

Speaker praises 'Lost' portrayal of Arabs

By **KYLE STEPHENS**
Staff writer

Speaker Zaki Hasan gave a presentation on Arab Muslims in the post-9/11 world to a full room of attendees on Friday, April 18.

The main topic of the speech was Hasan's master's thesis in film production and media arts at San Jose State University, which held that the character Sayid Jarrah of the television show "Lost" provides commentary on Arab Muslims' portrayal in U.S. media, by both conforming and denying stereotypes.

Hasan opened by asking the audience what came to mind when he said "Muslim" and "Arab," and further posed the question of what it meant to be both in America. Both of those distinctions are applicable to Hasan; he's taken a personal and academic interest in these stereotypes in America. "We tend to take stereotypes lightly when they don't apply to us," said Hasan.

Early inspiration for his subject came from the 1986 Chuck Norris action film, "The Delta Force." As Hasan explained, the plot revolves around a group of Lebanese terrorists hijacking a commercial flight. The stereotypes of Middle Easterners being barbaric, bloodthirsty terrorists, said Hasan, were all too apparent in the film. What provided jarring context to the fictional events of the film were the real-life ones of 9/11, which took place three days after Hasan saw the film for the first time.

From there, Hasan's presentation turned to the media. Many of us don't necessarily have the luxury or courage to outright ask questions about the Muslim faith or other topics of the Arab world, he noted, so we often only have media stereotypes to draw from.

When "Lost" premiered in September 2004, and with it the character of Sayid, Hasan waited for many of the known stereotypes to manifest. He wondered "when

will they reveal the real bad stuff" - in other words, add negative traits to his character to overshadow the good ones - and if not, "when will he get killed off?"

Sayid has not been killed thus far in the series, and in the interim he "is portrayed as a complex, compelling character, a sympathetic Iraqi." This is a very deliberate choice on behalf of the shows' producers, said Hasan.

In playing certain clips from "Lost," Hasan demonstrated some of the commentative dynamics between the characters and the greater groups they represent. Hasan praised "Lost" as "a show that's willing to tackle our notions of good and bad."

Prior to "Lost," no practicing Muslim had been shown consistently on American TV.

Research for the topic, by Hasan's own reckoning, was the best part: sitting down and watching every episode of "Lost" available at the time of his writing the thesis.



Photo by Pei Ju Chen

Zaki Hasan spoke on the portrayal of Arabs in the media at the Brown Bag Friday.

What we see in the media shapes our perception of reality, providing a surrogate source of experience for what we lack, said Hasan. Seeing truthful, non-disingenuous portrayals of minorities of all kinds is a step on the way to greater equality.

Hasan closed with saying that with the recent birth of his firstborn, he hoped that in the face of decreasing ignorance and increasing awareness of what it means to be Muslim and/or Arabic, the world would be a better one to live in.

College aims to bring out green in students

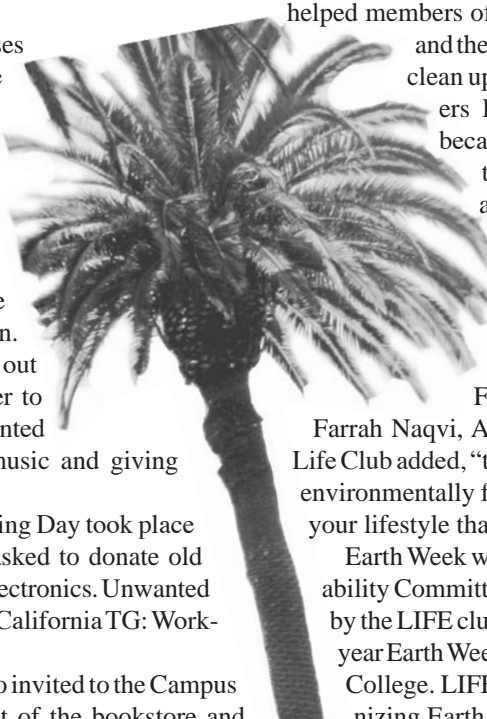
Continued from Page 1

described their "green" businesses and groups. Groups that were represented included AC transit, Union Sanitary District, Bay Area Green Business, Greeniacs, the City of Fremont and Life GSA.

According to Feliciano, this was his favorite event because it provided the most information. Students were encouraged to fill out an Earth Week Survey and enter to win prizes. Live 105 was represented at the Palm Bosque, playing music and giving away free gifts.

E-Waste and Clothing Recycling Day took place on Wednesday. Students were asked to donate old batteries, cell phones and smart electronics. Unwanted clothes were donated to Campus California TG: Working together for a better world.

Wednesday, students were also invited to the Campus Clean Up; students met in front of the bookstore and



helped members of the Sustainability Committee and the Environmental Science classes clean up the campus. Feliciano considers Earth Week a success mostly because "we've definitely put the thought into people's heads about being environmentally friendly and taking care of the environment."

"Earth Week couldn't have been a success without ASOC and Life Club," said Feliciano.

Farrah Naqvi, ASOC senator and president of Life Club added, "there's so much you can do to be environmentally friendly and not have to change your lifestyle that much."

Earth Week was normally run by the Sustainability Committee, but was mostly run this year by the LIFE club and ASOC. This is the second year Earth Week has been celebrated at Ohlone College. LIFE club and ASOC plan on organizing Earth Week again next year.

Former 'Idol' to sing

By **ANDREW LE**
Staff writer

Former American Idol contestant Frenchie Davis will be speaking on new methods of paying for college Thursday. But she won't necessarily be advocating her own path.

Davis, 28, was kicked off "American Idol" in 2003 after risqué pictures of an adult nature surfaced, featuring a 19-year-old Davis. When questioned about the reasons behind her appearance in www.daddyslittlegirls.com, where "the girls have all grown up...and the boys have come to play," Davis responded "[to raise money] for college."

Although not advocating the erotic photography route to support one's higher education, Davis will discuss her own college fund-raising experiences at the seminar, which will take place today from 11 a.m. to noon in Room 6106. Also speaking about their choices will be Director of Campus Activities Debbie Trigg and Director of Financial Aid Deborah Griffin.

After the seminar Davis, along with a number of bands, will sing in the outdoor amphitheater.

According to ASOC Treasurer Kevin Feliciano, the purpose of paying Davis \$1,500 to speak and perform at Rock the Hill was to "garner a diversity of experiences." With the presentation of different speakers, students will be exposed to an expansive spectrum of ways people pay their way through college.

EPA honors Newark campus

Continued from Page 1

used to build the new Student Services Center at the Fremont campus, as well as other improvements around that campus.

Of the many earth-friendly elements on the Newark campus, most notable is the solar panel array, one of the largest in Silicon Valley. The array provides at least 30 percent of

the energy needs for the campus.

In addition to solar power, the campus is also making use of geothermal heating and cooling. These thermal coils are buried in the ground and contain a 26-mile closed system through which water is pumped. On a hot summer day, the earth beneath the ground is quite a bit cooler and the water is pumped

up through the building to help cool it. The campus has a capacity of 3,500 student.

These students will be able to take classes for nursing, respiratory therapy and biotechnology along with general education classes, meant to reduce the carbon footprint of transportation between campuses.

Browning selected

Continued from Page 1

determines whether any program improvements or reviews are needed. SLO is especially important for students, as it tests the students' level of preparation for the outside world.

Also discussed during the meeting was the Frontage Property. Jim Eller of the San Jose-based firm

Eller and Associates provided updates on his talks with developers. Eller said he met with prospective developers to ascertain levels of interest in the development, as well as to try to understand the developers' issues and interests.

Board Member Nick Nardolillo said it was encouraging that even in today's economy and mortgage industry, there are developers still interested in putting money into such a substantial development.

In an effort to minimize paper use, last night's Board meeting was conducted using laptops from the Innovation Technology Center. Dean of Learning Resources and Academic Technology/Distance Education Lesley Buehler said it was to "encourage people to go green."

The next Board of Trustees meeting will be May 7. Among the items to be discussed is the Technology Master Plan.

A biography of Dr. Gari Browning's career history can be read at: www.ohlone.edu/org/president/search/finalistbio-browning.html.

MISSION PIZZA
1572 Washington Blvd.
Fremont
Ohlone Village Center
651-6858

**LIVE MUSIC
FRIDAY AND
SATURDAY
NIGHTS**

**32 Micro Brew
and Import Beers
on Tap!**

DOUBLE COUPONS DAYS SUNDAY THROUGH TUESDAY

<p>\$3 OFF ANY LARGE PIZZA Good for up to 4 Pizzas SAVE \$6-\$9-\$12</p>	<p>\$2 OFF ANY MEDIUM PIZZA Good for up to 4 Pizzas SAVE \$4-\$6-\$8</p>	<p>\$1 OFF ANY SMALL PIZZA Good for up to 4 Pizzas SAVE \$2-\$3-\$4</p>	<p>FREE SMALL PIZZA Buy A Large Pizza And Get A Small Pizza FREE. Equal Toppings Or Less. Not valid for double coupon.</p>
---	---	--	---

With coupon. Not valid with other offers. www.valpak.com There are more savings online for you™ ©Valpak®, 7/2005. Advertise with Valpak Bay Area, Inc., (925) 254-9636 358302.3846