



### The Voice Within

By Aman Mehrzai

Editor-in-Chief

## As the world turns Paris burns. . .

Some feel that the struggle for civil rights in this country was buried with Rosa Parks last month. Others believe that relentless striving by die-hards will revive the movement to an awakening America. Such yawning activists have been turning their faces toward Europe in the past couple of weeks with great interest.

France is the new Hot Zone for an outbreak of dangerous unrest that could make or break the relationship between its white and brown population. Race, is the real reason behind the riots. The media seems to point towards poverty and unemployment, but as many civil rights activists of the past here in America can tell you, the symptoms of this disease indicates inequality, not unemployment.

France is going through what America went through when African Americans in the '60s were fed up with subhuman treatment and spoke to the powers that be in two words - civil disobedience. Finally Johnson and the rest of America realized that self reflection and change was the solution, not firm government responses.

Since 9/11, Muslims in Europe have felt discriminated against, not only by some of its local population, but by systematic governmental harassment. This reactionary treatment ranged from illegal interrogation, intimidation and arrests by intelligence officers, to outright extraditions and torture. In most of these cases, with an exceptional few, these people were innocent and were intimidated by means of profiling - in other words, they were harassed because of what they looked like and what they believed. France took things to another level in what I call "extreme secularism." They outlawed all religious garb, including the Hijab (Islamic headwear for women), the Yamakah (Jewish skull caps for men), and the Patka/Pagri (Sikh turban for men) among others. They did, however, manage an exception for Christian crosses around the neck, as long as they aren't "too large" - I tried calling the French embassy to ask how large "too large" was, but they had "no comment."

African minorities in France were pushed to a fringe. They were told that their ways would not be accepted and police started to harass and abuse them based on their color. Two African girls died hiding from the French police harassing folks in their neighborhood. They were the needles that broke the camel's back boiling things over to what you see today. In America, the law promotes and respects multiculturalism. In France, multiculturalism is deemed as a threat. The lesson to be learned; when you go too far to the right, you've jumped to the left and when you go too far to the left, you've joined the right. Let's keep America balanced in preserving the rights of all.



Photo by Daniel Kwan

**Slow starts to big projects: some of Cheryl Lambert crocheted pieces can take upward of one and a half weeks to complete.**

## Cheryl Lambert takes knitting to the next level

By ANNIE UTTER  
Staff writer

Bright colorful afghan blankets were folded neatly in Ohlone web designer Cheryl Lambert's office. Lambert said she started making blankets after her grandfather passed away in March 2002 and has been crocheting ever since.

Lambert gives her blankets to residents in convalescent homes or local care facilities. She is also considering giving hats and scarves to homeless people as well as stuffed toys and clothing to battered women's shelters.

"Knowing that the sick or elderly have a colorful blanket to cuddle up with is a great feeling," said Lambert.

Crocheting is not the same as knitting. "You just use one hook and the other hand with the yarn and crochet," said Lambert while demonstrating. Lambert quickly made around 10 knots in mere seconds. It takes about one and half weeks to make an afghan blanket. Not only does she makes blankets, she even crochets socks, hats, scarves, mittens, sweaters, as well as the cute stuffed animals that are perched on her shelf.

"It is very meditative and, unlike reading that takes you out of the room you're in and away from the people you're with, crocheting allows me to interact with others in the room and even watching TV while the crocheted item grows in my hands," remarked Lambert.

Lambert also made a really cool racetrack with game boards like the checker squares it looked like the real thing but it was all in crochet. Lambert made it for an almost-3-year-old boy in her husband's family.

In addition, she crocheted a beautiful cathedral window afghan and had an auction on Sept. 12 at the Ohlone College Golf Tournament. These are not regular size blankets, they measure around 92 inches (7 feet, 8 inches) in diameter. "They fit on king-size beds," said Lambert. It was a silent auction and the bid went up to \$125. The money goes to support the Ohlone Athletic Department.

Lambert also has a display case in the library to show her lap blankets and her stuffed turtles.

## Marco? No, it's David

**Deaf Ohlone student, David Jessup, has been on the water polo team since Fall 2003. He communicates with the team by an interpreter. His teammates have even taken an effort to learn hand signals and signs. "David is a great team player who works extremely hard," remarked Gene Kendall, coach of the water polo team.**



Photo by Annie Utter



Devina Deo

Photo editor

## Laramie play disappoints

"On Oct 7, 1998, a young gay man was discovered bound to a fence in the hills outside Laramie, Wyoming brutally beaten and left to die in an act of hate that shocked the nation. Matthew Shepard's death became a national symbol of intolerance, but for the people of Laramie the event became deeply personal and it is their voices we hear in this stunningly effective theater piece." (Moises Kaufman The Laramie Project members of the tectonic theater project)

Ohlone College's production of *The Laramie Project* portrays the townspeople of Laramie and their monologues of the incident. Production started Nov. 4 and is ongoing until the Nov. 12.

Lines of students from different high schools stood in the quad of the Smith Center to view the Laramie project. Rylee Dil of Irvington High explained, "I never thought of the situation in that way and it brought attention to the issue." Kennedy High School student, Matt Griese said, "These kinds of incidents can happen anywhere."

After talking to more of the general high school audience they proclaimed the production was dry, more reenactments were needed and felt overall the plot was emotional. "Loved the limousine driver. He added humor and made me view it in a different light," said JiJi Lin

Ohlone students also attended the Nov. 4 show and pronounced the play to be a bit slow paced and hard to follow. "I don't understand why he received that much publicity. I understand it was a small town. There was a cop killed six days later and he served our country and he didn't receive any attention or get a mention of honor, why is that?" asked Lin Tang. "It really was unfair publicity for a small town, what about other crimes that we don't even mention?" questioned Justin Dutcher.

Different morals, standards and backgrounds, seem to play into the outcome of emotions from this play. Maybe you loved it, but the guy next to you hated it. Moreover, this is a moving theater piece. If you didn't like the acting, pick up the book by Moises Kaufman or watch the film from the Sundance Festival of The Laramie Project from 2002 either way it should be something you experience once.

The plot contrast seems to be a heated debate whether this was a hate crime or a robbery gone badly. Did you see it yet?

If you haven't, *The Laramie Project* will continue until Sunday, Nov. 12 at 8pm. For tickets or more information contact the Smith Center box office at 510-659-6031 or visit: [www.smithcenterpresents.com](http://www.smithcenterpresents.com)

## MSA celebration today

By **HUDA SHREIM**  
Staff writer

After a month of fasting from dawn till dusk, the Muslim Student Association (MSA) is ready to celebrate. Muslims from have celebrated Eid Ul Fitr, a celebration of fast breaking, around the world for years.

It is usually celebrated with a morning prayer then Muslims go around and visit family and friends, usually gifts are exchanged along with warm greeting of Eid Mubark, which means "Happy Eid".

Eid lasts for three days after Ramadan, the month of fasting based on the lunar calendar. Due to

the fact that Muslim students at Ohlone are busy visiting family and friends they will be recognizing this event on Thursday, Nov. 11.

MSA has been planning this event for several months in advanced; they got more than 13 students volunteering and some are even paying out of their own pockets to make this happen.

There will be Islamic Rap, Islamic songs called Nasheeds and Islamic speaker, Yusuf Saib.

Saib is a respected Islamic speaker who has influenced many Muslims. Saib is also the best guy to ask questions to about Islam.

There will also be a contest

to test knowledge about Islam. The purpose of this contest is to break off the stereotyping of Muslims and their beliefs and fix the image that the media disgustingly portrays.

The gifts are exceptional. They will have scented candles and bottles of bubble bath and, if you're lucky enough, you could even win a free hina tattoo.

The MSA will have hina tattoos, exotic home made sweets, pizza and drinks. All this will be at the quad on Thursday, Nov. 11, in between the Building One and the bookstore. The event will go on from 11:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m.. Don't miss it!

## The price of inner peace

By **ANNA NEMCHUK**  
News Editor

What price could one put on true happiness, total relaxation, the connecting of the soul with the universe, and maybe, just maybe, learning to fly?

If going the way of Transcendental Meditation (TM), \$2500 is what infamous indie film David Lynch proposes.

A director with cult classics such as "Mulholland Drive", "Blue Velvet" and "Dune" trickling into mainstream culture, Lynch had embarked on a "Consciousness, Creativity and the Brain" tour, which took him to UC Berkeley's Wheeler Auditorium Nov. 6. Propagating Transcendental Meditation with a passion, Lynch stated that he has been meditating twice a day for 32 years, a path he was set upon by the happiness reverberating through his sister's voice on the phone, half a year after she began meditating.

Some fans find it hard to juxtapose the cheery, happy-go-lucky, earnest face Lynch presents when speaking of the "unified field" underlying everything that humanity should strive to reach - especially when he makes claims that quantum physics has verified its existence, as in an interview with Kristine McKenna that can be found at [www.rhino.com/rzine/storykeeper.lasso?storyID=488](http://www.rhino.com/rzine/storykeeper.lasso?storyID=488) - with the labels of dark, disgust-

ing, disturbing, and menacing his theatrical works have received.

Uncompromisingly, Lynch states in the same interview, "Films and paintings reflect the world and when the world changes the art will change."

On the DVD available free at his talks, Lynch, gesticulating with hands that move like demented butterflies, explains that "...true happiness lies within.

"I'm interested in, um, creating things. And, so, ideas are very important. And, I really believe that ideas are able to be caught at a deeper level, once you start meditation. I believe intuition grows. And this intuition is a knowingness. And when you're making something, if this knowingness is flowing, then you just know. You just know what to do."

Clips from the DVD can be found at [www.lynchnet.com/index2.html](http://www.lynchnet.com/index2.html) and the entire work ordered at [www.mum.edu/contact\\_us.html](http://www.mum.edu/contact_us.html), the website of the Maharishi University of Management in Fairfield, Iowa.

TM as a practice was begun in 1957 by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, sometimes referred to as the "giggling guru", upon the death of his master, a spiritual head in India, "to spiritually regenerate the world". It gained wide acclaim in the 1970s with the Beatles' support.

Criticism of it is widespread, as the scientific studies used as evidence for the program's effec-

tiveness have repeatedly failed to pass muster.

TM has had trouble in paradise on the financial front, as well; Attorney Anthony D. DeNaro, hired by the Maharishi University in 1975 as director of grants administration and a legal counsel, stated in a document signed and presented to the United States District Court for the District of Columbia in 1986, "It was obvious to me that [the] organization was so deeply immersed in a systematic, wilful pattern of fraud including tax fraud, lobbying problems and other deceptions, that it was ethically impossible for me to become involved further as legal counsel.

"I recognized a very serious and deliberate pattern of fraud, designed, in part, to misrepresent the TM movement as a science (not as a cult), and fraudulently claim and obtain tax-exempt status with the IRS." [www.skepdic.com/tm.html](http://www.skepdic.com/tm.html)

There is no doubt as to the very real and effective results of meditation for some people. Neither is there any doubt as to the equally real and quite effective results of cults, fraud and deception for others.

Whether Transcendental Meditation, Maharishi and David Lynch fit into one category, both or neither is certainly a matter worthy of some thought. Perhaps even a bit of meditation.

## Free pizza and politics

By **KRISTA MARTINEZ**  
Features editor

"True" Patriots: American Foreign Policy is the name of the demonstration set to take place in the Quad next week.

The speakers listed are Noel Amherd, an Ohlone instructor, Amir Abdul Malik Ali, an Afro-American rights activist and Anthony Choice an activist for Native-American rights.

The demonstration is scheduled to start Wednesday, Nov. 16, from 11:45 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in the Quad, in front of the bookstore and cafeteria.

There will be free pizza and drinks.



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