Ha, director of Kidango, 62 students are currently enrolled in the program, all between the ages of infancy to five years.

Here the staff listens to what the children say and then base their learning off of experiences the children have in their daily lives, allowing the children to decide what they will do during the day.

"We teach through play," said Ha, explaining that everything the children play with is age-appropriate and oodles of fun.

Even the rooms are designed around this philosophy; students are able to get into things, even go outside of the group and just sit and read or listen to music, play with blocks or make art if they wish.

**See photos,
Pages 6-7**

"All of the projects come from the children with teacher support," explained Ha. "We build around their interests."

Each room is designed with play areas, which mimic kitchens and post offices among other settings, and wooden play forts to climb on. There are even special yard areas for each classroom with certified play structures for each age group.

Everything in the rooms and on the playgrounds is at the children's height, allowing them to explore the entirety of their extraordinary environment.

The staff at Kidango is certainly amazing; each of them must have a Bachelors or Associates degree in child development or on their way to achieve the certificates. Students in the Child Development program here at Ohlone are also required to observe for a certain number of hours during their semester, allowing them to learn more about the students through interacting and studying the children's behaviors.

"It's awesome," said Monica Lineavage, mother of one of the facilities attending children. "It's really a comforting feeling when he is in a good environment."

Her son Isaac just shyly smiled, and buried his head in mom's shoulder when asked what he thought of attending Kidango.



**Mark
McCord**

Don't ever kiss and tell

There is an old saying that goes one should never kiss and tell. Not only should you not "kiss and tell" but also you surely shouldn't make a CD and a tell-all book with all the details.

The world's most powerful intoxicants are power, wealth and fame. The pursuit of any of the three can corrupt the souls of the most sanctified. The loss of any of the three can send a person to stand on the Golden Gate Bridge and contemplate the unthinkable; there is no telling what a person will do when their drug has been cut off.

For the last two years I have done extensive coverage for web sites and magazines about the founders of the hip-hop scene. I've talked to damn near everybody from hip-hop grandfathers, Kool Herc and Afrika Bambaataa to Russell Simmons. I've heard some sad stories in the last two years: artists sleeping on park benches and artists being robbed by record companies. How would you like to sell 500,000 records and get a check for \$200? But as bad as that stuff was, without a doubt or hesitation, many of them would cut off your pinky for another 15 minutes of fame.

That leads me to a young man whose 15 minutes of fame was up a couple of years ago, unfortunately, his next 15 minutes will be more like 5 minutes. The recent *American Idol* scandal centered on an ex-contestant named Corey Clark, who alleges that he had a sexual relationship with *American Idol* judge, Paula Abdul.

Personally, I believe him, but what I take issue with him for is cheapening himself and her, for his quest for more time in the spotlight.

In 2003, he made it to be one of the final ten finalists in *American Idol*. Let's just say that Paula Abdul did help him out, she gave him an edge over ten others that worked really hard to get there. The wrong thing to do to someone that has helped you in so many ways is to "kiss and tell"?

It is in poor taste to write a tell-all book about anyone especially someone that has helped you. When asked by the producers of *American Idol*, if he would help them with their investigation into his claims, he told ABC News reporter, John Quinones, "I don't have any interest in helping *American Idol* out whatsoever, because they haven't helped me out whatsoever."

What about all of those weeks on television, singing to millions of people around the world? Without that show, Corey Clark could have never have gotten close to Paula Abdul, much less got into her hot tub. If fame is a drug then somebody call the Betty Ford clinic, we have found somebody that has OD'd from one hit off the pipe.

Event promotes higher education for Latinos

By **MEENU KAUSHAL**
Staff writer

Have you heard of the popular host of *Lowriding with J.J.* on KOHL 89.3 FM? Ohlone College will honor J.J. Amaya, tonight, Thursday, May 12 from 5 to 9 p.m. in the Smith Center, for his 25 years of service as host of his popular show.

The awards ceremony will recognize his efforts and achievements in radio and his volunteer work with the local Latino community. College will honor Amaya during the second annual event, *Para Mi Raza II*.

"My experience on KOHL as host of the *Lowriding with J.J.* show has been one of personal growth. The biggest thrill to me is being able to open doors of opportunity for people through the magic of radio. I always welcome members of the community to publicize their events, scholarships or programs on the air to his listening audience," said Amaya.

Para Mi Raza, which means for my people, is an event to promote higher education to the Latino community. The reason why the number of Latino students enrolled has decreased is because of "the elimination of Affirmative Action and cutting effective outreach programs," said Brenda Arteaga, counselor in the committee.

The event is free and open to everyone. Last year, the event attracted about 250 people throughout the Tri-City community. "For a first time event, I think it did very well. The community definitely responded by showing up to the event which to me, means they want to see more things like *Para Mi Raza*," said Renee Gonzales, Student Services Assistant of Campus Activities.

This year, groups of former and current Latino Ohlone College students visited various high schools throughout Fremont and Union City starting from May 2 to May 11. The students shared

their experiences as college students.

"The attendees get to meet one-on-one with counselors and financial aid staff from Ohlone and form a connection they might not otherwise get a chance to do," said Gonzales.

The tour was started on May 3 at American High School from 11:40 p.m. until 12:15 p.m. It was then scheduled on May 9 at James Logan High School, 11:15 a.m. until noon and 12:15 p.m. until 1 p.m. In Kennedy High School the tour was on May 10 from 11:30 a.m. To 12:30 p.m. The final tour was on May 11th in Irvington High School from 9:50 a.m. until 10:35 a.m.

At these tours, "student turnout was very good and they enjoyed hearing from Latino Ohlone alumni. The students were able to ask in-depth questions about Ohlone and their programs, especially the Puente Project," said Arteaga.

The Puente Project is a new pro-

gram Ohlone is working toward introducing in the Fall to assist underrepresented students to succeed in college and transfer to a four-year institution.

After the tour a comedy group from Los Angeles, Chicano Secret Service will perform along with Aztec dancers. There will also be lowrider car show. *Para Mi Raza II* will also have food, games, music and giveaways

Information about Ohlone College will also be provided. Admission and parking is free for the event.

"We'll know if our events like *Para Mi Raza* make a difference if we see a significant increase in the attendance of Latinos at Ohlone College," said Gonzales.

"This event is an opportunity to introduce the campus and higher education in a fun, entertaining way," she added.

For further information about the event, please call Renee Gonzales, Student Services Assistant of Campus Activities at 510.659.7311 or go to www.ohlone.edu.

Students knocking on door for DJ fame

By **MELODY MARQUEZ**
Staff writer

The Bay Area is known as the heart for some of the world's best and innovative scratch musicians, DJ Q-Bert, Shortcut, Mix Master Mike and Ohlone's former student, David Causito also known as DJ D-Styles.

Causito discovered scratching at age 12 when he experimented with his father's home stereo. At age 15, he began performing at school functions and dances. "That was during a time when there were a lot of gangs and it kept me away from all the trouble that I could've got into," Causito said.

"It made me focus more on music and making music rather than getting in trouble and going to jail. Plus it was all about good music in general. It wasn't about one specific type of music; there were not walls to separate the music. You could play any type of music and the crowds appreciated it."

The evolution of the sound of scratch started with Grand Master Theodore, although some DJs say otherwise, and had evolved into a boom of intricate sounds to create a

composition of music.

The term scratching is not as fitting of a word as it seems. Basically, scratching is moving the record back and fourth to create the scratching sound. The combination of the movement of the cross fader and the back and fourth motion of the record on the turntable create different sounds. Just as the guitar player plays notes on the guitar, so does the scratch DJ with the turntable.

The turntable is an instrument that can be used to create technical compositions and has also been broken down into notes that are written into sheet music.

Like MC and break-dancing battles, where people compete either showcase style or head to head, there are DJ battles. The DJ creates a battle routine, which is usually three to six minutes and competes to find out who is the number one DJ.

Current Ohlone student, Clarence Gairan, also known as DJ C-Plus, is an up and coming battle DJ. He is locally famous in the DJ community and has won various battles throughout California. DJ C-Plus belongs to the world-



Photo courtesy of www.djstyles.com

Former Ohlone student, David Causito also known as DJ D-Styles scratches with fellow discjockey, Radar.

famous DJ crew, Evolution.

Disco Mixing Championship (DMC) is one of the biggest DJ battles held all over the world. Goairan along with his DJ group, Evolution had the opportunity to compete in this event. Evolution members, Illtraxx and DJEjay have won the teams division three years in a row. Illtraxx is current Vinyl Kombar's 2004 U.S. Champion, 2nd place DMC champion in the US,

and has worked with such names as Nelly and Doug E Fresh. Also associated with Evolution is DJ Rocky Rock who is the current Philippines DMC champion and has worked with names such as Linkin Park and Black Eyed Peas.

The DJ is the fundamental part of hip-hop culture. You listen to it on the radio and in clubs, but the scratch DJ is not fully appreciated as much as the MC or the dancer.