



Culture Pirate

By OMER AHMED
News editor

Come, stay a bit longer

Sometimes people's views of how long one should stay at community college surprise me. When my maternal grandfather found out that I have spent three years at a community college, he said I should spend about five more so that I could be absolutely sure about what I want to do with my life. On the other hand, my mother is quite eager to see me continue on to a four-year school and has always been worried about me getting stuck in a "community college rut."

So how long should a student stay at Ohlone? Conventional wisdom says that, after you finish your K-12 education, you should only spend two years in a community college before transfer. A report on community colleges recently put out by Sacramento State seems to agree with this and criticized community colleges for not having their students follow the expected timelines. This view of the community college academic career doesn't take into account a number of factors.

First, the two-year timeline assumes that you're not getting an associate's degree during your time at Ohlone. An A.S. in physics, for example, requires 45 units of classes. Not all of these courses can be incorporated into the 60 units required for transfer, pushing the total units a student has to take past the amount that can be easily done in two years. And this is assuming that the course load was planned out well in advance and all the courses were available. With poor planning on the student's part, the A.S. could take longer.

Secondly, as my grandpa would point out, spending time at a school like Ohlone lets you try out a number of disciplines before you choose what you want to major in. Over my time at Ohlone I have jumped from literature to sociology to anthropology, and decided only last semester on religious studies. If I had transferred in my second semester, I would still have been a lit. major.

There are a whole number of other miscellaneous factors that can slow a student's progress. Two-thirds of students need help with math and English skills before transfer. Many students work and take classes at a slower pace. Finally, about half of Ohlone's students aren't taking classes for transfer but for personal or professional reasons.

When people criticize how long students often stay at Ohlone, I find that they don't understand the purpose of community colleges. They aren't just two-year universities. Schools like Ohlone provide many educational services for many different student goals, none of which should be held to a two-year time limit.

Janitor trades eye for glass eye

By MICHAEL ABURAS
Staff writer

"I told the doctor 'I want a hook, a patch, a parrot and a job at Disneyland' when he told me he would have to remove my eye," said Smith Center Custodian Jimmy Dempsey after a specialist informed him that they would have to remove his right eye.

Dempsey was diagnosed with one of the most aggressive types of cancer, melanoma, on the optical nerve at the back of his right eye last semester. Melanoma is a form of skin cancer. According to Dempsey, fair skinned people who spend a lot of time in the sun are more likely to contract the cancer. "They only see three or four of these a year," he said.

The first sign that something was wrong occurred one night while Dempsey was working in the Smith Center. Dempsey explained that as he was working, he began to see white lights out of his right eye, and assumed that it was just the florescent lights in the building. Dempsey informed his wife, a nurse in Hayward, and like a true husband, decided to wait before listening to his wife's recommendation to go see a doctor.

The following day, when Dempsey was at the top of the hill in the proximity of the foundation office conducting training tosses with his pigeons, he explained what had happened with his eye to Director of Asset and Enterprise Management David Smith. Smith also recommended that he have the eye checked out.

Now that Dempsey had two different opinions, he felt inclined to go to Kaiser Hospital in Fremont to have his eye examined. Initially, doctors were unable to identify what they saw, and sent Dempsey to see Dr. Johnson, considered one of the best five specialists in California.

It was then determined that Dempsey had melanoma on the optical nerve on the back of his right eye. "When he told me I had cancer I couldn't get out of the chair. It was like getting hit with a Mack truck," described Dempsey.

"He gave me a choice in six months the cancer could spread, or they could remove the eye. I didn't



Photo by Jack Husting

Janitor Jimmy Dempsey sports a pirate hat to go with his glass eye.

feel great, but I had no choice."

Dempsey was put through a PET scan and CAT scan to determine the extent of the cancer. According to Dempsey "the worst part is the tests you go through. This is where you find out if the cancer spread. If they didn't think they could get all the cancer they wouldn't have recommended removing the eye," added Dempsey.

"People don't appreciate what they have until it's gone," remarked Dempsey.

However, Dempsey greatly appreciated the outpour of love and support from students and faculty, "I really can't say enough about the way I was treated by the faculty, the students, and our president [Doug Treadway]. I was treated like a king. . . I really was."

In addition, Dempsey said, "I couldn't have gotten through it without the love and support of my four sons, my wife, 60 pigeons and three dogs."

Dempsey also pointed out that Director of Television Operations and Treadway sent especially nice and warm cards. "I believe our

president Dr. Treadway is a gift to this college," remarked Dempsey.

Dempsey added that the encouraging reactions of students demonstrated part of why he works at Ohlone. "I love the students," said Dempsey. "I don't work here for the money."

The operation only took one day starting at 11 a.m., and by 5 p.m. Dempsey was back on the road headed to work. "I experienced no pain. I took no medication and was back in time for Peter Pan [at the Smith Center]," said Dempsey.

Because of his patch, the children present thought Dempsey was part of the production. Not wanting to be without the proper accoutrement, Dempsey decided to wear a pirate hat to accent the patch.

One factor that the doctor and Dempsey believed may have contributed to the cancer is the time that he spent in the Navy going out on patrols. Because of the long hours spent at sea, Dempsey was exposed to prolonged periods of glare from the water. He recommended that if students are going to spend long periods of time in the sun, they

should wear sunglasses.

Dempsey served from 1960 through '65 in San Diego to gain his citizenship. "I'm Irish by birth; American by choice," said Dempsey. In addition, as an immigrant himself, Dempsey didn't agree with the current stance on immigration by the government. "They're just coming here to make a better life for their families."

The man who designed and created Dempsey's prosthetic eye is the son of an illegal Mexican immigrant, and said Dempsey he was very grateful for his craftsmanship.

Dempsey's new eye was hand crafted and made without the use of instruments to take measurements or pictures of the eye socket for reference. "He's an artist," remarked Dempsey. It took about three visits, "Just like he was painting he didn't use any instruments for measuring. He just held up a card that had different eyes and made it to match the other one including veins." Additionally, the eye was glazed, baked, and fitted before Dempsey could use the new eye.

Dempsey was also able to get an extra eye out of the whole ordeal. "He gave me an extra eye. Something went wrong with it, so I asked him if I could have it," said Dempsey.

However, Dempsey no longer has the spare eye, because his American bulldog Grace ate it. "One day I went out to the pigeon loft and there was my spare lookin' at me in a pile of pooh," Dempsey said.

Dempsey has been raising pigeons for racing since he was 5, and also releases doves in his spare time. Dempsey has done work for the Hurst Foundation, which puts on many of the cancer walk-a-thons. He releases doves in honor of women who have survived breast cancer while they say a prayer.

"I never thought I would be a survivor myself," said Dempsey.

Though Dempsey is now clear of cancer, he still must return for yearly checkups to be sure the cancer does not return.

"[Before my operation] I didn't appreciate what I had," said Dempsey. "I guess that's a human failing. I can see more now with one eye than I did with both. I just gotta look closer."

Deputy DA teaches from experience

By ERIC DORMAN
Features editor

Prosecuting gang members by day, then teaching at Ohlone by night - it's all in a day's work for adjunct instructor Stacie Pettigrew.

Pettigrew, a deputy district attorney for the city of Fremont, is teaching criminal law for the first time this semester. An Ohlone alumni herself, she was drawn to teaching after realizing it was similar to what she was doing as deputy district attorney.

When trying to persuade a jury, said Pettigrew, she often has to educate them on the nature of the law in order for them to understand her argument. She said she does the same thing, only to a greater extent, in the classroom.

"Teaching is similar [to speaking

before a jury] in that respect," said Pettigrew. "But it's different in the respect that when you're talking to a jury, all you see is 12 blank faces. Teaching students is more challenging, and more rewarding, because they can ask questions and give feedback."

Pettigrew teaches one of the college's two criminal law (AJ-102) sections, a class which meets on Tuesday nights. There are currently 16 students enrolled.

Pettigrew attended Ohlone from 1995 to 1997, when she transferred to San Jose State University, where she earned her bachelor's degree in criminal law. From there, she went on to Boalt law school, earning her law degree and eventually being hired as a Deputy District attorney about two years ago. She is one of about 200 deputy district attorneys

throughout the county.

Throughout her career, Pettigrew has been no stranger to tough cases. She recalled a case about a year ago when she was appointed to prosecute a man charged with false imprisonment and assault against his wife. After Pettigrew had presented the evidence against the man, the wife came out of the audience to personally thank Pettigrew.

"It's really nice to be connected with victims on more than just a passing level," said Pettigrew.

Pettigrew's current case, which she described as the biggest so far in her career, involves prosecuting three possible gang members accused of armed kidnapping for a gang. The case is likely to run for the next three weeks.

Pettigrew said she was inspired to teach by several professors from

whom she took classes in her time at Ohlone. One of her favorites of these, she said, was Lance Morrison, who retired as captain of the Newark police department last year.

"[Lance] really made the law more real for me," said Pettigrew.

Pettigrew said she was helped to a teaching position at Ohlone by Richard Keller, a judge who she works with. The Administration of Justice Department at the college had an opening, which she took.

Pettigrew said that she has enjoyed teaching so far, and hopes to continue teaching in the fall. She said she has no plans to try for Fremont district attorney, preferring to continue to prosecute trials instead.

"I'm really enjoying teaching," said Pettigrew. "And I hope to continue doing so in the future."

Parody troupe brings in Broadway

By CHEYENNE MARTIN
Staff writer

"Forbidden Broadway: Special Victims Unit" opened to a sold-out house on Friday, Feb. 23 at the Smith Center. The show, starring Valerie Fagan, Leisa Mather, Nick Verina and Michael West, as well as Accompanist and Musical Director Catherine Stornetta, presented spoofs of many Broadway hits, including "Annie" and "Les Miserables" before an appreciative crowd.

This is the second year that "Forbidden Broadway," which has been performing for 25 years, has come to Ohlone.

The setting for the show was very minimal. The stage was black except for a large opening behind the first partition, and was decorated in metallic tinsel that reflected the stage lights. A grand piano sat on stage left and created a very intimate setting between the actors and the audience.

"Forbidden Broadway" started off with a stereotypical Annie walking onstage, cigarette in hand, singing "Tomorrow." Instead of the regular lyrics, however, Annie threw in some of her own, singing "Tomorrow...tomorrow... maybe I'll get work tomorrow." At the end of her rendition, Annie was shot, which introduced the subtitle of the show: "Special Victims Unit."

The two male leads, Verina and West, made the perfect mock-"Law and Order" duo. West imitated Jerry Orbach with utter perfection, and the duo punctuated their act with the famous double chimes that play throughout episodes of "Law and Order."

Throughout the show, Verina and West continued to dazzle the audience with their quirky gestures and their beautiful as well as versatile vocal talents. Verina imitated Jon Val Jon from "Les Miserables," singing his version of "God on High" as "This song's too high." He had the audience captivated by the amazing style of his voice as well as his comedic timing.

Of all the parodies, the "Les

Miserables" parodies were the best received by the audience. "One Day More" and "At the End of the Day" were changed to "One Show More" and "At the end of the show we're another year older; touring forever is our destiny." The comedy troupe even changed the title into "Les Miserab-BLAH," making fun of the fact that "Les Miserables" is the longest running musical in history, passing "Cats" by five years.

The show continued to evoke laughter, comparing the Fosse dance style to "wiggling your butt with jazz hands." "Forbidden Broadway" made many suggestive comments within their parodies on how to succeed in Broadway, such as all that is needed is a puppet because puppets can get away with anything. They also said that Yoko Ono, after breaking up the Beatles and collecting the royalties, will move on to break up Broadway.

Throughout the show, there were many costume changes. Alvin Colt, the costume designer, unfortunately, did disappoint somewhat. The costumes were not consistent in product, as some were made with much detail while others were a couple of towels pinned together. However, the less-than-stellar costume selection did not threaten to slow down the show, as costumes did not help viewers understand the jokes if they were not already in on them.

Most of the jokes in the show seemed to only make sense if the viewer was a musical buff; otherwise they were more difficult to understand. Many of the portrayals of actual people seemed to make sense only to the older crowd. There were not nearly as many laughs for the "Bob Goulet can't remember his



Photo provided by Joan Marcus

Several characters from Forbidden Broadway pose. From left to right: Ethel Merman from "Avenue Q," Billy Joel from "Movin' Out," Hugh Jackman from "The Boy From Oz," and the Witch and Glin-da from "Wicked."

lines" bit or the "Carol Channing is a drunk" bit as there were for the Chicago parodies.

One parody in particular had all generations and crowds laughing. Fagan and Mather, the female leads, imitated West Side Story's "Anita," with the "original" Anita bashing the "newer" Anita. The two sang boisterously while fighting over who had the best "Ai-Ai-Ai" and ruffling of skirts that "America" is known for.

Fagan and Mather, while not quite measuring up to their opposing cast-mates in the vocal talents, more than made up for it with the comedic intuition and facial expressions that could be seen from the back of the theater.

Choreography was credited to Phillip George. The choreography was also a bit of a disappointment,

as there was no dancing. There were a few hand gestures here and there but there were no actual musical numbers performed.

Originally from New York's Palsson's Super Club back in 1982, "Forbidden Broadway's" traveling cast has made its way across the country and back again many times since 1996. Gerard Alessandrini, creator and lyricist, decided to share his masterpiece.

Originally, Forbidden Broadway was to be a cabaret act. Shortly after its debut in 1982, the "Forbidden Fever" caught on and drew in crowds so much that the show became the longest running comedy revue in New York.

Every year, "Forbidden Broadway" has been re-vamped to play into the year's new and popular musicals. Many famous Broadway actors, such as Bernadette Peters and Angela Lansbury and composers like Stephen Sondheim and Andrew Lloyd Webber have come to see themselves portrayed in the crazy parodies. Even Jason Alexander, best known for his role of George on the sitcom "Seinfeld," got his start portraying his peers on the "Forbidden Broadway" stage.

Forbidden Broadway attracted more than just audiences; since its opening, the show has acquired many awards such as "Drama Desk," "Obie" and "Outer Critics Circle Awards," "Lucille Lortel" and "Drama League Awards." The show has received seven nominations with the Ovation Awards as well as three nominations for Jefferson Awards. "Forbidden Broadway" has been an "integral part of the theater community for over 25 years," said Alessandrini.

As a whole, Forbidden Broadway was an extremely funny show with a very talented cast. Portraying everything from Beauty and the Beast to Barbara Streisand, this show has something for everyone. Even those without musical knowledge seemed to have a good time. Hopefully 25 years is not enough, and we look forward to seeing "Forbidden Broadway" on the Ohlone stage again.



Devil's
Advocate

By ANNA
NEMCHUK
Editor-in-chief

Where's the cream filling?

"How can you like him with the way he looks?" a colleague recently demanded of me. Narrowly avoiding braining him with the nearest stapler, I settled for glaring incredulously. "You know," he continued, "he's got a great personality, but I never thought you'd go for someone who looks like that."

So what, you say, it's old hat that our society is based on superficial looks, mostly involving whatever masochistic fashion the Leading Bimbos (Oops, I meant Ladies) are endorsing this week. We know this, we know it sucks; we're trying to change for the better and, we think, are making quite a bit of progress, now would you please get off our backs as there's a reality show on in five minutes? I beg to differ.

Let me just make something very, very clear. You could be a physical manifestation of Lord Muscletosis the Oiled, but if you can't back up the walk with the talk, you're just a walking filet mignon impersonation.

That whole eyes are the keys to the soul thing? Bit of truth there, but it also works the other way around - peering into the back of someone's skull is not nearly as interesting as actually encountering a thought lurking back there now and then.

Maybe it's just me. The thrill of finding a fellow human being to match you wit for wit, to challenge you, pique your curiosity, throw you bodily onto the roller coaster of attraction, make you laugh, make your breath hiss in at the way they say your name, tease you mercilessly...is just no match for perfectly sculpted biceps or that golden tan.

Personality isn't a key component of attraction; it is the first, main and last part. The biggest problems we face today all come down to one thing - we look outside of ourselves for gratification.

From pills, illegal or prescribed, to booze and mindless hours of TV to work, school or religion to video games and basketball we bury our heads so deep in activities we're no longer sure there's a sky up there somewhere. And then we complain about how a pizza takes longer to deliver than divorce papers nowadays.

Who you are, you, as a person, matters more than all the spray-on tans and leather coats you can sneeze at. If you're not interesting enough for even yourself to spend time with alone, why would you think anyone else would want to?

So forgive me for being interested in human beings for their deliciously nougatty center - the intellectual and personal mess that makes you ineffably you - instead of the top two millimeters of their dermis.

What can I say? I like the cream filling.

New coordinator reaches out to all

By MARGARITA KITOVA
Staff writer

From overseeing Ohlone for Kids to managing outreach programs with the Fremont and Newark communities, Jason Jones is hoping to make a difference in the way Ohlone interacts with its community.

Jones, Ohlone's new Community Education Program coordinator, said that his goals at the college were simple and straightforward: to make a difference for the students and the community that he serves.

Since one purpose of a community college, said Jones, is to provide an entry to higher education, he is committed to working collaboratively with community partners, faculty, and administration so that the mission of access could be made available to anyone who desired an education.

Jones' primary job responsibility will be to oversee the Ohlone For Kids summer program, which has been running at the college for 18

years. Jones said that his goal for Ohlone For Kids, which provides summer enrichment classes for children in grades 4-10 in the community during the summer break, is to continue the previous success of the program.

Additionally, Jones will help Leta Stagnaro, the dean of the Entrepreneurial Services department and health sciences, oversee community education offerings.

He will work with her to help bring education services to both the Fremont and Newark communities.

Jones worked in education for nine years, at all levels ranging from pre-school to graduate school. He began his journey into education, taking after his father, as a seventh grade English teacher.

Following a teaching career, he began working for the Shasta College Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) coordinator when college president Doug Treadway was president at

Shasta.

Following his EOPS service, he moved to the East Bay to attend St. Mary's College to earn a doctorate in Education.



Photo by Margarita Kitova

Jason Jones aims to expand campus outreach.

There, he began working for Head Start in Oakland's Fruitvale community. After helping the Head Start program, he moved to the

University of Phoenix and served as the department chair for the graduate teacher education program where he spent the past three years. Also at SMC he met Leta Stagnaro.

When the opportunity to work at Ohlone for Treadway and for Stagnaro came out, he said he "just jumped at it."

Jones holds a bachelor's degree in English from CSU Sacramento (1996), a master's degree in school counseling from the University of La Verne (2002), and is working on a doctorate in education from SMC that he hopes to complete in 2008.

Jones is getting married this July to a woman from Milpitas. For fun, he enjoys walks with his 6-year-old Springer spaniel dog, Molly, mountain biking, and studying popular culture via "reality" TV.

Jones' office is in Building 27, Room 102.

Jones said he looks forward to working further with Ohlone's community, kids, students and adults alike.