



# Fremont Symphony brings taste of India to Ohlone

By **JOYCE LEUNG**  
Staff writer

The Fremont Symphony Orchestra brought a taste of India to the Smith Center Sunday, Sept. 25.

"Fremont is a home for different cultures all over the world," said emcee Vijaya Assuri, "so it would be appropriate to celebrate the myriad of flavors of our city."

"Folk Dances and Music of In-

dia" opened with a prayer song by musicians Shuba and Purna, who intertwined rapturous beats with euphoric vocals that entranced the audience. A procession of folk dances from the various regions of India continued to liven up the audience's spirits.

Nine-year old Anisha Sakunkhe happily pitter-pattered across the stage as she performed "Lavani," a folk dance from the western state of

Maharashtra. Keeping pace with the varied rhythms of the Sambalpuri Folk Dance from Western Orissa, a band of village girls wearing a multitude of ankle bracelets danced in celebration of the harvest.

Traveling to the southern state of Andhra Pradesh, the classical dance "Kuchipudi" proved that art could convey social commentary. Through her elegant gestures, Sireesha Duggirala expressed that there should

be no division between rich and poor.

Performing a traditional dance named "Koli" was undoubtedly the sweetest group of dancers (no more than 3 feet tall). The audience wouldn't have noticed if they missed a baby step.

From the decidedly most colorful region in India, soloist Natasha Dandia portrayed a young girl's passage to womanhood in a Rajasthani Folk Dance. Donning a glittering

skirt that cascaded in various shades of orange, Dandia shimmered in the spotlight.

Ending the night with vigor and energy, performers from the Indian Institute of Arts and Culture enacted one of the oldest and most enduring folk dances from the Punjab region. With pulsating rhythms and fierce choreography it was a small wonder the audience didn't leap onto the stage.

# Fremont mayor talks at Muslim conference

By **HUDA SHREIM**  
Staff writer

Fremont Mayor Bob Wassermann spoke at Ohlone Saturday night for the MSA - Muslim Student Association's community "iftar" (breaking of fast) event: "Fasting in the Abrahamic faiths." The focus of the event was explained by guest speaker Ali Ataie who discussed the similarities and differences between fasting in the religions of Islam, Christianity and Judaism. Wassermann both welcomed and emphasized the importance of community understanding of the religion of Islam.

# Response to 'students busted'

Continued from Page 2 for assistance, who, by the way, handled the situation with the uttermost professionalism. Other concerned students thanked the ELC staff for finally taking some much-needed action. If these students feel they have been humiliated in the process, I am glad, and I hope that this will teach them at least some much-needed social etiquette. On a personal level, with all the diversity around me, as an Indian, I felt much humiliated to see fellow Indians involved in such behavior.

The ELC is responsible to all students, who would like to learn, and not just a handful of undeserving students. It is my simple request that the next time such an incident is written about in the monitor, it will be given the importance it deserves with the opportunity to teach more than just academics.

A very concerned member of the Ohlone Community,

**RAKESH SWAMY**  
ELC Coordinator

**RAKESH:**

Thank you for your concern. You are not the only one upset about rowdy behavior in class. But "Students 'busted' for talking" was a factual, unbiased headline. "Students busted for disturbing other students in a quiet learning environment" is biased -- and way too long for the space we had. Our job is to report the news without bias. Ethically, we can't make judgments. We supply the facts and leave the judgments up to the readers.

EDITOR

For the event, sponsored by the MSA and the Reviving Human Prosperity Center, over 300 people gathered to break their fast with exotic foods brought in by coordinator volunteers. Desserts were donated by Favors and Fountains, a pastry company. One guest, Judy Zatin, who taught English in Pakistan said it was "very interesting - I learned the why and how [of] fasting more than I did teaching 3 years in Pakistan."

Mayor Wassermann gave advice to Muslim students on how to be successful citizens. "You can't be responsible for everyone else; you do what the community expects of you and you will see results," said Wassermann. The Mayor said that he believed Muslims could one day hold his office.

"I can see that happening," said Wassermann, "One day, I believe discrimination will disappear."

Among the attendees were many former Ohlone students. "I miss this place. This reminded me of the good people that I haven't seen since high school," said Mulki Habad, now a nurse at Washington Hospital.



Photo by Aman Mehrzai

Monitor reporter Huda Shreim interviews Fremont Mayor Bob Wassermann.

Other events planned this year include a fast breaking feast on Oct. 20 with another guest speaker. The location and times are still being determined.

Information can be found at [OhloneMSA@yahoo.com](mailto:OhloneMSA@yahoo.com).



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