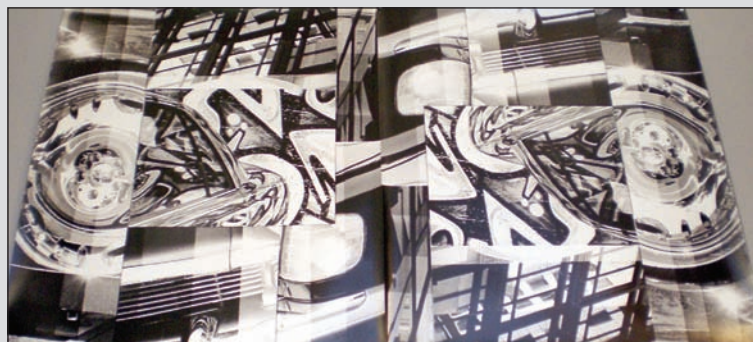




By CHEYENNE MARTIN
Staff writer

Paint, glass, ceramics at Student Art Show



The Annual Student Fine Arts and Design Show Awards took place in the Louie Meager Art Gallery on May 8 at 6:30 p.m. At the ceremony, full-time fine art faculty members headed the awards and picked the recipients. Over \$4,000 in prizes have been awarded in past years, Gallery Curator Margaret Stainer said, and possibly more this year.

The art appearing in the show—some 230 pieces in all—was picked from about 400 entries by some of the college's fine art faculty: Cynthia Luckoski of the art department, Professor of Fine and Performing Arts Denise Owen and Art Instructors Paul Mueller and Katie Frank.

The pieces picked to be in the show were of great variety, including ceramics, charcoal drawings, bronze sculptures, glass castings, paintings, graphic designs and even interior design client presentations. Frank, an instructor and judge, said the judging focused on "creativity, follow through, craftsmanship, strong composition and a voice" when choosing the pieces to be in the show.

As far as the award winners, Frank looked for an artist who "goes for it, not playing it safe; [someone who] goes out of their comfort zone."

"It's a great show to keep trying [to be in]," said Stainer. "Being in a

Band promises guitars, eggs in concert

By ERIC DORMAN
Features editor

Those hungry for a unique combination of guitar music, singing, bongo drumming, egg shaking and "hootin' and hollerin'," hunger no more. The annual "Chalkdust and Friends" benefit concert promises to bring this and more to the Smith Center's outdoor amphitheater this Friday, May 11, at 8 p.m.

"Chalkdust," a band made up of Math Instructor Jeff O'Connell and English Instructor Mark Brosamer, teams up with a group of faculty and/or students every year to make up the "Friends" contingent of the "Chalkdust and Friends" concert. This year, those friends are Adjunct Speech Instructor Hans Peeters and students Sara Demelo and Lainey McKinlay.

Tickets will be \$7 a piece, up from \$5 last year. O'Connell explained the price hike the way only a true math instructor could: "Last year's benefit concert raised -\$116," said O'Connell. "Yes, that's a negative number." As a result, O'Connell decided to raise the price in an effort to at least break even.

Still, O'Connell and Brosamer are doing their best to keep their prices competitive. For example, the first 237 attendees will receive complementary plastic egg shakers, to be used as percussion to keep time during the show.

Because the concert will come on the last day of Unity Week, and because the concert's name is "Chalkdust and Friends," a theme during the performance will be friends and unity, said O'Connell.



Photos courtesy of Michelle Govang

The 'Chalkdust and Friends' ensemble poses on campus. From left: Adjunct Speech Instructor Hans Peeters, English Instructor Mark Brosamer, students Sara Demelo and Lainey McKinlay and Math Instructor Jeff O'Connell. Below right, Brosamer and O'Connell jam.

Throughout the concert, he said, audience participation will be encouraged, and audience members will be urged to create their own percussion via the egg shakers.

"Every single person will be part of the band," said O'Connell.

Those wishing to see a list of songs to be performed will have to attend the concert to find out; O'Connell and Brosamer refused to disclose the songs on the night's bill, preferring to keep it a surprise. Still, Brosamer revealed that some of the night's featured artists will be Kiss, Sonny and Cher and Tenacious D. They will also perform a song in which they sing in foreign accents.

O'Connell and Brosamer have been performing together through

Chalkdust for about eight years—a period they both agree is "too long." "It may be eight years, but it feels like 20," reflected Brosamer. "We can't let go.

"It's like being married, but without the fun parts."

When it comes to playing the guitar, both Brosamer and O'Connell are completely self-taught—"except for the part my teacher taught me," noted O'Connell.

Last year's "Chalkdust and Friends" concert featured Ohlone's ukelele-playing staff, the "Renegades," in its "Friends" contingent. In keeping with the Hawaiian theme, it featured Brosamer's mother hula dancing. The show sold out of the Smith Center's small Black Box theater, even turning audience mem-

bers away at the door. This year, O'Connell and Brosamer hope to remedy the lack of space by renting out the larger amphitheater.

Proceeds of the concert will go to the college's music and speech and communication departments. When asked why neither the math nor the English departments would benefit from the concert, O'Connell replied with modesty born of years in the math department: "The English and math departments are well-established; they don't need the money. We want the proceeds to go to other, less fortunate departments."

Never one to stray from Ohlone's "green" ambitions, "Chalkdust and Friends" will be an entirely carbon neutral concert, said O'Connell. It will accomplish this, said Brosamer,

by using 100 percent recycled songs.

In order to garner an even larger audience, "Chalkdust" has even established a presence on the Web with its MySpace page, www.myspace.com/chalkdustband. Initially, they encountered hostility there when a Canadian punk rock group, also named Chalkdust, learned of their presence. The punkers asked O'Connell and Brosamer to change the name of their band, their suggestion being "Two Old Guys." Needless to say, neither "Chalkdust" changed its name.

O'Connell and Brosamer are hoping for a balmy evening for their concert, but just in case, they advise audience members to bring blankets.

According to O'Connell, the benefits of attending are great, and the costs of staying home are severe. "If you don't go," noted O'Connell, "the next day you'll be left out of the conversation, because [Chalkdust] will be what everyone's talking about."





Photos by Kevin Protz

juried show is different for a resume.”

Graphic design students Emily McKean and Jennifer Costa agreed with the benefit of doing a juried show.

“It’s amazing for my resume,” said McKean, who originally submitted a piece only as an assignment in James Pacheco’s graphic design class, but now sees the potential benefit.

Getting the gallery ready was no easy task. It took students in Stainer’s museum and gallery operations classes almost two weeks to install the exhibits. Valerie Severn, assistant to Luckoski, helped in building the exhibits. “We even went over deadline,” said Severn.

What took so long? “There were so many pieces chosen,” said Stainer, who spent a majority of the time figuring out where to place each piece. “The way I curate is to consider each wall a piece.”

Some pieces were accompanied by a gold sticker, to let viewers know the piece was purchased. The most expensive purchase at press time was “Ballet Shoes,” by Yan Yan Yang, selling for \$300. Most pieces were not for sale, but of the ones that were, the prices ranged from \$25 to \$1,000.

As far as a crowd favorite, though, it was a tough decision. There was something for everyone and each person had their own taste. Even Frank, a judge, said she “can’t begin to choose a favorite!”

The exhibit runs through May 15.

Several pieces stood out at the Student Art and Design show reception Tuesday. From lower left: ‘Mean Machine,’ a photograph by C.J. Jones; ‘Dancing with Spring,’ oil on canvas by Shu-hsia Ho (selling for \$115); ‘Day Dreaming,’ by Wing Lam, made with mixed media; a digital print, ‘Padlock,’ by Lamont Harper and several pieces in one: 5 pieces of bronze called ‘Hey Gordo’ by Faeshid Namei, ‘Indian Tradition,’ a sculpture by Suchi Gupta and ‘Pelican,’ made of stone, by Val Yourchenko.



Culture Pirate

By **OMER AHMED**
News editor

Ohlone’s not so bad

This is my last column, as I am transferring to Berkeley next semester, so this is my last chance to say what I think about Ohlone.

When I was a child, my parents sent me to the Ohlone for Kids summer program. I don’t recall much from back then, just vague memories of Lego robots, losing in chess class and the water fountains. The fountains were amazing because they were big, I was small, the water was sparkly and I was easily amused.

Despite this favorable first impression, by the time I got to high school I had a rather negative view of the college.

As an Asian kid at an intensely academic school (Mission San Jose), my attitude was that if you didn’t go on to a private university or a U.C., you were a failure and, by extension, Ohlone was a school for failures because it took all the leftovers. This attitude persisted despite my own rather pitiful academic performance. From the lofty height of a 1.8 GPA I continued to regard Ohlone as a last chance school for losers.

If I knew then what I know now, I probably would have left Mission freshman year to take classes at Ohlone. Unfortunately, I only dropped out in senior year, realizing that I was heading to community college one way or another with that GPA of mine.

At first, Ohlone was pretty disappointing. The school’s paint job was bland, the fountains didn’t work and I made the same mistakes in my first semester that I made in high school. That last reason was my fault but it still didn’t make me feel particularly confident in the institution.

However, once I noticed that there was no busy work, that I could study topics that actually interested me and that I didn’t need a 4.5 GPA to get into a good school anymore, something clicked. Going to school actually became somewhat pleasurable, particularly on days when I could wake up at noon or later and be on time to my first class.

If you listen to school officials talk, they often describe Ohlone as a “learning college.” Silly and redundant, but it makes sense. I didn’t learn much in high school and neither did most of my friends, but, in the open college setting at Ohlone, one can really absorb information. Being able to transfer to a good school after this is also a great bonus for an ex-Mission student like myself.

There is no way I can look at Ohlone badly anymore. Any institution that can get a dropout like me into U.C. Berkeley should be considered amazing. Now that the fountains work, the school is damn near perfect in my eyes. All Ohlone needs now are escalators and maybe a transfer agreement with Stanford or CalTech.

High schoolers sample college

Continued from Page 1

serious about their education,” said student Jessica Leon. “Being in a college environment really gives more of an inspiration to continue to pursue our goals.”

“I enjoyed my senior year at Ohlone because it gave me a taste of what college is like and made me feel more confident,” added Marcela Gomez. “I feel like it’s opened a lot of doors to a better future.”

Students also listed avoiding the drama of being a high school senior as a plus in the “College Connections” program. “I got to get away from the high school drama and more into an environment of people who actually take school seriously,” said Leon. “It was a lot more relaxing staying out of all the drama going on at NMHS,” added Francia Balderas.

But drama or no drama, is passing up one’s only chance to be a high school senior worth it? According to student Laura Muir, the answer is “yes.” “Newark Memorial was fun



Photos by Eric Dorman

A group of high school seniors from Newark Memorial work in their Ohlone classroom. The students take both high school and college classes at Ohlone. Below left, Katrina Kane works at her desk.

while it lasted,” said Muir, “but I felt like I needed to move on and go on to more important things.”

Lucero noted that while teaching the class was rewarding, it was still “way the heck more work than I ever could have imagined.” Still, she thinks it has been worth it. “I’ve loved it; I’ve been very impressed by morale...I’ve just enjoyed the overall atmosphere,” said Lucero, who plans to continue teaching the program next year.

Wright said that because of the program’s success, all that’s keeping it from expanding rapidly is lack of space. Currently, the college simply doesn’t have enough room to house several other high school cohorts, a fact that could be rectified with the construction of the new Student

Services Building, scheduled to be completed in Spring of 2009. Since many faculty offices and services would move from Building 1 to the Student Services Building, this will clear up space for programs like this to grow.

“The program has the capacity to grow quite a bit,” said Wright, “it’s all a matter of space.”

Of the 22 students in Lucero’s class (over the year, three dropped because of the workload) at least 10 have been accepted to four-year universities, including U.C. Davis, U.C. Santa Cruz and SJSU. The other half have decided to spend more time at Ohlone before transferring.

Despite the program’s success, however, Lucero said that she will

still face an uphill battle getting more students to sign up next year. It’s always difficult, she said, to persuade students to skip their senior year for something they’ve never tried before.

“Having kids decide they don’t want to be a senior in high school isn’t easy,” said Lucero.

Still, Lucero’s students are helping out by going back to high school on their own time to push for the program. Why?

“I would recommend this program because it has helped me get a sense of what college life will be,” said Mayra Llamas. Miriam Saavedra added, “If you want to get away from all that immaturity that high school tends to have, then by all means enroll next year!”



Retiring counselor reflects on full career

By **MICHAEL ABURAS**
Staff writer

"I've been here for 31 years. So, it's time," said Region One representative of the Latina Leadership Network and Ohlone Counselor Nina Genera about her retirement after this semester. "Last fall semester I started thinking about it."

Genera explained that her husband's parents are in their 90s and she and her husband wanted to spend more time with them. In addition, she will settle down in Sacramento with her husband, both of whom were raised there.

Eight years ago, Genera came to the Bay Area to attend U.C. Berkeley. "We thought we were going to get our bachelor's degree and go back. But, instead we got married." Genera's husband was accepted to Boalt Law School at Berkeley. "And I got accepted to the Ph.D. program, in sociology,

at U.C. Berkeley." According to Genera, she was one of two of the first Chicanas to be accepted into the Ph.D. program for sociology at UC Berkeley.

However, up until this point, Genera was not on the path to becoming a counselor.

"Halfway through my Ph.D. program, I realized I couldn't do community college counseling with a Ph.D. in sociology. I always wanted to do counseling when I was at community college. I liked the idea of becoming a counselor because I had been misguided in high school," remembered Genera.

Genera's father came to this country as an undocumented laborer and worked for the Southern Pacific Railroad as a pipe fitter. Her mother was a homemaker who worked as a tomato picker during the summers to pay for her school clothes. Genera was the first person in her family to graduate from high school.

Genera first realized she needed a master's in counseling when she saw a job posting for counseling. So, she dropped out of the Ph.D. program and attended another school for a master's in counseling, while simultaneously working to complete her master's in sociology at Berkeley.

Genera also pioneered many of the programs that Ohlone has to offer. For example, Genera was the first EOPS director and counselor, and she started the transfer center, helped with the creation of the Puente program and, for the last four years, has served as generalist and electronic counselor.

In addition to being a leader on campus, Genera is considered a leader statewide as part of the Latina Leadership Network, whose goals include the promotion of Latinas' educational opportunities. "It's made up of California community colleges' faculty and staff. It's a

professional development group for Latinas in California community colleges state wide," explained Genera.

"I was one of the first participants, 20 years ago, at the first Latina Leadership Network conference held at Southwestern Community College." Genera explained that, at the time, six women Latinas, mostly faculty members, felt there was a vacuum for Latinas professional development. "So, they put together the first leadership conference with workshops and speakers providing leadership development information." According to Genera, the organization over the years has developed leaders among Latina faculty and support staff at community colleges.

At a recent Latina Leadership conference held at Modesto Junior College, Genera was honored for her service to students, community, contributions to the LLN executive

board and was presented with a silver and crystal trophy.

Additionally, Puente program students participated in workshops at this year's LLN conference. For instance, Puente student, Diana Ruiz attended a workshop about teen pregnancy. "The girl had a baby when she was 16, and her parents kept telling her she was a failure and didn't think she was going to make it (through school). But now, she's a counselor with a nice car and a big house," explained Ruiz.

LLN vice president and Ohlone counselor Maria Ramirez said, "She is fiercely for social justice."

Genera reflected, "I've gone through six deans and I've learned something from all of them, and the one thing they all taught me is to maintain my values and morals. And to fight for my principals even when we didn't agree. My bottom line has always been to fight for the integrity of student rights."

Student back from eventful Democratic caucus

By **MICHAEL ABURAS**
Staff writer

"I saw everybody who is running for president, except for Joe Biden of Delaware [Biden was not present]," said former ASOC senator, California Democratic state delegate and political science major Alex Hilke after returning from the California Democratic state convention in San Diego, held April 27 through 29.

As a California Democratic state delegate, Hilke had the chance to attend parties being held by the different caucuses and socialize, one of which was held by none other than California State Treasurer Bill Lockyer. "The Bill Lockyer party was an ice cream social. He was taking pictures with people. He had a photo booth with a red backdrop set up," recalled Hilke.

Another caucus party Hilke attended was the Tri caucus, which was composed of the Black caucus, the Latino caucus and the

Asian caucus. "I had two drinks and listened to all the assembly members thank themselves for putting this thing on," said Hilke.

Hilke also attended the progressive caucus which he said was a nightmare. "Don't let the name fool you. Progressivism is defined as pragmatic liberals. There's nothing pragmatic about them," asserted Hilke. "They wanted single payer, universal health care, which is never going to happen with our current political climate with large insurance companies."

In addition to partying, the 2,000 California delegates caucused to pass 16 of 17 resolutions. The only resolution the delegates were unable to pass was a proposal for an exit strategy from Iraq. "It was the one thing that you'd think we'd all agree upon, but everybody had their own agendas," said Hilke. "One person wanted to get rid of half the language and, in its place, defund the war. Another person wanted to add language to deau-

thorize the war; in effect, to bring the troops home."

Hilke commented that "Everybody wants to bring the troops home, but nobody can agree upon how to do it."

The best part for Hilke was meeting Art Torres, chair of the Democratic state party. "He controls the fate of anybody who aspires to higher office in the state of California," stated Hilke, who, indeed, has future political ambitions, including governor of California.

Hilke explained that the unresolved exit strategy resolution will

be resolved by the executive board of the party in June, or possibly, July. The executive board is composed of one delegate from each district serving as a board member.

"The executive board will vote on the two resolutions: one for deauthorization, the other for defunding," said Hilke.

Hilke explained that on the final day of the convention there was a call for quorum. "Someone called for quorum to stop the first vote because they knew there weren't enough people. It had the effect of a filibuster." Out of 2,000 delegates

present at the start of the caucus, there were only 600 on Sunday. "Please remember it was Sunday and everybody was trying to catch a flight back to their homes. So, everybody was sent home," stated Hilke.

When asked about his choice for president, Hilke responded with Barack Obama. "He's better at connecting with people and more charismatic than [Hillary Clinton] is," said Hilke. "He's able to outline a progressive agenda with a rhetoric more palpable to middle America."

Smith Center plans summer schedule

By **MARGARITA KITOVA**
Staff writer

The final information concerning the Smith Center's Summerfest musical, *Miss Saigon*, has now been released. The production will run July 6 to 7 and 12 to 14 at 8:30 p.m. in the outdoor amphitheater. Tickets will run from \$20 for adults, \$18 for students/staff/seniors and \$15 for children under 12. The Smith Center is also offering dinner tickets to go with the show for about \$5 extra.

Auditioners for *Miss Saigon* reached unprecedented numbers—about 100 singers and actors tried out, more than any Summerfest production in 15 years, said Tom Blank of the drama department. A pop opera written by the same team that wrote *Les Miserables*, *Miss Saigon* retells the Madame Butterfly story set against the backdrop of the Vietnam War.

The lead roles of the production will be played by as follows: Kim- April Labson and Charlene Villareal; Chris- Andrew Surrena and Josh Milbourne; John- Robert Sholty; Ellen- Katy Kaul and Emily Mangone and Engineer- Tony Rodriguez and Lowell Abellon.

Because it is a very difficult score to sing, especially outdoors in the Smith Center's amphitheater, the Smith Center team will help singers not damage their voices by avoiding doing the piece every night.



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