



De Young museum reopens in controversial building



Staff photo

By **JEROME ENGELBERTS**
Opinion editor

Disclaimer: This article should straddle the fold between pages 2 and 3, since it straddles the fence between features and opinion. It does that, mainly because it combines a report on the newly opened

museum, and my unavoidable opinion on (mainly) its exterior.

That the new building is controversial is, by now, almost ancient history. People are highly divided over the new De Young - museum and parking garage both. At a price tag of some \$200 million, many people have strong feelings about

the whole package, which is better than having no feelings at all, one could argue. Let me start by saying that, no matter where your opinion lies, if you've ever tried parking even somewhat close to the old museum, you will (covertly or not) applaud the parking garage, and so will many people living in the area who would like to be able to park near their home. No more weary circling through Golden Gate Park, or the neighboring streets, in hopes of shoe-horning your vehicle into the few spots to be found.

The museum itself is a striking architectural design by Swiss architects Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron. It's comprised of a copper-clad building and tower, which are supposed to age with time, and kind of look like an aircraft carrier with a rendering of a Mayan temple á la Uxmal on top. (Insert YOUR personal description here). Speaking strictly for myself: I like the tower part, NOT the building, and I think the copper will look like a scrap yard in 10 years. I also think that in general scrap yards don't look attractive. This is my OPINION (and everyone has one, as we know). I won't dwell on this aspect of the museum, since the really important part is, of course, inside.

The interior, partially paneled in Eucalyptus (Let's hope it's the "non-warping" variety), is warm, inti-

mate, and creates more of a "small gallery" than a "large museum" feel (which I think is a good thing). It enables the onlooker to view the exhibited art more on an individual basis than the approach we see in well known older museums like the Louvre in Paris where every room is like an airplane hangar with tens of paintings stacked 4 or 5 high on the walls, which is counterproductive to actually looking at them one by one.

Like before the temporary closing five years ago, the De Young showcases the museum's priceless collections of American art from the 17th through the 20th centuries, and art of the native Americas, Africa, and the Pacific.

Current exhibits and tours include: "Hatshepsut: From Queen to Pharaoh"

1:30 pm; "Highlights of the Art and Architecture of the New de Young"; Introduction to the Masterworks of the New de Young Collections

Last weekend the grand reopening started on Saturday at noon with a plethora of special activities, speakers, and artists-in-residence, and attracted enough people to warrant traffic alerts for access routes to San Francisco. For those of you who decide to visit soon, all necessary information about opening hours, ticket pricing, and directions can be found at: <http://www.thinker.org/deyoung/index.asp>



Staff photo

Unique curved corner window inside the new de Young museum.

ASOC meeting discussion covers concerns of Ohlone students

By **OMER AHMED**
Staff writer

High up on the third story of building 5 in the deaf center, the Associated Students of Ohlone College (ASOC) meet every Tuesday to discuss pressing campus issues.

The ASOC president, Raz Mohammed, gave a report on his activities over the Oct 7-9 weekend. He took part in a meeting called together by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. Originally, the purpose of the event was to discuss the dismantling or reforming of the ineffective California Student Association of Com-

munity College (CalSACC) and to mandate the new format that Community Colleges student associations would follow in their constitutions and negotiations with their schools.

Unwilling to just accept a new mandate on how to run their organization, Mohammed and other student leaders wrote up their own draft constitution to present to the Chancellor. Mohammed explains his reason for this during his report to the ASOC, saying, "Student-run organizations should have a student made constitutions". Mohammed will continue work on the student-made draft this weekend at the CalSACC Region IV

Regional Meeting on Oct. 22-22 at the 24th Annual CCCSAA Student Leadership Conference in San Jose. ASOC Vice President Wendy Lao, Board of Trustees Student Member Tristan Tilma and seven ASOC senators will accompany him.

At the Oct 11 meeting, Sally Bratton, Director of the Student Health Center, informed the attending members on the recent budget cuts that the center had to endure. The situation was not portrayed as being all dark. Assembly Bill 982, which would rectify the budget crisis, was signed into law despite Gov. Schwarzenegger implying that he would veto it. Bratton congratulated the ASOC because the Gover-

nor changed his mind due to the major outpouring of support from Community College students from all around California. At the following meeting, the ASOC moved to allow the changes to be applied on campus.

A committee was formed to research the possibility of creating a Student Activity Center in the corner of the first floor of Building One. The proposed center would act as a hub for all the campus clubs, events and organizations. It would feature an up-to-date event calendar, flyers, suggestion box, and welcome table. The proposed budget for the center is estimated to be around \$900.

The advisors also gave their own short reports at the meetings. One officer gave the results of the survey taken to gauge student opinion of the ASOC and its events. School events are generally viewed in a positive light but there seems to be a significant desire for even more free food and some surveyed wanted more competitive events. Also, contrary to common belief, the majority of students knew that the acronym ASOC stood for Associated Students of Ohlone College.

Other issues discussed were Trick or Treat for UNICEF, the newly formed Rotary Club, the Katrina Relief Fund, leadership events, and the Citizen Oversight Committee.

Marta Felcman leaves an everlasting impression

By **DANELLE MEYER**
Staff Writer

Marta Felcman's hands rained on the piano like tiny drops dancing in a winter's storm as she played for an audience of about 200 on Saturday, October 15th, in the Smith Center.

People filed into the auditorium with expectations for Felcman's performance. "I heard that she's world renown, famous and one of the best at what she does," said Priscilla Diaz-Galon, Ohlone student.

All ages came together to watch the Argentinean award-winning pianist play. "It'll be a great show, it's an opportunity for the community to hear something that they would normally have to go to the city for," said Walter Birkedahl, Dean of Performing Arts.

While some people amongst the audience were studying piano and others weren't, everyone had the same common interest: to see an outstanding show. "It'll be a new experience, I've never done this before," said Pampa DasGupta.

Some groups of people found the concert to be a good family outing. "I was excited to have a mother-son event," said student Judy Peters with her 13-year-old son Sullivan Peters who also attends Ohlone classes.

"I was intimidated to come because I'm a beginning student and she's going to be so good," stated Peters.

As the crowd took seats and the doors closed, the lights dimmed and immediately silence filled the walls. Birkedahl announced upcoming events and introduced Felcman.

The viewers applauded as

Felcman came out on stage and took a seat at the Yamaha grand piano. With no words, she began playing her first set of pieces by Johannes Brahms. "These are German Romanticism pieces," explained Birkedahl.



Photo by Daniel Kwan

Applause roars as pianist Marta Felcman takes her bow.

At the end of each song Felcman paused, signaling a finish and would begin playing the next piece. Every time she was done with a certain composition she would stand and bow, while the audience clapped, and then would proceed. She magically played pieces from Claude Debussy, J.S. Bach and Robert Schumann as well.

"When I put together a program, I look for works that are contrasting in style and mood," said Felcman.

Her rendition of the music sang in the ears of listeners as her fingers seemed to effortlessly hit keys from one end of the piano to the other. "These are works that are close to my heart," said Felcman after the performance.

During intermission a steady sea of voices began rising as people spoke of how wonderful Felcman played. "She shows very

well and plays a variety of styles and compositions," said Ruth Abraham who intently watched the show.

"This is my first time coming to a recital like this and I love it. She is magnificent, clearly she has control over the piano," said Denise Renfro about the show.

"I practice four hours a day, five if I have time," stated Felcman. "I loved the show. The staff was very responsive, and made me feel comfortable. It was a really nice audience, and number, and full of warmth.

After intermission, Felcman came back to play the finale and encore for her recital. She nailed her last song leaving an everlasting imprint of musical sounds in ones mind to take away from the stage. Felcman played with feeling and strength.



The Voice Within
By Aman Mehrzai
Editor-in-Chief

Unnatural disasters

Pick up a newspaper these days and you may see a picture of a natural disaster on the cover.

Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Stan savagely ripped through the gulf with a vengeance. Pouring rain left a deluge of flooding on the east coast. A tropical storm hit Spain (their first ever in history), and a devastating earthquake in Pakistan and India could leave over 100,000 dead in Pakistan alone.

Add a quarter million more people who died in the tsunami off the Pacific and Indian Ocean, and you have a staggering death toll in the past year alone.

So what is going on? The religious say it's God. The environs say it's the result of our mistreating the environment. Others are simply content that we are going through a natural cycle of events; it comes with being an earthling.

Whatever category you choose, it is clear that natural disasters have increased tremendously in the past five years (2000 - 2005). As a matter of fact, Oxfam, The Red Cross and Red Crescent have reported that natural disasters have increased 55 percent more than the previous five years (1994 - 1999). So what to do? We may not be able to stop all the disasters from occurring, but we surely can do more to save human lives. The previously mentioned agencies have given world leaders an "F" for not doing enough.

Although a lot of money has been thrown to victims throughout the world, the prevention of towering death tolls and suffering from these disasters are negligent. "Humanitarian assistance still does not cover all needs, often arrives too late, and is too often determined more by media profile or political criteria than humanitarian need," said a recent report by Oxfam.

The strange thing is, we are supposedly becoming more civilized with technology and industrialization. But do the civilized allow such huge numbers (mostly the poor) to die and suffer? Perhaps it is wise to find an immediate solution; at this rate, nobody will escape the blind wrath of these disasters, not even the affluent. Only then will we understand and empathize with those who have suffered greatly. Some who may read this will say I am stating the obvious. Others may say that I am jabbering with a liberal agenda. However you take this, know that we are on unstable grounds and we need more preparation, a step that I was happy to see Mayors Gavin Newsom, Jerry Brown, and Ron Gonzales talking earlier this week, where they announced an emergency preparedness plan for the entire Bay Area, but more is needed. God forbid a major earthquake hits us while we are on campus, especially since Ohlone College sits on a fault line, but that's another story...

Multi-Cultural Festival

By DANELLE MEYER
Staff writer

The Multi-Cultural Festival, arranged by Ohlone College and the Indo-community began on Saturday, October 15th. Some of the vendors that attended included Cold Stone, Bank of America, Eldorado Ranch, 76 Gas, and Ace Capital Group.

Sunday, October 16th included not only the multi-cultural festival but a health and immigration fair as well. "We offer free legal aid programs to help immigrants, and want them to know that there is help available," said Anu Peshawaria, President of Immigration and Business Services Inc.

People gathered around the stage to watch performances from all ages and cultural backgrounds. Among the performances were the Canyon Band, Bharathanatyam dancers, and dancers from Lisa's Performing Arts and Expressions.

"The event generated lots of interest. The Argus, Tri-City Voice and India West sponsored the festival and the coverage was superb. All the politicians, from state to local level attended, including prominent community leaders. This event, being first one of its nature in the area, will get established," said Jeevan Zutshi, member of the Ohlone Foundation Board.

People were involved with the performances for many different reasons. "We've played for Jeevan [Zutshi] at other events and he asked if we would participate in the festival," said Timothy Reilly, guitarist of the Canyon Band.

Though the festival drew much praise, there were some mixed opinions. "I was disappointed the event wasn't better advertised," said Debra Greene, Ohlone student.

"I think attendance could have been higher, but there are so many things going on in Fremont on the weekends that it's hard to attend everything," said Steve Cho, City Council Member.

Food, prizes, gifts and entertainment floated amongst the booths.



Photo by Devina Deo

One of the many performances put on at the Multi-Cultural Festival

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Photo by Devina Deo

Costumes and music made each performance memorable.

The Fremont Swim School had people spin a wheel to win prizes such as kites.

Everyone who set up a table shared the same theme of diversity. "We figured it's a good partnership between Ohlone and the Indo-Community," said Deepak Ganju.

The Multi-Cultural Festival helped the first steps of creating an even more diverse community. "Ohlone College, under Dr. Treadway, has been promoting diversity. So we decided to have a festival with that theme in mind" commented Zutshi.

Former Gumby animator celebrates

By JOYCE LEUNG
Features editor

As technology springs forward in the film industry, the revival of the low-tech claymation technique comes as a surprise.

Contemporary stop-motion movies such as "Wallace and Gromit" and Tim Burton's "Corpse Bride" both received astounding opening weekends at the box office. And just whom do they have to thank?

Perhaps it's appropriate on the 50th anniversary of Gumby that we pay homage to one of the best-known clay-animated series.

Stephen Wathen, a part-time Ohlone set designer, was among the number of animators who breathed life into the familiar green figurine, though some argue he was more teal or aquamarine.

It's no secret that claymation

is a long and arduous process; in Gumby's case, requiring an art department of 50 animators and 2 years to produce 99 shorts.

But for Wathen it was more play than work.

"Spending your eight hour work day playing with toys and getting paid for it was a delight," said Wathen.


Wathen was in attendance at Gumby's recent landmark birthday at Studio Z in San Francisco.


Though he took jabs at Gumby's old age and "stiffer" appearance, Wathen is still very much a fan as he proudly showed off his Gumby anniversary tee.

"Gumby is kind of a universal character. There really are no boundaries to him," remarked Wathen, a testament to Gumby's versatility and enduring image as proven by the way his name still reminds us of Pokey.

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Dr. Mutombo M'Panya NOVEMBER 2

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Mutombo M'Panya, Ph.D. originally from Congo/Zaire, has over 20 years experience with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and consulting for various world health and aid organizations on health planning, nutrition, and manpower training in Africa and other health projects. He currently serves as Director of the Science and Humanities Integration Project at Sonoma State.

Mutombo's Ph.D. is from University of Michigan in Planning and Management of Natural Resources.