



All-Hallows Eve: The story behind Jack

By KRISTA MARTINEZ
Features Editor

Halloween, in some form or another, has been in observance on Oct. 31 since 988 A.D., when Pope Gregory III officially changed the date from May 31. Halloween definitely wasn't always about candy or costumes, either. In fact, Halloween isn't even a primarily Anglo-Saxon religious holiday at all.

Celtics have the earliest recorded customs in relation to malicious spirits and the end of October. Samhain was the name of the Celtic celebration. Individual Celtic religions differ in exact customs but generally involved reinforcing

boundaries of the area and lighting fires to thwart spirits and mean ghosts who might cross over and threaten the community.

However, the only culture to stay as true as possible to the oldest Halloween customs is Ireland. The last Monday of October is a public holiday and the following week as well becoming their mid-term Halloween break.

Since 1960, and probably back much farther, a few small towns in England celebrate Punkie Night on the last Thursday of every October. Children wander about the towns during the late day and evening with hollowed-out pumpkins and ask for money while singing a song about "punkies" or pumpkins.

Punkie Night is based around a tale of men seeing "ghoulies," the ghosts of children who weren't baptized, on this spiritually active day and running in terror from the ethereal beings, not aware that the so-called ghoulies were simply their wives looking for them.

Many Christian religious groups refuse to allow their youth to participate in Halloween or related activities, citing the day as pagan or Satanic. However, just as many other Christian groups really don't mind, calling the day All-Saints Day or a conducting a Fall-Festival on the date of Halloween.

Even the day before Halloween has special significance, though mostly for adolescents. Mischief Night, the evening before Halloween, has been considered a night for malicious pranks since the emergence of the holiday into the mainstream. Going by many names, Devil's Night, Goosy Goosey or

Mizzie Night, depending on the neighborhood.

Things to do on Halloween and just before are inevitably creepier and more horror orientated than the rest of the year. The *Halloween* movie series, *Saw II*, *Friday the 13th*, *Nightmare on Elm Street* and many others come out right before Halloween to make the best of the mood. Bloody Mary and other urban legends surround themselves around mirrors and Halloween night.

Or, for those in the Fremont area, there is the Halloween costumes contests in the cafeteria for food vouchers or in the student store for other prizes on Monday, Oct. 31. For something considerably less creepy, there are many opportunities to help out for the next big holiday, Thanksgiving. Check out www.love.org for information on how to help out those in need on the most important day of giving.



The Voice Within
By Aman Mehrzai
Editor-in-Chief

Dick says, torture's not that bad

Even though Vice President Dick Cheney is under investigation for the C.I.A. leak case in Washington, he doesn't stop doing what he does best; shocking people around the world with his robber-baron-like statements of how exactly America intends to rule the world. His latest battle is to give the C.I.A. rights to torture, in order to ensure that "we can do the job right."

On one hand he (Cheney) helps Lewis Libby "attain" information revealing the secret identity of a C.I.A. agent who happened to be the wife of the whistle-blower who refuted Bush's claim that Iraq was getting nuclear capabilities from Niger - and on the other hand he is fighting a measure that will prevent torture against detainees in Cuba, Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere, because he wants to exempt the C.I.A. from this measure.

So what's the link between the two? He puts the life of one C.I.A. agent in danger on one hand, and says he's fighting for the rights of the C.I.A. on the other.

This tongue-tied discourse is not uncommon though, from hypocrites who hold office. What is odd, however, is what he is asking for - torture.

Sen. John McCain introduced an amendment that would outlaw the United States from committing "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment" of anyone held by the U.S., whether they are POWs or enemy combatants. Sounds commonsensical enough; not according to the White House who threatened the measure with a veto. The Senate backhanded the president and vice president though, with a 90 to 9 vote approving the amendment.

Cheney, C.I.A. Director Porter Goss and McCain met in a short meeting in which McCain was urged to change his mind about his measure. Luckily, McCain refused, but the House threatened to reject anything that opposed the Bush administrations doings, despite the fact that over two-dozen retired senior military officers, including Colin Powell, signed and sent letters to the House-Senate conference committee urging them to see the wisdom in this measure.

What exactly have we come to when we think that torture is okay? Monsters. It seems we are not only losing the war on terror, but we are losing all moral grounds for everything America used to stand for.

The difference used to be, that we would never become like the "evil-doers" in their tactics.

So much for the hearts and minds campaign.

With the approval rate of the war at only 37 percent, and the belief that this war wasn't worth it even less - this administration should listen to the people and not plummet us further into a path of moral degradation inspired by insanity and greed.

Alumni find success in radio business

By MORGAN BRINLEE
Staff writer

We laugh with them, we cry with them, we welcome them into our homes, cars and ears daily, but just how much do we have in common with on-air radio personalities?

For students of Ohlone College, it might be more than others. Many successful people in the radio industry come straight out of Ohlone's very own radio program and had served as on air talent for the college's radio station, KOHL.

In fact the list of Ohlone alumni active in the radio industry includes more than 200 names. The two men behind the radio program as well as KOHL, Robert L. Dochterman and Thomas Gomez, credit the overwhelming amount of Ohlone students in the radio industry to the unique approach of Ohlone's program.

Gomez, a broadcast instructor as well as an air personality for Mix 106.5 explains that Ohlone, unlike most colleges, treats "radio as an area of study," with the goal being

"to train students to be professionals."

One of the most successful Ohlone alumni in the radio industry to date is Rob Williams of the "Rob, Arnie, and Dawn in the Morning" show which is broadcast to Sacramento and Reno.

Williams is the owner of the corporation that owns the RAD in the morning show. Having entered the Ohlone radio program at age 18, right out of high school, Williams spent four semesters in the program before landing a full-time job as a morning show DJ in South Lake Tahoe.

A few years later, Williams moved to Reno, where he continued to do mornings on the radio, as well as delved into radio management. It was at the station in Reno that the RAD in the mornings show was born.

Seven years later, because of their success in Reno, Williams and his partners were recruited to bring their broadcast to Sacramento. Not many people experience the fast-tracked success that Williams has had in the

radio industry, though Williams believes it is a combination of good genes and great mentors.

"I was light-years ahead of anyone else trying to compete with me at the age of 19 in the industry, most of it thanks to the Ohlone program," he said.

The radio industry is a broad field, with many more job opportunities than one might think; a lot of those jobs being behind the scenes. For a station to run properly it needs a program director, producers, a director of operations, engineers, traffic and news reporters and many other people, and Ohlone alumni fill many of these positions.

Williams, for example works off the air with his producer, Nick Beard, a fellow Ohlone alumni. Beard went through the Ohlone radio program years after Williams had already left, and was encouraged by Ohlone instructors to try for the job as producer of the RAD in the morning show. Because he had come out of the Ohlone program, Williams knew

Touching life history in sculpture



Photo by Ross Tsvetanov

The works of Magi Amma on display in the Louie Meager Art Gallery as you can see them until Nov. 22.

By KRISTA MARTINEZ
Features editor

The first sculpture that greets you on your way into the Louie Meager Art Gallery, from Oct. 21 until Nov. 22, is *Glass Ceiling*, an oddly unnerving sculpture of driftwood, an old chair, even older chair parts and various little things.

Welcome to the art of Magi Amma.

From *Birdcage of Love* to *Burka Blue*, autobiographical to feminist statement respectively, the work of Magi Amma spans across a vast array of emotions, some of which are rarely felt.

Driftwood, feathers, paints and even the paintbrushes themselves all become part of the message

Magi Amma speaks through her sculptures. She uses the three-dimensional form how it should be, to tell a new message, rather than expand on an old one.

Healing, Tarot, self-expression and feminism are all subjects touched on in her sculpture, as well as aging, pain, entrapment and personal history.

The Louie Meager Art Gallery, part of the Gary Soren Smith Center for Fine and Performing Arts, feels like a completely different place.

Sullen faces built of driftwood and photographs from yesteryear while a TV plays snow give the room a feeling akin to being trapped in a high-quality horror film with a sub-plot of personal loss.

Ohlone tours: not just for freshmen

By DANELLE MEYER
Staff writer

Imagine walking onto Ohlone's campus and not knowing where any of your classes are. With new student jitters taking over, the endless stairs are enough to overwhelm anyone.

Or even imagine not knowing much about what's on the campus, even though you are a returning student. Both of these situations can be put to rest by participating in an Ohlone Campus Tour.

The Student Ambassador program is in charge of helping other people by taking them on tours of the campus.

"Tours are primarily given to prospective students who are interested in learning more about the college," said Allison Bly, advisor of the Student Ambassador Program.

The tour begins by meeting with an Ambassador in Building One. Once there, friendliness and knowledge are given over to people interested in finding out about the campus. An Ambassador comes along and leads you around the main Building One, explaining all the different items that are contained within.

Then, depending on what you already know, need to know, or are interested in, a tour is given

for the rest of the campus. "If a student is interested in nursing, we will make sure we take them to Building A, where the nursing program is.

"If a student is just generally interested in the campus, we will lead them through the circle from Buildings One through 9, and to Hyman Hall if they really want to go," said Nuwane Kirihennedige, Student Ambassador, who gave me a tour.

Building One is the center of all major information at Ohlone. If you are interested in getting financial aid, applying for scholarships, checking out campus activities, making counselor appointments, joining a club, transferring to another college, checking out a book, or maybe just relaxing, Building One will be keeper of everything you need.

"There's so many clubs and different things going on that people just don't know about," said Kirihennedige.

Each other building is jammed full of classrooms and teachers for all different types of classes. Building 9 is the keeper of physical activity classes and the gym, while Building 2 showcases some art and music.

"We're students too, so we know what type of things we would want to know and offer it to other interested students," said

Kirihennedige.

Campus tours last anywhere from 20 to 45 minutes depending on what a person would like to know.

"Students enjoy the campus tours. We always have good feedback at the end of each one," stated Kirihennedige.

The Student Ambassador Program is currently home to 15 Ambassadors who perform in other things such as recruitment of high school students, and Welcome day.

Since 1999, Ohlone's Student Ambassadors have been actively involved in recruitment, as well as other campus events and programs.

"Each semester, Ambassadors participate in a variety of recruitment activities both on and off campus, providing high school students and community members with information regarding Ohlone's academic programs, student services, and campus life," said Bly.

Ohlone Campus Tours are full of information that any student could benefit from. If anything else, the Ohlone web page is packed full of answers to many of the taunting questions that students bare.

"I encourage that if people have any problems or questions to go to the website and see if they can



Photo by Danelle Meyer

Nuwane Kirihennedige, left, and Sara Mirza consult their information to give the best idea to tour-goers of what happens in each building on campus throughout the day.

look it up. It usually has all the information that people need, but people just don't seem to know it's there," said Kirihennedige.

Campus Tours are held every Tuesday, at 2:30 p.m. on the first floor of Building One.

They can also be set up by request on other days through Ambassadors. The Ohlone website can be located at <http://www.ohlone.edu>.

And they will continue to help enrich campus life.

Star of the Month is campus cop

By GABE VILA
Staff writer

We're sure you've noticed him; a jovial young man walking around campus, laughing and joking with students, chatting with teachers, in general having a good time. In fact, there's almost no way to distinguish him from the regular crowd. Well, except for the navy blue uniform.

Officer Ben Peralta has been a member of Campus Security for nearly a decade, watching over the campus since 1998. Officer Peralta, who insists on being called "just Ben," is well liked by the staff and the students.

"He's an awesome guy, and he's very professional with what he does," said Rose Martinez, Counseling Services. "He's always here when we need him...which is a good thing because we get some irate

students down here," she added with a chuckle.

"I'm an avid believer in leadership by example," said Peralta, "I think that, you know, nowadays people keep forgetting about accountability; that you are held responsible for your actions, and I try to show that in how I go about my day."

"I take my job seriously," said Peralta. "I don't see working here as like an assembly line. I mean, I've dedicated myself, like my colleagues have, to public service. This is a lifestyle, and you have to carry yourself -even off-duty -with dignity."

While conducting himself with professionalism and efficiency, he still finds time to get to know the people who he works with.

Peralta is a husband and proud father of Josh, who is 21 months old. "I'm lined up for another one

soon, too," he joked while gesturing to the vast collection of family pictures he keeps in his locker. Among them is a picture of him holding his son and his Star of the Month award, just after the President awarded it to him.

As Star of the Month, Ben was awarded a certificate, coffee mug, and a temporary parking spot in lot W with the motorcycles (although given his security job, he could choose to park in the middle of the quad if he so desired). Ben shrugged off the Star of the Month award humbly.

"I don't really see it as just for me, you know?" he said, "There is no 'I' in team, like they say, and this is more for everyone here at Security."

"He deserves it," said Carlene Moralez of Campus Security, "He's a great guy, and he's a very valuable asset to the department."

ASOC attends CCCSAA

By HUDA SHREIM
Staff writer

From Oct. 21-23 at the Doubletree Hotel in San Jose, nine Ohlone students, including several members of ASOC, sacrificed their time for the sake of improving their leadership skills and building a better college.

The "CCCSAA," California Community College Student Affairs Association, an association that consists of over 64 colleges in California, held the 24th Annual Student Leadership Conference. The purpose of this yearly conference is to "focus on leadership skill devel-

opment and the theories of relational leadership."

Participating students said they benefited greatly from it. "It's been the most beneficial thing for me and it's going to be the most beneficial thing for Ohlone College through my position as a student member board of trustees," said Tristan Tilma, "Ever since I took up the position several weeks ago this has been the best learning experience I had in the position."

However not everyone felt the same. "To my expectation this wasn't that great," said Raz Mohammed, "This last workshop for me wasn't that helpful because

it was more of general knowledge that I already knew about, but it would be more effective for new senators."

Mohammad, Fatima Shaikh, and Tilma discussed what they learned later on after the workshops.

"I learned how to reach out to the students at Ohlone, to come to them with open arms," said Tilma. "I learned to have a vision and the steps I need to take to get to that vision," said Shaikh.

For more information on how you could attend next year, go to the CCCSAA website at <http://www.cccsaa.org>.

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