



From left, Los Angeles comedian Ernie G and Spirit of Polynesia dancers Audrey Throgmorton and Kiana Zamora in full dress. Photos by Mojghan Mohtashimi.

## Unity Week continues on despite foul weather

By JOYCE LEUNG  
Features editor

Monday's Unity Week opening ceremony provided temporary distraction from the dreary weather as students ambled into the cafeteria seeking refuge from the rain.

"We'll take you to Tahiti pretty soon," assured Spirit of Polynesia Band Leader Robert Stant, before entertaining lunch goers with melodious island music and hip-shaking Tahitian dancers. Afterward a small fashion show modeled the dress and costume of Tibet, East India and West Africa.

Tuesday brought on speaker Akili Shabazz who promoted his views on preserving cultural diversity in an ever-homogenizing country. Though Shabazz made strong statements about the enslavement of the American people through miseducation, his speech was plagued by technical problems with the microphone and frankly, a crowd more interested in eating than listening. Shabazz struggled to keep his voice above the lunchroom chatter and at one point even stopped his speech to ask the crowd for its attention.

"I see Unity Week as 'defend my culture week,'" commented one stu-

dent who wished to remain anonymous and also felt that Shabazz was preaching instead of informing. He continued with his game of cards while Shabazz spoke.

Others like student Jason Chan decided to keep a more open mind. "My philosophy is to listen to everybody because in the end it's up to you to decide whether to accept it. The only thing you lose is your time but you have all to gain in knowledge."

An open mic session later that day allowed for impromptu performances by student Jeremy Leonard, sister and brother duo Tatyana and

Justin Hamady and rappers Ivy Brawner and Maurice Brackett.

Wednesday featured Los Angeles comedian Ernie G who looked out at the audience of about 40 in Room 2133 and said, "Alright let's not pretend this place is packed."

His earnest perspective on the situation was carried through to his act. The comedian poked fun at his Mexican American upbringing though Ernesto Tomas Gritzewsky's ethnic background is a mix of Mexican, Puerto Rican, French and Russian. His point was, "we have to embrace our differences and not pretend we don't have them."

The Gay Straight Alliance also hosted a viewing of *Brokeback Mountain*, immediately segueing into a brief discussion of the themes the movie presented. The discussion pointedly centered upon the outrage the film generated nationally.

As the discussion progressed,

the group's focus broadened until it reached an apex, "[homosexuality] goes right back to Adam and Eve...well not Adam...everyone after that," declared one attendee.

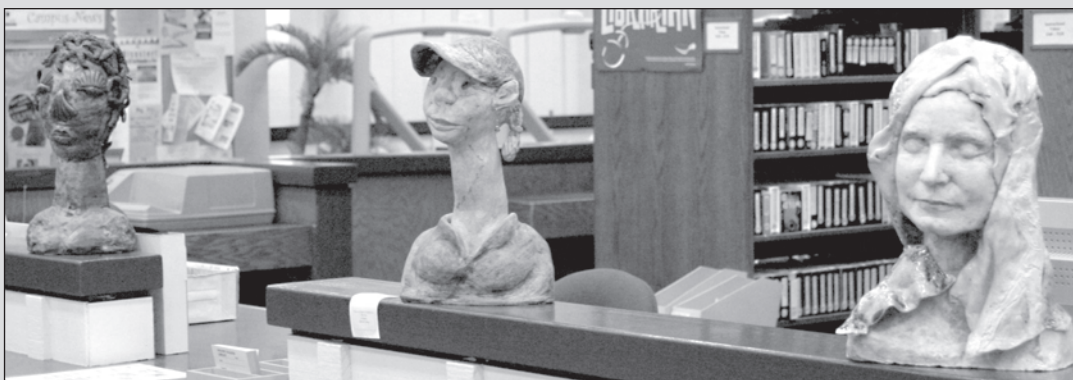
The festivities continue today at noon in the cafeteria with club booths, free giveaways, belly dancers and music by Wild 94.9.

At 1 p.m. in Room 4201 photographer Francisco Dominguez will present a slideshow illustrating life and death at the U.S. and Mexico border while touching upon the current legislation regarding undocumented immigrants.

At 2:30 p.m. in Room 7102 the Speech Club will host "Battle of the Sexes," yet another forum discussing the communication differences between men and women.

For more information on the Unity Week schedule, visit: [www.ohlone.edu/org/campusactivities/unityweek.html](http://www.ohlone.edu/org/campusactivities/unityweek.html)

## Ceramic heads look after library



From left, *Sea Witch* by May Bobik, *Princess Pepper Cloud Loves Her Cat* by Kim deYoung and *Meditation* by Frances Tshudy. These statuettes were created by Kris Lyon's ceramics class and will be on display at the circulation desk until April 17. Photo by Ross Tsvetanov

## Let go of stress

By FRANKIE ADDIEGO  
Staff writer

On Thursday, April 6, the Ohlone Psychology club held a discussion featuring Rosemary O'Neil, the head of personal counseling services. The major focal point of the discussion was on stress. "It's my passion to help you guys," she said. The speakers and the students in attendance discussed both the many causes of stress and ways of coping with it.

According to O'Neil, a major part of stress is trying too hard. She asked the students to visualize themselves sitting on a beach holding a clump of sand. She asked them to try as hard as they could to keep every little grain in their hands. It proved strenuous and the students found themselves giving up in frustration. Then, she asked them to visualize themselves just holding it casually and they generally felt they could do it indefinitely. This was meant to show that when students stressed needlessly over something, it would harm their ability to accomplish the very thing they felt they needed to do.

O'Neil advised students to avoid

unnecessary stress. As a catch-all for students who find themselves in despair, she advised, "If there's nothing you can do about it, you don't need to worry about it." She then said that if there is something a student can do about a problem then they have nothing to worry about.

The speaker also talked about time management as being important to lowering stress in the long run. One handout had a list of ways to "beat" procrastination. These steps included buying a calendar and keeping a "to do" list.

Asked by a student if it was possible for someone to not be stressed enough, O'Neil answered, "yes." She said that there are some people who are too "laid-back." This mindset leads to people not taking responsibilities or completing tasks.

Other resources that students can turn to for help included the Teen Crisis Line at (877) 923-0700; Alcoholics Anonymous at (510) 839-8900; the Rape Crisis Line at (510) 845-7273 as well as the Ohlone Student Health Center, located in Building 16 and can be reached at (510) 659-6258.

Check out these and other scholarships at  
<http://scholarships.ohlone.edu>

- Don & Babs Amsbaugh Health Sciences Scholarship
- Anne E. Golseth Student Excellence Award
- Re-entry student scholarship
- The ASOC Leadership Scholarship
- Raza Day Scholarship



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# Adolescence and adulthood unclear in America


**State of Illusion**

 By **CHRIS MARSHALL**
*Staff writer*

An oft-overlooked flaw of modern American society is the lack of an official coming-of-age ceremony, especially for boys. While some may see this as a trite issue, I believe the negative psychological impact of not having such a ceremony is much greater than is realized.

A coming-of-age ceremony is a practiced ceremony, often involving rituals, which celebrates and officializes a child's passage into adulthood. The child is then

recognized as an adult by those around him/her and the responsibilities that accompany adulthood are often explained.

There are numerous examples: in Judaism, there is the bar mitzvah for boys at the age of 13, and the less-practiced bat mitzvah for girls at 12; many Hispanic cultures hold parties called quinceaneras for girls when they turn 15, a sort of cotillion; and the ancient Japanese celebrated genpuku, where a teenage boy was given adult clothes and his hair fashioned into an adult hairstyle.

Some might argue America has coming-of-age ceremonies in the form of driver's licenses, loss of virginity, etc., but I would contend that these do not meet

all the criteria to be proper rites of passage. Most importantly, by no means are those who do these things viewed as adults by those around him/her. Also, most of the responsibilities of adulthood are not bestowed on those who get their driver's license or lose their virginity.

Being treated like an adult is very important for a teenager who knows they have grown up. The differences between adolescence and adulthood are ambiguous at best; teenagers need to be told when they are adults and then treated like adults.

I cannot say when I became a man, but a Jewish boy could tell you when he became a man -- the Saturday after his 13th birthday. I figure I have to be a

man since there are no 24-year-old boys.

I also believe such a coming-of-age ceremony is more important for American boys than girls. The move into adulthood is important for both genders, but boys do not exhibit such a major biological change as girls. For girls, the onset of menstruation is often the sign of the beginning of womanhood, but for boys there really is no such change.

There seems to be a sort of reluctance adults have to bestow the recognition of adulthood onto adolescents. In America, the age gap can be measured by more than just years; it can be measured in terms of political, economic, social and spiritual belief. It's almost as if the

older generations do not want to recognize these people with radically different views as adults. Of course there are those who remember that they too were young once and how wonderful it is to be treated like an adult.

I remember how confused I felt that in junior high when I realized that I didn't need or want to be told what to do and when to do it anymore. Yet in the American system, I had another five years of this treatment to endure. Instead of being viewed as an adult ready for the responsibilities of growing up, I was seen as someone who didn't respect authority. It is a small consolation that I know I have surpassed, in intellect, those who viewed me this way.

# Ohlone alumnus turns hobby into career

 By **GABRIEL VILA**  
*Staff writer*

If you happen to pick up the new game "Tomb Raider: Legend" in stores this month, you can thank Ohlone alumnus Mike Peaslee for the excellent sound design.

Peaslee, 29, is a senior sound designer and second composer for Crystal Dynamics. His job entails sound mixing, dialogue recording and voice-over implementation for all languages. "We do just about everything in-house," said Peaslee. "So I'm a jack-of-all-trades."

Peaslee has worked on roughly 10 games so far, most recently "Tomb Raider: Legend," the latest installment of the classic "Tomb Raider" series started back in 1996 that was further popularized by the films "Tomb Raider" and "Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life."

"I'm pretty damn happy about how that one turned out," said Peaslee about his most recent game. "Before that I did 'Project: Snowblind.' It's a futuristic urban first-person shooter."

When asked about the video game

industry, Peaslee was outspoken on the topic of its future. "Games will surpass and replace film as the core of mainstream entertainment within 20 years, easily. Actors and directors will begin to migrate to games as the money improves. Beyond that, the game industry is simply not limited in the way that film is. We can offer 10-30 hours of immersion, instead of 120 minutes of a vicarious and linear, utterly passive ride. Fidelity and realism barriers in games will soon be long gone."

He was also quick to add, "That's not to say that movies are going away any time soon. It's not as if movies wiped out books."

Many of Peaslee's views on video games are not uncommon among millions of videogame fans.

When asked about the SCRB rating system for video games, he replied, "It's far more effective at preventing underage people from purchasing Mature and Adult Only games than an R-rating is for movies. The problem is that parents are buying M rated games for their kids. We don't ban R-rated movies, which have the same level of sex

or violence as M-rated games, just because parents allow their kids to watch them."

Peaslee looks forward to the future of video game development as he relates its success to the indie film industry. "In American society, the indie game world will explode -- in fact it already is. Instead of 10 grand and a dozen friends you can pull together when the lighting is good to cook up a short film, you just need a dozen friends with mid-grade PCs."

While at Ohlone, Peaslee studied broadcasting and journalism. He didn't finish here, nor did he transfer out. By capitalizing on his hobby of sound and music, and by taking related courses at Ohlone, he catapulted himself into the video game industry.

Ohlone is now offering classes in video game design and Peaslee was pleased to hear it. "There wasn't any video game related track at Ohlone when I was there, but if it were as relatively thorough, well funded and realistic as the journalism and radio departments are, then I'd have to recommend it."



Former Ohlone student and senior sound designer for Crystal Dynamics Mike Peaslee out in the field. Photo courtesy of Mike Peaslee



## Concert this Friday

The Ohlone Ukulele Renegades K.G. Greenstein, Katherine Sparling and Hal Griffin, practice in the mailroom in preparation for the Chalkdust & Friends concert this Friday, April 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Nummi Theatre. The ukuleles are one of the many groups who will accompany the Mark Brosamer and Jeff O'Connell's headlining band, Chalkdust. Admission is \$5 with proceeds going to the Speech and Music departments. For more information on the concert, contact Professor O'Connell at 979-7439. Photo by Ross Tsvetanov