



The Voice Within
By Aman Mehrzai
Editor-in-Chief

We've ticked off Canada this time

Before I begin, I want to hear from my readers. Last semester, my articles stirred controversy and letters to the editor, both in support and condemnation.

So I ask - Where are you all? Am I just preaching to the converted? I'd like to hear from you. So if you support my columns, email us at monitor@ohlone.edu. If you hate my articles, I will personally print your hate mail.

To proceed: Canada - it's a love-hate relationship with them. But now we (the U.S.) have really done it and Condi Rice went there last week to play make-up.

It seems Canada has had a problem with us for a while, but now Canada's Prime Minister Paul Martin has expressed that they are tired of being humiliated, angered, and mistreated by the U.S. and is considering hitting us where it hurts - in our wallets.

Canada is the biggest trade partner the U.S. has, but someone else is now interested in her; someone who will pay attention more to her needs and is economically better looking - China.

Rumor has it that Canada and China might have a healthy relationship within a few years. China's President, Hu Jin-tao, visited on a rendezvous last month and the two discussed how intricate their economic relationship might become.

So what does Canada have to offer to China? Believe it or not, Canada is said to have the second largest oil reserves in the world, and China is looking to buy more than a quarter of the supply that is currently sold to the U.S.

If China takes over this share of the U.S.'s import market, gas prices can go up even higher. Not even the Saudi princes will be able to bail us out by pumping enough extra barrels of oil.

So how did things get so raunchy between the two? Well, for a few dollars more, America scammed Canada in the import of wood. Particularly, the softwood lumber industry of Canada has been taxed heavily by U.S. import duties that cost her a staggering \$4 billion and now she wants her money back.

Canada took the U.S. to the North American Free Trade Agreement legal authorities (NAFTA) and has won in every ruling with a final judgment in favor of Canada's side of the story.

But America refuses to pay up and didn't like the NAFTA ruling, and took their case to another authority (and friend), the World Trade Organization (WTO) who naturally favored the American side of the story. The only problem is, according to Canada, the WTO has nothing to do with NAFTA and has no legal authority in this case.

What a mess! I just feel sorry for the kids (Canadian and American citizens) living through this nasty split-up. In the end, it is Canadian businesses and American consumers who will suffer.

Boom box guy: more than just music

By JOYCE LEUNG
Features editor

Not many people can say they walk through life to their own soundtrack. But for Orlando Bugtong, his every step is accompanied to a beat.

It's not out of the ordinary that he likes his music loud. But unlike the discreet mp3 players that most of us tote around, Bugtong travels with his backpack, made by and ordered from specialty shop soundkase.com. His backpack is a sort of portable sound system that, of course, carries his books too.

But, feeling dissatisfied with the "sorry" quality of the generic built-in speakers, he replaced them with a pair of car stereo speakers, ensuring that every rhythm and every thump pulsates through the campus.

With that sort of procession, it's hard not to get noticed. "People know when I'm coming," remarked Bugtong with a chuckle. Not that he minds the attention, especially with all the compliments he receives.



Photos by Joyce Leung

On the left, Orlando Bugtong scans through his MP3 player to find a specific song. On the right, the backpack, with built-in speakers, that Orlando's infamy is built upon.

But he isn't one of a kind. "What's funny is that I'm not the only one who has this kind of backpack at Ohlone. Actually I have a friend. His name is Robert. He has the same one. But then I guess he just doesn't have the balls to play it," said

Bugtong.

Any casual observer can just about gauge what kind of mood he's in by what he plays. Usually in a chipper mood, Bugtong is often strolling across the quad to upbeat melodies.

Even in his more despondent

moods, Bugtong prefers something light like Outkast's "Hey Ya." But when he's mad, people better "move bitch, get out the way bitch, get out the way," or so says Ludacris.

But in all honesty he's just here to please, creating play lists which hopes generate a sense of nostalgia for the child of the '80s, '90s, and the child who has never grown up. From "it's a lovely day in the neighborhood" to "who lives in a pineapple under the sea," Bugtong makes sure his song choices strike a chord with every generation.

With a collection that ranges from television theme songs to the most profane rap tunes, what does Bugtong dare not play?

"I love music but I can't listen to country. It's just not my thing you know. I'll listen to it but I'll turn it off after 2 minutes."

Though if someone were feeling in a particularly honky-tonk mood, he'd be more than happy to oblige. After all, he takes requests too.

Puente Project family dinner helps students integrate home and school

By KRISTA MARTINEZ
Features editor

Puente Project, new to Ohlone College this semester, is helping to build bonds not only between students, their peers and teachers but also between family members.

Noche De Familia, a Puente specific event, introduces the students' family to the school and to learn about school-life, transfer rates and a realistic view of timelines.

Tracy Virgil and Brenda Arteaga, English instructor and counselor respectively for Puente,

gave their presentation in the cafeteria Thursday, Oct. 27 evening to a crowd of about 60 patrons. Dinner was served and everyone settled in to hear what these two women had to say.

Noche de Familia, "Family Night", itself is an integral part of the Puente Project. Parents and relatives can gain a better understanding of the time it takes to be a full time student and the hours required to reach full potential in both two-year school and four-year universities.

A PowerPoint presentation placed emphasis on the need for support, emotionally and other-

wise, from the people closest to students.

Family bonds and the effect of familial opinion on culturally expressed students is higher than that of the majority and without the support from family members inside and outside their homes, these students don't have as much of a chance to reach their full potential.

Having a back up from a school based organization that understands that and can effectively present this information, bilingually, to family members helps Puente students to actually exceed their peers in transfer rates

to universities by 20%.

With more than 60 people in attendance, strong student testimonials and the assurances of Virgil and Arteaga, the families represented at Thursday's dinner event nodding in approval and Puente Project cake, Noche de Familia 2005 should be considered a success on all fronts. For more information on Puente Project,

Noche de Familia or any other Puente related event such the annual Puente Motivational Conference or related field trips please contact Brenda Arteaga (510) 659-6081.

Improv class affects classmates inside and out

By JESSICA LOSEE
Staff writer

In a black studio in the Smith Center, about 20 students gather together to warm-up for class. The students have several warm-up games, which include stretching, short group activities and the tongue twister from hell!

"One hen," intones the instructor, of the Theater Improvisation course, Jeff Kramer.

"One hen," reply the students.

"One hen, two ducks. One hen, two ducks, three squawking geese..." Thankfully, the tongue twister only goes to ten, "One hen, two ducks, three squawking geese, four limerick oysters, five corpulent porpoises, six pair of Don Alverzo's tweezers, seven thousand warriors in full battle array, eight brass monkeys from the ancient sacred crypts of Egypt, nine sympathetic, apathetic, diabetic old men on roller skates with a defined propensity towards procrastination and sloth, ten lyrical spherical diabolical denizens

of the deep who holst all around the quo, kee and quiv all at the same time."

Now THAT is a mouthful.

"Students will learn how to improvise a story, character, setting, and costume," states the description of the class in Ohlone's WebAdvisor. "They will create through pantomime as well as vocal techniques. There will be public performances on tour and in conjunction with the student-directed one acts."

The three-unit class, which meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, aids students in learning how to do improvisation, acting for the moment. It is offered in both the spring and fall sessions.

The class is not very large; the small group barely fills the theater in which they meet. They do manage to cover all of its space running around and acting during the different skill building games the students play throughout the two-hour class.

All of the students agree that it does not feel like work more like

two hours of partying and having fun. Yet despite all their claims, they manage to make each other and this reporter laugh hysterically with their freeze-tag acting games, on-the-spot jokes, and zany character creations.

The students work toward performing their improvisation games on stage for an audience. They will be holding their performance on Dec. 12. This per-

formance is the equivalent of their final exam.

Kramer explains that students need to work hard in the class, but need to forget about caring about looks, concentrate, and be willing to do anything.

"I want you to get out of your comfort zone and do it one-hundred percent," said Kramer, who has been teaching at Ohlone for two years.



Improv students warm up for class.



Photos by Devina Deo

Halloween costumes, fun, contests and cross-dressing

By KRISTA MARTINEZ
Features editor

Custom costumes were all the rage for this year, especially seen here at Ohlone. And, of course, the pain that beauty brings.

The most impressive costume was that of Jiran Sayadi. Her pink satin Little Bo Peep costume, complete with matching bonnet and cane (far left photo).

Her effort paid off in the form of admiration from fellow students, the cat calls of hormonal boys and first place in the Ohlone Cafeteria Costume Contest.

A prestigious award indeed, what with the associated \$20.00 food coupon that accompanies said award.

The Dean of Language, Social Sciences and Library Services, Mikleyn Stacey, was also in the cafeteria for the contest, (second from left), here as the Wicked Witch of the West with a Dorothy and a baby Lion.

Omer Ahmed (second from the right), a member of the *Monitor* staff, had perhaps the most shocking costume of all, dressed as Elegant Gothic Lolita, a Japanese fashion statement based off of

Victorian fashion.

His full outfit included a corset, petticoats, garter belt, thigh high stockings, choker, necklace, headpiece, arm warmers and, of course, his five inch heels, comparable to the ones Jiran Sayadi wore herself. "They aren't that bad," says Omer about the spiked heels while Jiran had a bit of trouble with the notorious Ohlone stairs.

Mikleyn Stacey poses with Mary Fontanilla (first from the right) from the English Learning Center, as they hand out candy to those who so desire cavities.



Photo by Krista Martinez

Tristan Tilma

ASOC Senator Tristan Tilma speaks out

By ANNA NEMCHUK
News editor

In an age of dreadlocks, greasy burgers and MTV it's astonishing and refreshing to find innocence, good intentions and kindness displayed with unabashed enthusiasm.

Enter Tristan Tilma, ASOC senator, Ohlone's student member of the Board of Trustees and shining beacon of idealism in a world too often drowning in the mundane.

According to Tilma, a lamentably small amount of Ohlone's stu-

dents remain aware of just what the ASOC does and how it can benefit them. This has led to the suspicion that students are often ignorant of issues that greatly affect them until after decisions are made and announced, too late in most cases to do anything about them. As the representative of the student body at Ohlone's board meetings, Tilma wields an advisory vote - able to propose ideas, discuss projects, and present concerns on behalf of all students, he would like to know what to say.

Measures currently under dis-

cussion, like the controversial Proposition 76 that would significantly cut Ohlone's budget, could end in ever-burgeoning tuition fees and slashed opportunities for families with less income.

"We're a resource for the students, but they aren't aware of this. They're not being heard because they're not reaching out to us," Tilma explained.

The ASOC currently has no participants from any athletics departments, certain ethnic groups or disabled students.

There wasn't another pupil at

the last board meeting. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that board members have distanced themselves from the campus. One resides at least partly in Texas, another in Los Angeles.

"I just think things are really complacent right now. Myspace and iPods aren't bad, as long as it's not your life. What's our main cause? What are we doing? I want to make an impact. We can make such a difference."

Tilma can be reached at tbonetilma@hotmail.com and the ASOC Office in Room 1130.

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