



The view
from here

By ANDREW LE
Features editor

No hope just fear

I heard John McCain lost Tuesday night via a classmate's text message while I was in class. Except I didn't hear that John McCain lost, I was just told Obama won.

The people in class were happy; with the "good news" passed around like an elementary school game of telephone

I do not think it surprised anyone particularly; McCain's concession was just the confirmation of a long-established expectation. Obama had offered a gospel of change that people flocked to as if it were the Eucharist.

But I do not share everyone's enthusiasm, I do not believe in his undefined hopes and dreams, I've seen documentaries on Jonestown and I can sense the Kool-Aid before I drink it. When McCain saw Vladimir Putin's eyes, all he saw was KGB. Putin murders reporters and assassinates political officials; he is a totalitarian that wants to create an alternative power to America. China is growing in influence and is the source of 90 percent of weapons used in the Sudanese genocide.

In response to this, Obama is expected to utilize the United Nations and said in 2007 that he wanted to "rededicate itself to the organization and [the United Nation's] mission." Theoretically the United Nations should combine the resources and intelligence of the countries involved to find a combined solution.

But when Sarajevo went under siege for four years, with Bosnians being forced into rape camps and ethnically cleansed, the UN did nothing. When 800,000 Tutsis were being slaughtered by the Hutus, the UN withdrew. When the Phalangist militiamen slaughtered the Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatalia refugee camps, the UN in response... offered a casualty count. Time and again the United Nations have proved themselves unwilling to use the resources at their disposal to stop these crimes against humanity and now Obama wants to dedicate us to their mission of impotence?

Our enemies are not like the Soviet Union, who at least could be reasoned with. McCain understood that our new enemies could not be "talked to;" he was a Cold War warrior who brought us through a time when we had to live with the possibility of nuclear annihilation every day. Obama does not understand realpolitik; he is an idealist. He wants to try to reason with an enemy that knows no reason, with the "support" of an impotent United Nations.

With Obama's election, it seems as if the nation has been reinvigorated with hopes and dreams. But I don't have that; all that's left for me is fear.

Clubs weigh in on election of Bara



MEChA

"I am ecstatic that Obama is president. His campaign was very strong and consistent. I do respect McCain, especially with his history – all those years as a prisoner of war – and his struggles. He gives people hope."

—Esmeralda Leon, President
Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlan



GSA

"I think we're all really happy and content with Obama as President. If McCain had won, the entire club would have been pretty upset – we're all hardcore Obama supporters."

—Timothy Thu, Treasurer
Gay-Straight Alliance



MSA

"I feel the majority for Obama. We're in... ing policy, kind of li... rich and giving to th... happy with him tak... Iraq and Afghanistan... money for a better"

Ohlone's 'Muay Thai Tong'

By JACQUE ORVIS
Staff writer

"It's showtime."

That's what was going through Leland Tong's mind when he entered the boxing ring to fight in a regional Muay Thai competition in Thailand during the summer of 2007.

A long-time spectator of the Thai martial art similar to kickboxing, Tong not only made a trip to Thailand to train with the pros; he got the chance of a lifetime to compete alongside Thai kickboxers.

Tong had always been a fan of Muay Thai, which is similar to Western kickboxing, although allowing elbow and knee strikes as well as the holding of the opponent. In high school, he played football and wrestled. "I always liked contact sports," said Tong, "I guess Muay Thai [is] just an extension." When asked why he didn't continue football or wrestling after high school, Tong said that he "wasn't big enough to play football, and outside of high school it's hard to stick with wrestling unless you go on to compete in college; I wasn't good enough for that."

So, when Tong began his college career in Palos Verdes at Marmount College, studying psychology, before going to Ohlone, he was happy to find a local gym that teaches Muay Thai, called Harbor Kickboxing. "It was something that I had always



Photo courtesy of Leland Mitchell Tong

Leland Tong warms up for a fight

wanted to do.... It was the perfect opportunity to start learning it," said Tong. "It was just my luck that there was a good Muay Thai gym within walking distance from my dorm." Tong was motivated.

And that motivation took Tong online, where he got the idea to go to Thailand. "For me it's a sport; a hobby. But, for the people of Thailand it's a livelihood." Tong had "decided to go to Thailand to get a feel for what it was like there."

In Thailand, it's very common to begin training in Muay Thai at age 8 or 9, because the competition is intense, and many children don't have many other choices for a future. "The country is so poor,"

said Leland. "The airfare cost more than living there for a month."

While in Thailand, Tong stayed at a Muay Thai training camp in the Phuket region called Rawai Muay Thai. Most of his time was spent training, but he did have downtime to tour the local area, try the food and to go to the beach.

After some time, he was invited to fight in the Phuket regional competition. "Basically, you have to show through your training that you are fit enough to compete and that your technique is good. A matchmaker [then] comes to observe and arrange a fight between someone of equal level from another gym," said Tong.

Then came the butt kicking. Leland performed the traditional pre-fight dance before making his way to his corner of the boxing ring at Patong Stadium in Thailand. "I did my best to project an aura of confidence," said Tong, "and for a split second, I saw fear in [my opponent's] eyes.

"Then the first bell rang and the fight began. For three grueling rounds my opponent and I went back and forth trading punches, kicks, knees, and elbows. Each time either one of us landed a blow, I could hear the crowd roar with approval. At one point, I trapped my opponent in the corner of the ring and landed two elbows and a knee. The crowd went crazy."

According to Tong, kick boxers are trained to withstand intense fighting. Thinking that the experience is dreamlike, Leland felt little pain when stricken three times in the stomach by his opponent's knee. "By the end of the third round I was exhausted," said Tong, remembering his defeat as the referee stopped the fight. "I left the ring feeling really disappointed in myself. But as I walked back towards the dressing room, I noticed the crowd was applauding me."

In the next day's newspaper, Tong was titled "highlight fighter of the night" for his performance. In retrospect, Tong said, "either way, a loss is a loss, and I will fight again to earn a win next time."

Bonnie Zhu fulfills 'American Dream'

By FARNOOSH VAHEDI
Staff writer

Bonnie Zhu, the new payroll accountant is also the latest addition to Ohlone's staff. Zhu was originally from Mainland China before she immigrated to the USA with her family at the age of 20. Before working for Ohlone's human resources department, Zhu had worked at various firms.

When asked about how she feels about working at Ohlone, Zhu re-

sponded by saying that even though it's harder to work at an educational institution, she enjoys it more than her previous jobs. Zhu said this is because of the human resource department and the natural beauty of Ohlone's campus.

When asked about how she feels about leaving her homeland at the age of 20, she replied by saying that even though she still misses China and her friends to this very day, Zhu is still glad she came to the USA.

Zhu feels that there are better opportunities here, and said she admires the American education system for offering more critical thinking that encourages the students to think outside the box.

When asked about what the most interesting thing that has ever happened in her life was, she responded that it was the way she met her husband.

Zhu and her future husband both went to high school together in China and one day when Bonnie

was looking up her old classmates on a Chinese education website to get in touch with them, she ended up getting back in touch with her old classmate, a man who she would later fall in love with and then marry.

Due to the fact that he was in Japan at the time, they had to pursue their relationship online. In 2004 they tied the knot.

Zhu is now expecting her third child with her husband in December.

Push Obama to highest office in land



of Muslims are in favor of his tax-taking from the poor. And we're pulling troops out of Iraq and using the money for the cause."

—Manal Bejaoui, President
Muslim Student Association

Speech



"I'm happy that Obama won; that's who I voted for. He's the 'change candidate.' We're done with Bush. If McCain had won, I would have been a little disappointed that America didn't even have the balls to elect a black president."

—Michaela Devine, President
Speech Club

Health



"I'm really happy that Obama won. He's leading the nation in the right direction. If McCain would have won, I would have been really disappointed."

—Khushboo Chabria, President
Health Care Coalition



Weighing Anchor

By ERIC DORMAN
Editor-in-chief

New day for U.S.

Tuesday, the sun came out. Yes, the weather might have looked dark, but the energy in the air wasn't the kind you can see. You could feel it, though.

It was optimism, borne of the knowledge that we have chosen as a leader a man who holds a real chance at getting this country back on track. It was confidence, assurance that we have elected a leader who has the skills to lead us through these tough times.

It was hope, hope that America can once again lead the world by example.

Over the past eight years we've seen a decreasing disconnect between Main Street and Washington, a disconnect that stems from the deaf ears the Bush administration has turned to the voice of the people over the past eight years. This election, which has featured record campaign contributions and record voter turnout, could spell an end to that dangerous disconnect.

It isn't hard to imagine Americans everywhere feeling this sort of hope and optimism on Nov. 5, 1932, after choosing FDR as the next president of the United States. Times were tough economically, as they are now, and the country was being led by an unpopular president. The man they had elected was young, confined to a wheelchair and relatively untested, but the American people had enough faith in his ability to bring about positive change to elect him. The result was one of the greatest presidencies America has seen.

Today, we stand as a country that faces great challenges. Abroad, we have controversial military presences in what seems to be an increasingly unstable world. At home, we face the greatest economic crisis since the Great Depression. As a planet, our ice caps are melting and sea levels are rising.

These are extraordinary times, and no ordinary president will suffice.

It's true that our next president is untried in many ways. He's new to Washington and new to the world of politics. But he's experienced in areas that transcend politics and will prove ultimately more important in a complex world. Growing up in Indonesia, he knows what it's like to live in a U.S.-occupied nation. Raised by a single mother, he understands the financial hardships of making ends meet. As a scholar, he understands the energy crisis we face. At last, we have a president who understands the challenges of today's world and isn't afraid to take bold steps toward fixing them. It won't be easy, but we have elected a man who has the skills, the stamina and the determination for the job.

America will not regret the choice of Barack Obama.

Farshid Namei and Cynthia Lee steal show with their professor Jian Wu

By ANNA BIARITZ ROLDAN
Staff writer

Ohlone expounded its artistic credentials as students Farshid Namei, Cynthia Lee and their instructor Jian Wu took part in the annual exhibition hosted by the National Oil and Acrylic Painter's Society by mailing in their work and each won an award.

Jian Wu, instructor of both winners also happened to have entered the competition. Wu won an award for "Best in Show." This is the third time Wu has won an award for "Best Use of Light and Color" award in 2005 and 2007. Wu explained that the 2008 exhibit was NOAPS's 18th annual national fine arts exhibit.

The jury process involved five highly qualified jurors viewing about 550 slides and digital images submitted by more than 225 artists. The jury selected 80 paintings by 75 artists. The opening and awards reception were held on Sept. 28 at Ella Carothers Dunnegan Gallery (Bolivar, Missouri). The competition is a nationwide event, supposedly for professional artists.

Wu found out about the competition online and eventually decided to join. So far he has won four awards this year from various events. He said, "This is the top award for the event and also by far the biggest award I've been awarded in years. I am very proud, and encouraged. I feel that I am ready to go further and step up." Wu won \$5,000, the highest cash prize for this competition (\$100 is the lowest).

Awards judge for this competition was Tom Tierney, Co-Publisher of the Art of the West Magazine. The event began last July when people submitted their pieces in digital format. The competition ended in September and contestants were notified about a month after. Those accepted had to bring their pieces in to be hung and judged.

Art student Lee was very happy



Photo by Anna Biaritz Roldan

Farshid Namei and Cynthia Lee stand next to their teacher Jian Wu.

to have won an award for creativity for her piece entitled "Dancing Upon the Cloud." Lee took a picture from an airplane and created a painting from that. She worked on her piece for about half a year, but claims that she did not put as much effort into it as classmate Namei did, which gave her more reason to be thrilled of the idea that she won. Lee enjoys painting landscapes and is planning to join the competition again.

Namei, who has been a student here for four years now - turned away from her former life of working as a financial planner for Wells Fargo in year 2004 - said that winning felt great. Winning made her feel like she's on the right track. Namei's piece "Re-Birth of Venus," a portrait of one of Ohlone's

students (Eden Robinson) that she painted during a summer semester here at Ohlone, was awarded for excellence. Namei said that it probably took her about 30 to 35 hours to paint her painting, which is also the same number of hours she usually puts into her paintings. Namei said that it has been her goal to be a studio artist and winning made her feel like she truly has made the right decision to be an artist.

At the Green House Gallery, Salon International Namei's piece was top 50 out of 12,000 other entries. Namei was given a \$100 cash prize but according to her, "the money is not as important as the feeling of winning." She said that there were a lot of famous artists who joined. It's her second time entering the competition. Her piece was chosen

but didn't make the cut. Although that piece did not win, she was able to sell it for \$1,800.

Namei is fond of painting faces with interesting features. She is known for her paintings of children but would also love to paint older people. Namei is looking forward to entering more competitions, and in fact last Oct. 25 Namei was informed that her piece was selected for yet another competition, this time one for American Women Artist. She's glad she was chosen, especially because her piece was one of just 29 others.

The next competition will open next year. Jian Wu said, "Get prepared for 2009. It is a very good experience for professional artists as well as beginners like students at Ohlone."