



## Culture Pirate

By OMER  
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News editor

## Coincidence or providence

Coincidences are wonderful things. Even when negative consequences result, there is a tendency to wonder at how seemingly unrelated happenings can coincide at the right time to become more than what they were by themselves.

Carl Jung wondered at the same phenomena and stated in his "accusal connecting principle" that coincidences are not actually random but signs that there is something more than the unguided material world we perceive. Basically, there are no coincidences.

I wonder what the good doctor would make of this October.

Coincidentally, this year the Jewish day of repentance, Yom Kippur, has coincided with the Islamic month of fasting, Ramadan, during October. Both are considered the most holy times of the year in their respective religions and, due to the difference between the Islamic and Hebrew lunar calendars, the two only coincide every few decades.

Additionally, this October sees the Hindu festival of Diwali, the Jains' New Year, Pavarana for the Buddhist, the pagans' ancient Samhain, the Sikhs' Bhandi Chhor Divas and, my favorite, Discordianism's Maladay. This is not even taking into account all of the Roman Catholic saints' feast days.

My oldest memory of any holy days coinciding is in December with a meeting of Ramadan and Christmas. I can't remember what year it was but I was quite young, still in elementary school. There was an assignment where each student had to make a poster for their favored holiday of the winter season. Most people chose Christmas, the few Jewish kids went for Hanukkah and one child chose Kwanzaa just to be different.

Back then I still vaguely followed my father's Islamic faith, so I asked the teacher if my poster could be about Eid, the Muslim holy day that follows Ramadan. She asked me what Eid was and I replied innocently that it was just a holiday like all the others.

Truth be told, I really didn't understand that there was a difference between holy days. All were times when people got together and were happy. Sometimes there was food and sometimes there were gifts but, regardless of the little differences, all were basically the same. Now that I am older, I see more differences but I still think it is all the same.

When we focus on religious differences, we get happenings like the 73' Arab-Israeli War which, coincidentally, occurred on an October which held both Ramadan and Yom Kippur. However, when we discover that all are the same, all that is left to do is celebrate together... or, in the case of this month, fast together.



Photo provided by Corrie Howell



Photo provided by Juliette Villafuente



Photo provided by Juliette Villafuente

**Top: A panoramic view of Sydney Australia, the location for Ohlone's Fall Study Abroad program. Above left: Student Corrie Howell stumbles across a kangaroo in the middle of the road while on a trip to the Blue Mountains with other students in the Study Abroad program. Above right: English professor Cynthia Katona enjoys a ferry ride on the Parramatta River. Left: Students involved with the study abroad program pose for a picture in front of the Sydney Harbour Bridge by the Parramatta River.**

## Ohlone students travel Down Under

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The students take the same classes in Sydney that they would here, and can choose whatever classes they want from a limited selection. The selection includes English 101B Introduction to Literature, English 119 Gothic Novel, Art 103B Survey of World Art History, Art 203 Travel Photography, and Cultural Anthropology 102. Katona teaches both English courses while the Art 103 and Anthropology courses are taught by native Australian professors.

The classes, said Chan, were comparable to other college courses he had taken, but that the environment was very different.

"Breaking out of a routine to participate in the unfamiliar has made school feel different. Instead of the normal commute and drudgery of the work and school week, Sydney has offered wonderful public transportation and endless venues of entertainment and events to partake."

Dennis had more to add on the subject of education. "We get some puzzled looks when we tell people we are from California and we are here to study English," she said. "The typical dry humored British response is 'Oh, you mean you would like to improve your accent?' They think it's funny, and the response is becoming typical and just accepted."

However, the main attraction in Sydney is not the education, but the city and its attractions. Katona explained that so far they have gone on outings to the Blue Mountains and the Janelon Caves, as well as more impromptu get-togethers to places such as Manly Beach, the Taronga Zoo, the opera house, night trips to the observatory, and plenty of clubs and pubs.

The culture in Australia is very different from that of California, said Katona. For one thing, Sydney has a little of a "pub culture" and has a lowered drinking age (only 18) to match. For another

thing, noted Chan, many of the colloquialisms that Californians take for granted mean something very different "Down Under". For example, cantaloupes are called "rock melons," raisins are called "currants," and ketchup is called "Tomato Sauce."

Aside from the culture, students said a big difference between California and Sydney was the weather. For one thing, while the temperature drops here in Fremont, in Sydney it's spring, soon to be summer. The students commented that it was much warmer in Sydney—particularly because of the ozone hole that hovers over the continent.

However, the warm weather does have definite advantages. Katona said that they went swimming in the ocean, and are planning on taking surfing lessons soon.

But the program doesn't come cheap. The program cost each student \$8,009, including room, board and airfare. The students must pay their own tuition, visa fees, and

personal expenses as well.

The students left September 6th and will return December 4th.

In the past, Ohlone's semester abroad program has been popular, but not wildly so. In fact quite a bit of recruitment is necessary for every trip, explained Kay Harrison. Nevertheless, she said that the college intends to continue the program.

Ackeret, Chan and Dennis had advice for students interested in trying a semester abroad.

"Be as specific as possible when they ask you if you have any preferences in the homestay," wrote Ackeret. "The littlest thing is looked at and taken into account when they match up kids to host families."

"Bring as many comfortable shoes as possible," wrote Chan. "No matter how much underwear you think you'll need, bring more."

"Be prepared with an open mind to any and all experiences," wrote Dennis. "Don't pass up anything because you never know if you will have the same opportunity again."

## Diversity focus in childhood conference

By CHEN LIN  
Online editor

In the outdoor area near the back of Ohlone's Early Childhood Center, where normally only the cries of children or the command of their caretakers can be heard, last Saturday there resounded the chanting of many adult voices, potent and earnest.

"Awareness! Awareness! Awareness!" said the voices.

The chorus continued briefly, quieting at the signal of only one voice - that of a woman's, firm and clear. It belonged to Cheryl Williams Jackson, part-time Early Childhood Studies instructor at Ohlone. She'd spoken before the chanting, had led it, and with a catch of breath, would now speak again.

Jackson's topic varied. Mostly her speech was about children, but the focus was on diversity. She instructed teachers and parents on how children can be approached about the "tough issues." She wants

to make children less discriminating, but believes they need the right guidance to begin with.

"As adults, we first have to learn to talk about it," said Jackson. "The only way that children are going to learn is if we, as adults, teach them."

Jackson's speech was the keynote to last Saturday's "Making the Connection: children, family, educators" early childhood education conference, held annually at Ohlone's Early Childhood Center. This is the event's second anniversary. Every year, the conference attracts a varied audience of childcare professionals, Early Childhood Studies students, and first-time parents, all looking to attend workshops on early childhood education and to meet others in the field.

The chanting earlier was part of Jackson's speech. To keep her audience focused, she had them repeat key words having to do with her topic. Now, a different chant resounded.

"Ruby! Ruby! Ruby!" said her audience.

A resident of New Orleans, related Jackson to an eager audience, Ruby Bridges was the first black child in the city's school system to attend an all-white school. In spite of threats to her life and everyday harassment, the then 6-year-old attended William Frantz Elementary School for a year, entirely alone except for her teacher and federal marshal escort.

"[Ruby's] story is one I think all children in school should hear about," said Jackson.

Jackson has come to realize that Ruby's experience isn't only about racism, but also a guide for children on what to do when faced with discrimination. Thus the theme of her keynote, and of this conference - diversity.

But maybe theme isn't the right word. While it is billed thus, diversity is more closely a motif of the convention.

"Diversity [is displayed] not

just [culturally], but in thoughts, experiences, and presentations," said Janice Fonteno, Early Childhood Studies professional development coordinator at Ohlone and head of this year's conference.

Even the vendors Saturday were selected accordingly. Diversity Kids, which sells dolls designed to emulate human features from multiple ethnicities, hair and skin especially, uses its products to promote acceptance.

On display at their counter is a limited edition doll whose outside is an amalgam of six different skin tones, colored separately on every limb. The legs, on which the doll sits, are black and white.

"Both your legs are equal. They look different on the outside, but inside they're the same," said Vakili.

The workshops, besides there being a lot of them, themselves often relate to discrimination. Among

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Devil's  
Advocate

By ANNA  
NEMCHUK  
Editor-in-chief

## Materialism - a better view

My philosophy professor suggests that to delight in the beauties of the physical world is to lose grasp of the spiritual - that they are two, separable and distinct, and one can lead away from the other. Respectfully, I disagree.

Velvet-skinned it twirls, glistening with drops of dew, a shimmering phantasm from faerie on a gnarled, moss-ridden branch. A mere pluck and it yields to the slice of your teeth, the flesh a sweet smoldering through your tongue.

This is materialism.

She walks before you with a floating grace, hair a proud plume, the tip of her nose a challenge to the winds, her legs the smooth, oiled muscles of a well-fed animal, her scent a tantalizing smoke wreath along your skin, her jeans a supple pelt molded to her curves.

This is materialism.

The scream slashes from your throat with the renting of a thousand shards of silence, with the joy of a hundred battlefields, the violence of every victor standing over bloody rips of enemies as the globe finds its goal and the crowd detonates along with you, howling your supremacy to the stars.

This is materialism.

We are the children of the stars, the dirt and the wind. The world is my playground for I am here, now, alive in the physical and the conscious and if this is false, then I will nurse my delusion and curl into myself to dream this life with all the zest and verve within me.

To put aside the issue of a supreme being, I find no better way to reach the possibility of the divine than plunging, gasping, head-over-heels into this life, its experiences and companions.

To withdraw within oneself and seek the way to meaning through the lucent byways of one's soul may be an admirable goal, though selfish, in my view, to the extreme.

But to indulge yourself through all the senses you possess, both obvious and unseen, in all this earth has to offer, to walk through life delighting in all of nature's work, both solid and animate, to thank whatever forces have set us here for the sheer amazement of creation, never mind the exact cause - that is both goodness and meaning, a benefit to one's own psyche, the world's vigor and others' fortune.

This is materialism.

In sound judgment and mind, to keep a stout heart, to love and hope and believe, to keep trying against all odds and obstacles - that is to turn toward this world, not from it, to approach the eternal most of all by touching all you can of what you can HERE.

Instead of bowing to the will of a god, bow to the earth's power.

Whatever may come after will take care of itself.

## Tree stops car



Photo by Michael Aburas

**Wednesday afternoon student Glenda Munoz's Toyota Scorpion slipped out of gear at the lot P permit booth and backed into a tree in lot N. There were no injuries. "I think the tree is going to be OK too," said Campus Security Officer Stewart R. Dawson. Munoz said her brakes failed. There was another minor accident Wednesday in lot W. According to Dawson, it was a hit-and-run involving an unoccupied car. He said incidents like these happen frequently during winter.**

## Teachers welcomed

By FRANKIE ADDIEGO  
Staff writer

On Tuesday, October 3, 2006, The Ohlone College Human Resources department hosted an event to welcome the newest members of the Ohlone faculty.

In the Green Room of the Gary Soren Smith Center, recent additions to the faculty mingled with the noted veterans of Ohlone College.

The event was organized by Human Resources Specialist Kathleen Johnson. Human Resources staff member Tina Miller said, "we're going to do this on a regular basis."

Many of the new faculty members were excited about working at Ohlone. Sharon Briggs, a new addition to the nursing department, said, "this is my fourth community college... this is the first time any college has ever done anything like this." She went on to relate a positive tale concerning a member of the payroll department visiting her in class to correct a salary discrepancy.

Ohlone's President Doug Treadway was also present for the event.

Joining Ohlone's American Sign Language and Deaf Studies department as well as its staff of interpreters are Sandra Ammons, Kellie Conde and Nan Zhou. Joining the nursing department will be Sharon Briggs, Carole Campbell, and Joan Rogers. New counselors will include Lenore Landavazo, Heather Norem, and Terry Taskey. Also joining the faculty are Cecile Davila (English), Maria-Eugenia Grant (Chemistry), Chaya Nanavati and Tracy Virgil (English).

### EOPS seminar

An EOPS seminar will be Wednesday Oct. 11 at 11:45 a.m. in Rm. 7102. Dr. Bennett Oppenheim will be the faculty guest speaker. Wednesday's topic will be Myspace vs. Face to Face: Is it easier for men and women to communicate via Myspace or face to face.

## Filipino-American alumni speaks

By MANIKA CASTERLINE  
Staff writer

The Speech and Communication studies club and department hosted a Filipino-American event that featured Ohlone alumni, Jason Milena. He presented a duo of speeches that had won him national titles. The event was held on Oct. 2 in portable 14A.

Milena began by dramatizing his 2002 National Silver Medal winning poetry piece. Milena tied together excerpts from "Scrambled Eggs And Garlic Pork" and "Unlearning English" by Michael Maylo and Jaime Jacinto's "Tongue Tied" in order to craft his speech. The piece discussed the idea that integration of language can be deemed vital in order for a culture to preserve its cultural identity. Milena composed a piece that contained the dual perspectives of an older man and

a younger man.

Milena won a 2003 National Bronze Medal for the prose piece that he concluded his performance with. The prose interpretation was based off of one literary work. It delves into the ideal that a Filipino-American is constrained by certain cultural limitations.

The two main characters are from similar backgrounds yet opted to diverge in paths after their collegiate days of sharing a dorm. Dan chooses a traditional route where he settles down to raise a family of his own and works as a businessman. His best friend Enrico is the more daring one. He is a rebel that accepts the challenge of not adhering to the Asian stereotypes.

During the course of the monologue, Enrico gets a tattoo of a star on his shoulder, half of the star was black and other side was outlined. The character of Enrico said, "Oh

it's simple really. You see this side right here? This is telling me that I know what I want do. And this side, I'm going to color that in when I make it there and its going to be blue. I'm going to make it man," when explaining the significance behind his getting it done. The long time best friends part ways and keep in touch through letters. Then one night after work, Dan's wife notifies him that Enrico killed himself.

And so the years pass. Eventually Dan chooses to get an identical tattoo to the one Enrico had. Dan's daughter questions why he has it, to which Dan states, "See this side? I got that side done when your uncle Rico left. And this side I colored that blue right after you were born."

The two speeches Jason Milena enacted both contained cultural significance. Each piece described how being a Filipino-American can present some stereotypical

challenges. "There are other pieces that are strictly cultural but just talk about their culture, but don't have any compare and contrast as to somebody in assimilation as to a culture like this and those tend to be the powerful ones."

In a society filled with various literary resources, Milena said, "Looking around the world and observing people. I see people who are from the same culture that I'm from, the same color skin as me, I see their plight and their struggles. And sometimes it pushes me to make things better. Sometimes I'll try to find a piece to portray that or a piece that will actually illustrate that yearning that desire a little bit more than maybe the other pieces."

During his time at Ohlone, Milena competed for two years on the Ohlone College Forensic team. He attained three national medals including one silver and two bronzes.