



## Weighing Anchor

By ERIC DORMAN  
News editor

## Live in your own space

When Microsoft spent \$240 million on a 1.6 percent stake in Facebook last week, valuing the social networking site at \$15 billion, I was—to put it mildly—shocked. When the world's most successful software company values a 3-year-old start-up at almost one-fifth of its net worth, one has to wonder whether that start-up is really worth it. And in the case of Facebook and other social networking sites, I'd say it isn't.

At first glance, the deal appears solid. After all, with about 49 million active users and over 15 billion site views per month, Facebook, along with other sites like it, are coveted targets for web advertisers. On campus, I rarely have to look far for that tell-tale glint of blue at the top of computer screens that proves so irresistible to students and so irritating to teachers. Clearly, online social networking sites are well-visited.

But still, sites such as MySpace and Facebook are so inferior to real-world interaction that I find it hard to believe the sites will continue to attract viewers over an extended period of time. Interaction on social networking sites is mainly limited to pictures (usually poor likenesses), comments (generally misspelled and bogged down with excessive emoticons) and sometimes instant messaging.

In contrast, face-to-face communication is aided by actual facial expressions, figures of speech and the ability to actually do things together—be it taking a walk, playing a game, watching a movie or eating out. No matter how hard you argue the point, you'll always have to admit that the world of MySpace is riddled with barriers. As with anything online, social networking eventually boils down to two separate people, on separate computers, communicating separately.

Well, if I think MySpace and Facebook have very little going for them, what do I attribute their success to? I think that for the most part, the popularity of such sites has come from the novelty of them, not the promise of bigger and better experience. When social networking sites came into existence, they had an inherent coolness about them: for the first time, you could easily post content online and access the content that others had posted. You post comments on their page, and they could comment on yours. What could be better?

I can think of plenty. How about chatting with the guy who sits next to you in class about the upcoming test? How about waving to the people you know on campus? How about hanging out with a group of your real, physical, non-electronic friends?

It's those kinds of experiences—not MySpace and Facebook pages—we should be valuing.

# HALO-ween declares a winner



A costume competition was held during the gaming party. Jonathan Loza, above, dressed entirely in duct tape, won the competition. Eli Feriante, left, plays Halo 3 at the 'HALO-ween' video game party hosted by the Ohlone Game Developers Club [OGDC] Wednesday. More than 30 people visited Hyman Hall (HH-116) throughout the day to test their skills on Xbox 360, Playstation 3, and Nintendo's GameCube.

Photos by Andrew Cavette and Daniel Yuan

## Orchestra records CD with trumpeter

By INEZ BLACK  
Staff writer

A full house, a standing ovation and 50 fans crowding the stage with questions for performers Mike Vax, trumpet soloist, the Ohlone Wind Orchestra members and Tony Clements, conductor: who could ask for a better Sunday afternoon at the Smith Center? Actually, the fans bursting onto the stage were a busload of junior high band members from Merced.

The icing on the cake - on Oct. 29, Mike Vax returned to record a CD with the Wind Orchestra for an album of trumpet soloists to be released by Summit Records.

Tom Johnson, recording engineer, stated, "The profits from the album we're recording today with trumpeter Mike Vax will be donated back to the band."

Johnson, adjunct instructor at Ohlone in radio, was the marriage broker for the project.

"He's one of the finest jazz trumpeters on earth. He was Stan Kenton's solo trumpet player for 20 years. That's a league of only five trumpet players on earth...He is an absolute jazz musician that can play at any moment, in any key, any rhythm or melody," continued Johnson.

"A Trumpeter's Lullaby," by Leroy Anderson, arranged by Philip J. Lang and a trumpeter and audience favorite, was performed Oct. 28 and will be on the CD. Anderson was an arranger for Arthur Fiedler and the Boston Pops.

Although Vax has been a jazz performer for 40 years, his roots are in classical music.

Vax said, "This will be a semi-classical album. 'Dramatic Essay' was written for one of my teachers, Don Jacoby. Don Jacoby came to my high school in 1960 when I was a senior and did a solo concert and

clinic, like I did here. That changed my life. He took a liking to me and got me to go to the Stan Kenton summer clinics and really got me started as a pro. I owe him a lot. So, I knew that one of the pieces I wanted to do was Dramatic Essay because it was written for him."

Tony Clements, conductor of the Wind Orchestra stated, "Mr. Vax is a well known and eminent trumpet soloist virtuoso. He has played with virtually every great jazz big band around. He has his own group called Trumpets. He is in demand as a teacher, as a soloist and as a guest artist. We were lucky to have him... We've recorded five pieces tonight. We have four or five more to do."

Vax's non-profit organization, Friends of Big Band Jazz, emphasizes workshops for kids.

"It sponsors everything we do. They raise money so that we can get the bands and the musicians out to the kids. We've given over \$30,000 in scholarships for kids to go to summer music camps. I'm proud of that; it's a wonderful Board [of Directors] that works very hard," Vax continued.

The Wind Orchestra is the only wind orchestra that was invited to play at the Olympics in Beijing in 2008. They declined the invitation due to cost, about \$3,000 for each band member to attend.

Last year, the Ohlone Wind Or-

chestra played at the American Band Masters Convention in San Luis Obispo. Only six bands are invited from across the United States.

Clements said, "Those invitations are very, very difficult to get. When I was in Colorado at the Band Conducting Seminar, people were asking me how to get invited to it, but I couldn't tell them how we were selected."

The Wind Orchestra was invited and will play at the Wind Band Festival in Fresno in March 2008.

Clements is the principal tubist in the San Jose Symphony, now known as Symphony Silicon Valley. His teaching positions include Stanford University, Cal State East Bay and Ohlone College as Director of Bands, in addition to the 50-member Wind Orchestra. Clements also directs the 25-member Tuba Union of the Bay Area.

Vax, a Bay Area resident, leads the Stan Kenton Alumni Band composed of players from the '50s

to '70s. They tour by bus "like in the old days" and sometimes do cruises.

Vax tours the world giving workshops and concerts on trumpet, cornets and flugel horns, primarily at the high school and college level with the sponsorship of Gertzen Company.

In addition, Vax played lead and solo trumpet with the Clark Terry Big Band and the U.S. Navy Show Band. Vax has performed and recorded with such greats as Art Pepper, Al Grey, Freddy Hubbard, Gene Krupa, John Hardy, Glenn Miller and Jimmy Dorsey Orchestras and the Dukes of Dixieland in New Orleans. Vax has recorded over 75 albums, including 20 albums under his own name.

For the complete album or the Ohlone CD, see Amazon.com under Mike Vax collection. The CD of the performance can also be obtained from Clements, band members or at concerts for \$15.

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# Dias de los Muertos in full swing



Photos by Daniel Yuan

**Dias de los Muertos begins today. The traditional ceremony includes an optimistic tribute to the afterlife. An exhibit is on display in the Smith Center until Nov. 9.**


**Devil's Advocate**

 By ANNA NEMCHUK  
 Editor-in-chief

## Desire rules all

Desire. It's what rules every one of us. Every living thing on this earth lives and dies because of it. Yet only humans are ashamed of it.

We invent religions to deal with our desires, build fortresses, don habits and uniforms, leave home, die and kill for it. There is nothing from which humans run as far and as long from as their own desires.

Buddhism teaches that desire must be overcome, neglecting the fact that to do so, one must desire such a thing in the first place.

Christianity and Judaism assert that one should desire god above all things, letting earthly wants be but a stepping stone to spiritual glory, painting the concept of desire at once as unsavory for its own sake and a potential distraction from the one correct desire according to them - closeness to the divine.

What about the desire to live? To live well? To die well? Might I even sneak in a little pursuit of liberty and happiness? What's wrong with wanting to excel, to compete, to pursue, to accomplish, to, at the heart of it all, enjoy?

What is so damn wrong with desire as an end in itself?

Quite a bit, actually. Wanting to eat leads to obesity. Wanting sex leads to debauchery and AIDS. Wanting knowledge leads to disobedience. Wanting a better car leads to global warming and if I buy an SUV, California will fall off into the ocean tomorrow. Wanting peace while shopping leads to ignoring the jingling Santa imposter on the corner collecting money for armless, legless, headless orphans in Botswana, which leads to smouldering guilt on your part, which leads to kicking the dog when he knocks over your tea later, which leads to yelling at your kid, who's upset about the dog, which leads the kid into therapy, which eventually leads you to down a bottle of sleeping pills with a chaser of rat poison when that kid sticks you in a nursing home and you're miserable, sick and alone. With no dog.

Desire just sucks, doesn't it?

Yes. And no. The point is that for better or worse, human beings are given at least the illusion of free choice. Desire is our greatest utensil. In the Photoshop of life, desire is the ultimate Fix tool.

To run from desire is not brave or noble or honorable. It's stupid, cowardly and shortsighted.

The trick is to indulge your desires, whether they be grand and sweeping or seedy and trivial while trying to let everyone else do the same. Otherwise, people's desire to throw your ass in jail might overrule all your desires.

Now if you'll excuse me, my deep, dark lust for another cup of coffee will not be denied.

# Influential director retiring after 30 years

 By **BARRY KEARNS**  
 Staff writer

This December, amid the excitement of the opening of the new Newark Ohlone Campus, the director of facilities, Simon Barros, will be retiring after 30 years of service.

Barros started at Ohlone College on Aug. 17, 1977; he recalled the date because it was the day after Elvis Presley had died. He had applied for a job as an electrician; he then moved up to become a lead, then the assistant director of facilities and, in 1991, he became the director of facilities. Currently, Barros oversees 30 people in the maintenance of the college including custodial, grounds and other trades. He will be retiring on Dec. 27 of this year.

Barros said that between all of his accomplishments, the Newark Ohlone College will be the highlight of his career.

Using the LEED rating system, which stands for Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design,

Barros said that his original goal had been for a gold rating, but his own expectations were surpassed as the building now holds a platinum status. The LEED rating was created by the U.S. Green Building Council and is a benchmark for all aspects of green buildings. Barros has had a role in construction of the building since it was conceived.

While he won't be here to oversee the building of the Student Services Building, he said that he's set up everything so that he can "step back and let someone else finish the project."

When asked about his favorite

part of the job, Barros had no hesitation in saying that it's the people he's been able to work with. He also added that with his position "every day is something new" and that he consistently wakes up looking forward to coming to work.



Photo by Barry Kearns

**Simon Barros is retiring after 30 years with Ohlone.**

When asked about what makes him proud of his time here, Barros said that he is proud of many things, but especially of his staff and what they've accomplished. In his office, he keeps a small collection of antiquities dug up on the grounds, among them some old bottles and doorknobs. In his time at Ohlone, he has also taken many photographs

that have documented the changes and growth of the campus. He remembers the Ohlone campus smaller and has seen many changes, starting in 1994 with the addition of the Smith Center and improvements in the lighting system.

Barros holds degrees in supervisor management and in horticulture. Horticulture had started off as a hobby, but as Barros became more adept in the field, he was able to use his knowledge in the landscaping of the college.

As an electrician, Barros has also worked overseas in Hong Kong with the Navy, the Aleutians and in Vietnam. He also worked in a factory owned by the St. Regis Company for three years before coming to Ohlone. He recalled the stark juxtaposition of the confined working area of the company and how open the Ohlone campus was and said that added much enjoyment to his time here.

As much as he enjoys his work here, Barros also said that he is "most definitely" looking forward to retirement.

# Certainly not 'much ado about nothing'

 By **KATHY SUNG**  
 and **LILA SALINAS**  
 Staff writers

Shakespeare usually brings to mind men in tights and long monologues. However, on Nov. 8-10,

*Much Ado About Nothing* will be presented in a whole new way in the Jackson Theater.

Tickets can be bought from the Smith Center box office by calling 659-6031. Tickets are \$10 for students, seniors and children and

\$12 for general admission.

According to Tom Blank, the director, the play *Much Ado About Nothing* will be given a new look. Although there are some changes to the original play, the actors will be using the same language. However, this is not the original *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Blank has recreated the original Shakespeare play in a new setting in 1906 San Francisco; the original play was set in Italy. The play will

be done with a more modern style to create a "visual world" for the audience, using a variety of lighting and sound effects. Blank said that there is "no Shakespeare language in the first two minutes of the play."

A popular comedy of Shakespeare, this version will have "a little extra comedy to it." He said that this version of *Much Ado About Nothing* is "Shakespeare with a shot of espresso" and he wants to "encourage the whole college to come and see it." The play is a combination of unique talents including stage managers, costume designers, scene designers, actors and many more.

Stacey Lynn Bell will be playing the part of Hero. Wes Walters will play Claudio. Patrick Hilt will play Benedick. Jackie Tebow will play Ursula. Bobby August will play Don Pedro. Bohn Kerns will play Don John. Tabitha McBride and Heidi Burns will both play Beatrice.

## Meeting for Sydney

Professor George Rodgers will lead a trip to Sydney, Australia to occur next fall. There will be an informational meeting concerning the study abroad program on Nov. 7 at 5 p.m. in Room 5209.

The program offers a variety of courses for participating students including classes in the disciplines of anthropology, art history, geography, political science and English. Students will have the opportunity to explore Australian culture while staying with host families and taking regular excursions.

For more information on the program, go to [www.ohlone.edu/org/studyabroad/sydney](http://www.ohlone.edu/org/studyabroad/sydney). Interested parties should contact Rodgers at (510) 659-6257 or at [grodgers@ohlone.edu](mailto:grodgers@ohlone.edu).

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