



## Culture Pirate

By **OMER  
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News editor

## Last say on journalism

I won't be a journalism major next semester, so this is going to be my last say on the industry. If I write this later, I will be like a viticulture major commenting on superstring physics.

Journalism gets a lot of criticism nowadays. It seems like journalists are thought of on the same level as car salesmen, real estate agents, politicians and lawyers. As Society of Professional Journalists President Christine Tatum has said, "the only folks struggling with believability issues more than the Bush administration are journalists."

Gone are the days when everything written in a paper was believed to be true. Readers and viewers now assume that there is a significant amount of purposeful, deliberate bias in each and every story. This is a valid concern as journalism has fallen to a low level in many places. You only need to turn on FoxNews to find agenda-driven, unsourced, badly told near-propaganda pieces. And if you think I'm just bashing Fox, you can do the same to CNN and MSNBC. It's just not as bad.

Luckily, not all journalism has failed. While working on the *Monitor*, I have had the chance to meet a number of people who have worked in the media. Most obvious is the adviser Bill Parks but I have also met *Argus*, *San Jose Mercury News*, Yahoo News, alternative press and foreign journalists. None of these people were bias-infused crazed liberals or hard-line Bushies. They were just writers and had the same concerns regarding mass media that I hear from non-journalists.

Most reporters are just out to tell a story accurately. Even at FoxNews there are people like this, though they tend to get fired like Jane Akre and Steve Wilson. The problems plaguing journalism don't come from the individuals reporting but from the effect of business and politics on what is supposed to be an independent factual endeavor. For example, the two reporters I mentioned were fired for reporting the dangers of one of the products advertised on the FoxNews channel.

If you look for smaller news outlets that minimize how business-controlled they are, you are going to find what journalism is supposed to be like. This is because most journalists just want to accurately pass on information. That is all news really is after all, information. Not opinion, not commentary. Just the facts and context. You still have to look at it critically, as you should with all things, but real news is supposed to be as honest as possible. Hopefully, mass media can return to this but, for now, don't judge journalists by how the business is run; judge businessmen by how they run big new media.

## Raza Day: bringing Latinos to college

By **BRIAN CHU**  
Staff writer

Raza Day, an event designed to encourage higher education among Latino and Hispanic high school students, took place on Friday, April 27 between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Raza Day targeted Hispanic and Latino high school students, mostly juniors and seniors who had not considered the prospect of college before. One of the main goals of Raza Day was to make such students more aware of what Ohlone had to offer them. The event was sponsored by MEChA, the Associated Students of Ohlone College (ASOC) and Tech Prep.

Transportation was provided from many nearby high schools

to Ohlone. Two hundred students, teachers, and other faculty from Newark Memorial, James Logan, Irvington, John F. Kennedy, American and Robertson Continuation school attended.

Through the day, students attended workshops about the admissions process, how to acquire financial aid and information about the benefits of higher education. The high school students were given a tour of the campus. "The students were very 'wow'ed by the broadcasting lab and the biotech rooms; they talked excitedly about the cadavers and other things to each other," said Stephanie Ramos, an Ohlone counselor who helped plan Raza Day.

"I was impressed about how sup-

portive all of the student services offices and offers," said Ramos. "EOPs, Financial Aid, Admissions and Records, Student Athletes, Counseling department, Transfer services, Assessment centers, even the health center was there. The faculty and staff that helped out with Raza Day stayed through the entire five hours, helping to answer all the students questions. They really welcomed the students."

The keynote speaker for the event was Nina Genera, an Ohlone counselor of 30 years. J.J. Amaya from "Lowriding with J.J.," a radio show broadcast on Tuesdays on KOHL, and Ohlone President Doug Treadway were also present to speak.

Genera was honored with a

Latino Leadership Network of the California Community Colleges award for Region 1. She was recognized for being an outstanding leader, public speaker, and community activist. Genera has been an activist in the Ohlone community for more than 31 years.

Since Raza Day began in 2005, there has been a 17 percent increase in enrollment of Latino students under the age of 19. "We hope and believe that Raza day has been a major influence in this," said Ramos.

The mission of Raza Day was summarized by a headline projected in one of the organized speeches for the visiting students. The message read, "We are the youth of the nation and we take our place as the future leaders of the world."

## Book club discusses autism, thinking

By **SANDEEP ABRAHAM**  
Staff writer

The Ohlone book club featured Temple Grandin's book, *Thinking in Pictures*, last Friday. Terry Taskey, a counselor in Disabled Students Programs and Services, led the discussion between five people, all of whom were Ohlone faculty members.

Taskey had met Grandin last fall at a conference, prompting the discussion on what Taskey felt was a very important book. "We talked about her incredible life and her coping mechanisms and how important mentors were in her life," said Taskey. That was particularly pertinent to the teaching styles and instructional methods of faculty.

Grandin holds a Ph.D. in Animal

Science and has designed one-third of all the livestock handling machinery in the United States. But that is only half of what makes her so amazing, the other half being the fact that she is autistic. The world she sees and experiences is one that few of us could ever hope to grasp, much less relate to. Yet, in her book *Thinking in Pictures*, she brings us into this world and guides the reader through its intricacies and struggles.

Whereas most of us understand the world through words and verbally make sense of it in our minds, Temple thinks in pictures and even converts speech into pictures. She discusses how hard it was growing up and in school, when she had to deal with a curriculum designed for verbal thinkers. However, this

type of thinking is also what helped her design all the machines she's created.

She covers a wide range of topics concerning autistics and the lives they live. She talks about difficulties of dating, as autistics are, by nature, averse to human contact. Autistics must work to find common interests in other people and must often be manually taught the rules and norms of society. She covers what she calls the autistic spectrum, along which lie conditions like classical autism, Asperger's syndrome, Kanner's syndrome and disintegrative disorder.

One of the more interesting topics she covers is the biology behind autism. Because the autistic brain works so differently from a normal brain and autistics often have ex-

tremely high intelligence in a certain area, some scientists speculate that genius may arise from a disorder. She also writes about the connection between autism and depression. Poets, creative writers and artists have often exhibited symptoms of autistic people and have simultaneously experienced a great deal of heartache and depression.

What I loved most about this book was how she humanized autism by discussing her own experiences growing up. She mentions her achievements and inventions, almost sneering at all the people who teased her and laughed at her potential. But as much sneering is served as is her compassion for other autistics and their common struggle to survive in a world that doesn't understand them.

## Theater staff creates theme park set

By **MARGARITA KITOVA**  
Staff writer

Ohlone's theater department has created a set for Great America theme park's Paramount Theater, which will be shown in the park this season. The last of the set will be shipped today.

The project is bringing the college about \$10,000, all of which was paid by Great America and will go toward the Smith Center, said Director of Smith Center Operations Christopher Booras. The set will be used in the park's new show, called "Twistin' to the 60's." Booras, supervising student James Isaac, and Smith Center Technical Director Jasper Gong worked together for a month to build the set. Ohlone alumnus Lacey Bryant painted it and student Clayton Lawrence was the liaison between the set designer, park management and Ohlone's construction crew, headed by Booras.

When Great America decided to outsource the set project, it began looking for a team that could get it done in a timely fashion and had all of the equipment to handle the project. It was Lawrence, part of the entertainment management team at Great America, who suggested Booras and Ohlone after working with them on previous shows.

Great America actually outsourced the project to another creator about two months ago. However, that creator waited a month before telling the park it would be unable to create the project. So, with only a month left to complete it, Great America turned to Ohlone and Booras. It was tight, but Booras and his team were able to get the set done in time.

Lawrence's official role at the park is manager of characters, shows, parades and Halloween. Concerning the set, he commented that "Chris has attention to detail...and did a great job."

Cedar Fair Entertainment company, which owns Great America, has done the show before, and is remounting it in a few parks across the nation. The design came from a designer at Knott's Berry Farm who has been working with Great America and the other parks showing "Twistin'" to get the show up. The show will open on May 19 and is free with park admission. It will run through the summer.

For those interested in "Twistin'," Great America describes it as a "crazy rockin' and rollin' dance party featuring the best sounds and moves of the 1960's."



Photo by Jack Husting

**The set the theater department created for Great America sits in the scene shop Friday. The set is bringing Smith Center about \$10,000.**

## Tim Roberts Band rocks house

By CHEYENNE MARTIN  
Staff writer

The band of Music Instructor Tim Roberts performed its debut vocal set before an enthusiastic audience Tuesday night at the Smith Center.

Normally Roberts plays solo guitar, but with the inspiration to do something different, the Tim Roberts Band decided to include singing this performance for the first time.

"Some songs are brand new, and some are over 20 years old," explained Roberts. You wouldn't know it while listening to the band play in excellent harmony and timing.

Roberts sang the lead and was backed up by his wife, Cathy Schneider. However, it was likely that Roberts, with excellent pitch, could have carried each song himself without effort. Still, Roberts offers that it was a "particularly nice opportunity to work with my wife." This was their first performance singing together.

Roberts, switching between an acoustic, electric and modeling guitar throughout the show, demonstrated his musical abilities flawlessly.

As an Ohlone instructor since 1997, Roberts teaches History of Rock and Roll, Song Writing, Jazz/Rock Combo, Studio Recording, Music Theory and Survey of the Arts. Once every two years, Roberts brings his band to Ohlone College to share his talents with the student body. However, never within his classes does he allude to his skills.



Photo by Kevin Protz

**Music instructor Tim Roberts, center, leads the Tim Roberts Band in concert Tuesday. At left is guitarist Grant Pierce and at right, Eric Wilson on bass guitar.**

Opening the show with audience participation, Roberts held a "guess that tune" session, which resulted in an audience member losing points for knowing the answer to a question before it was asked.

Following this, Roberts shared with the audience that his first band was in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, called Scavenger 5. Scavenger 5 was a Monkees cover band, so Roberts played a Monkees medley that made audience members of all ages smile.

Some highlights from the show were the original songs by Rob-

erts, such as "Michelle 2," a jazzy, slower version of Paul McCartney's "Michelle." Another hit was a ballad called "Slow Dancing on a Dusty Road," sung by Roberts and Schneider.

The two favorite Tim Roberts originals were "Slow Poison" about a girl you know is trouble but you can't stay away, and "Goodbye Rigor," about a "wayward nephew" whose party days are over.

The song that made the most feet tap and heads bob was actually a Led Zeppelin medley. Roberts called Led Zeppelin the "most influential band in the early 70's" and played an exquisite tribute, especially with "Stairway to Heaven." Throughout the show, the Tim Roberts Band offered many different musical selections, such as jazz, rock and ballads, each one better than the last.

Roberts started music at an early age; at 7, he began playing the guitar. Roberts has since switched

from an electric to a modeling guitar. "It's basically a computer with strings; it allows different tunings without having to change guitars," explained Roberts. Shaped like an acoustic yet as thin as an electric, it attempts to bridge the best of both guitar worlds.

Roberts' main influences growing up were Jimmi Hendrix, Santana and, most of all, Kenny Loggins. As time went on, Roberts created his own style of classical and 60's and 70's music to create a modern twist on classics he loves.

The Tim Roberts band, now on its fifteenth year, consists of Tim Roberts on lead guitar, Grant Pierce on guitar, Ken Marine on drums, Eric Wilson on Bass and Cathy Schneider on keyboard and backup vocals. "We're all old friends," said Roberts.

What's next for the Tim Roberts Band? "Getting these vocals recorded on a new album," said Roberts. The album will be released this summer.



Devil's Advocate

By ANNA NEMCHUK  
Editor-in-chief

## Sun, sun, go away

Nothing in the world makes me appreciate life as much as rain. Reading Bradbury's "All Summer In A Day" made me want to move to Venus, to live in a torrential, perpetual downpour. I'd be perfectly fine glimpsing the sun only once every seven years for two hours. Granted, I was born in a country where the sun makes its presence felt as more than a giant, oatmeal-colored coin for about three weeks in August, but plenty of Russians are sun whores. (And with global warming, I'm afraid St. Petersburg will soon have LA's climate.)

Rain. Cool, wet velvety streams. After a few days of unexpected heat the past week, I walked out the door yesterday morning to a steel-grey sky, crisp, clean air and a vast blueness of descending water. I had an umbrella, but where's the fun in that? No, I arrived at my morning class with drenched hair, bare, slippery feet and a sweatshirt that could have doubled as a sea anemone.

To move through ribbons of rain, face upturned to the gently drumming droplets, muscles springy at the squishiness of the lubricated soil...I can go into a trance just standing in the rain. Have you ever looked between the droplets? You can, you know. Light bends around them, and all the world acquires a certain glassiness - like walking through a looking glass, to find you've arrived in Alice's world.

Everyone looks better in the rain. Forget candlelight - the soft phosphorescence of the azure-slate of rain softens outlines, intensifies other hues and lends a dreamy, impressionistic feel to the world. The sun harshens and dries, whether soil, skin or tempers while rain feeds and cools, soothes and energizes, though it does transform already bad drivers into stupendously inept ones.

Yes, without the sun there would be no life on the Earth; it's a necessary evil. But an evil it is. Which is why my ongoing search for vampires continues - after all, what better excuse never to see the sun again? The bare, flat sky is a like a cheerleader with a 2.0 GPA - attractive, perhaps, but shallow and rather plastic-looking. But a sky teeming, roiling, positively seething with those fluffy pillows of pure joy known as storm clouds - that sight is a 36C Ph.D. with thigh-high leather boots bearing Parisian chocolate cake. My problem is that living in California for upward of 15 years now and having collected an inconvenient amount of friends, family and connections here, my plan to move to England where rain is purportedly what's always for breakfast has been somewhat complicated.

We have GOT to come up with a workable teleporter.

## Faculty band to play

Chalkdust, a band made up of Math Instructor Jeff O'Connell and English Instructor Mark Brosamer, will team up with students and instructors to perform its annual "Chalkdust and Friends" benefit concert Friday, May 11 at 8:00 p.m. in the outdoor amphitheater. Tickets are \$7 and are available at the box office.

O'Connell described Chalkdust's genre as "rock/pop/country/disco/hip/groove and Sunny and Sher."

For more information, go to [myspace.com/chalkdustband](http://myspace.com/chalkdustband).

## Student cautions about teen pregnancies

By MICHAEL ABURAS  
Staff writer

"America has the worse numbers for STDs and pregnancies of any industrialized country in the world," according to Lisa Beck, psychology club member and ICC representative.

Beck has helped organize a presentation scheduled for today from 2 to 3:30 p.m. entitled "True Confessions," featuring such speakers as Professor of Psychology Tom McMahon and student Ninette Hoehne, who will be speaking from firsthand experience with teen pregnancy. The presentation, which will take place in Jackson Theater in the Smith Center, is designed to promote awareness of teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

The intent of Beck and Hoehne is to help bring the statistics of teen pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) down. For instance, Hoehne explained that when she attended Horizons, a school for

pregnant teens in Pleasanton, there were only 32 mothers enrolled. "When I went back to visit in January '07 there were around 52-58 girls enrolled," said Hoehne.

Hoehne became pregnant at the age of 14 (she is currently 18) and her parents did not become aware of her pregnancy until she was seven months into her pregnancy.

"A lot of girls just have these babies as toys - 'oh look what I have' - it's for attention, it's for love. Having a baby doesn't make you a woman," explained Hoehne.

The families also suffer, according to Hoehne, who has not allowed her son's father or family to see his child. Hoehne explained that her son's father is an abusive drug dealer who has been incarcerated many times. In addition, the family continues to support his actions and has not provided any support to Hoehne or her child.

"You can't just put your head in the sand and say 'it won't happen to me,'" said Beck. "Girls and

guys in the heat of the moment think they're not going to get hurt.

"We want to get the message out that one time will hurt."

According to Beck, in America there are 900,000 pregnancies between the ages of 15 and 19. Additionally, STDs are in the millions among people between 15 to 24.

"These numbers are disgusting," added Beck. "If this presentation gets at least one student to stop and think in the heat of the moment it will have been worth it."



Photo by Jack Husting

**Student Ninette Hoehne, 18, sits with her son, Stephan, 4. Hoehne will speak in a presentation today concerning teen pregnancy.**