



Vaguely
necessary

By JAPNEET
KAUR
Photo editor

Sikhs left off the list

About two weeks have passed since President Obama delivered his powerful inaugural address to a global audience. Everyone probably found one thing in his speech that spoke powerfully to them, that hooked them and pulled them in. Unfortunately, some of us allowed one little thing that didn't sit right with us to drown out every other message. I'm talking about the quote that is now infamous in online forums and message boards - "We are a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus — and non-believers." To my great disappointment, members of my religious community — the Sikh community — had only one thing to say in the aftermath of the inauguration.

"Why didn't he mention us?"

It's true that Sikhs have generally been either ignored or misunderstood for centuries — but neither are we the only religion in that situation, nor does that mean we should demand to be included in everything. So he didn't specifically mention us by name, but weren't we included when Obama said, "We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this Earth"?

The significance of our faith is not decreased because one person neglected to mention it among others — even if that person is President of the United States. We should take it in stride and move on. This applies to every faith; I know Sikhs aren't the only ones upset about not being mentioned.

Besides, what do we expect? If our religion was not named and we demand for it to be, other religions have the same right. Should Obama have spent half of his speech listing the faiths of the world? Buddhism, Sikhism, Juche, Spiritism, Baha'I, Shinto, Jainism, Cao Dai, Zoroastrianism, Tenrikyo, Animism, Neo-Paganism, Unitarian-Universalism, Rastafarianism, Scientology, Wicca, indigenous and tribal religions, and who knows how many others?

I will probably receive a letter from an indignant reader next week, asking why I didn't include their religion in my list above.

I'm pretty disappointed in my community for being so short-sighted. I know where everyone is coming from, and how it feels to be left out of the count nearly every single time. Because of a small statement in a beautiful speech, however, we've even forgotten the efforts made by Obama during his campaign to reach out to the Sikh community.

I reach out now to my own community and other religious communities who have taken this personally. Don't hold something like this against someone who has stood for, among other things, a unity among diverse cultures and faiths.

A class for job in entertainment

By DEVERY SHEFFER
Staff writer

Death-defying heights, booming music and flashing lights, it is all a part of a job known as rigging. Ohlone's new rigging teacher has an extensive resume including three years of the Super Bowl's halftime shows, (including 2004, the year Janet Jackson "accidentally" flashed us.) He went along on a few rock tours including Pink Floyd's "The Wall" tour in the early '80s, known for its dramatic staging. His name is Rocky Paulson; he is well known and respected in the industry. He established Stage Rigging Inc. in 1977, setting the industry's standards. Since he sold his company in 2000, he has spent his time rock climbing and teaching rigging classes and seminars all over the world: Germany, Japan, and Las Vegas Nevada, just to name a few, Ohlone is now the newest addition to that list.

Rigging is a key element to the entertainment world. If you were to look up at a rock concert or any other type of event, you would see large lights and speakers dangling from the ceiling. It is the rigger's job to safely suspend (or "fly" as it is known in the industry) heavy lighting and sound equipment for events, shows and programs and then bring it back down in the end. They must know where to hang certain equipment according to the weight and at what angle for the necessities of the show. Lights and speakers are attached to a truss that is lifted up by chain hoists.

Some of a rigger's job is done on the ground like the rest of us, but the rest is spent up in the air hooking up equipment.

Riggers are notorious for their death-defying occupation done at great heights. Rigging is important to all parts of the entertainment industry, not just shows for stadiums



Photo by Tomás Ortega

Rocky Paulson holds a cable fitting used in rigging work.

and arenas. Matt O'Donnell, head of Entertainment Design and Technology of Ohlone's theater department, "highly encourage[s] anyone to take this course" to see the technical side of the entertainment business, an industry that tends to thrive during economic down turns.

The course teaches Ohlone students the fundamentals and safety techniques of rigging. Students get hands-on experience with equipment like chain hoists. Students will set up the grounds support for a show at Ohlone's outdoor amphitheater. The class will also be taking a field trip to Paulson's former company,

Stage Rigging Inc. to see what it is like first-hand when a worker falls from great heights and how the protection system catches them.

This exciting course can lead to an even more exciting career, and the fact that it is being taught by Paulson makes it all the better. Paulson described his choice to teach at Ohlone as an "interesting opportunity to teach my craft to future professionals." In this class you will find a variety of students, including the San Francisco and San Jose union head, along with Ohlone's own professional staff members, all of whom want to be taught by the

best. Unlike other courses offered at Ohlone, this class is not offered every semester. Whether or not Paulson will return to teach again is uncertain. Previous teachers include an Ohlone alumni's, Doug Cattaneo, who is senior member of IATSE (International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees).

If you are interested in taking this class, it is Monday nights from 6:30 to 9 a.m. in Room SC120, The course is TD178. It is a requirement for the following certificates, Stage Craft, Theatrical and TV Lighting Technician, and Movie Lighting Technician.

Kirshner to judge Obama letters

By ZUNERA SYED
Staff writer

Professor Alan Kirshner is commonly known for teaching political science and history at Ohlone College. This semester, he'll also be taking on another job: judging for a contest called "Dear President Obama."

In this contest children send President Obama a message about something that interests or concerns them. The contest was started by Umair Khan, the creator of secretbuilders.com. It is an educational website for children ages 5 through 14. According to secretbuilders.com,

"children will explore virtual lands, undertake quests, play games, maintain a home, nurture a pet, and interact with their friends."

Since Khan knew Professor Kirshner from a chess club he runs at Weibel Elementary School, he asked Kirshner to volunteer as a judge. The contest ends on Feb. 8.

The winner's message will be printed in the Huntington Press and other various newspapers. The winner will also receive a cash prize of \$1,000. Professor Kirshner will be judging to see how much creativity there is and also how informed the contestant is. The contest will be judged by two other professors;

one being from Harvard and the other is from Yale. The contest will be judged online. The judges will communicate through SecretBuilders and will be judged on Presidents Day weekend.

In addition to judging the competition, the sixth Edition of Kirshner's textbook "In The Course Of Human Events" is now available. In his new textbook, a ninth chapter is also included. The ninth chapter gives a much more detailed analysis of the National and State Judiciary System. The textbook uses his essays as well as photographs. This way, he can teach using his personal ideas and experience.

The previous edition came out in fall of 2005 so he decided it was time to update the textbook. He has been using the same textbook for more than 15 years. He removed all the chapters that he did not write to significantly decrease the cost of the book for the students.

Students can now read the standard political science chapters online at a special website developed for the political science course by Pearson for free. The textbook consists of essays about the standard American Government subject matter with the touch of Kirshner's teaching style. The book is being used this semester.

Winter concert, classic sounds

By NICOLE JOHNSON
Features editor

The Fremont Symphony Orchestra will be kicking off this semester's Smith Center performance lineup with its winter concert, which will be held this Saturday at 8 p.m. in the Jackson Theater.

The performance will feature a

piece composed by violinist Mark Volkert. Volkert has been an Assistant Concertmaster of the San Francisco Symphony since 1972. According to www.su-music.com, Volker is a composer, that has received commissions from many organizations, including the San Francisco Symphony, Marin Symphony, Stanford String Quartet,

and the Monterey Bay Aquarium." Volkert graduated from Stanford University and is an "expert in composition and performance of salon and operetta styles."

The Orchestra will also cover the Overture to the Flying Dutchman by Wagner, and Symphony No. 4, Brahms' final symphony. Tickets will be sold at the Box Office.

The cost for tickets will be \$48 for adult section A and \$43 for adult section B. Full-time students with an ID and children under 12 are \$20. The Box Office is open an hour before the show starts as well as noon-7 p.m. from Tuesday through Thursday. It will also be open from noon to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.



Photo courtesy of Ohlone

The Smith Center will feature a variety of art exhibits this semester. Top, in Jeff Neugebauer's 'In Your Image,' a man shares a drink with a distant cousin. Below, a woman is swarmed by birds.

Artists kick off Smith season

By ANNA BIARITZ ROLDAN
Staff writer

Another new year has come and Ohlone's art department is all booked and ready for another artsy semester.

Starting off the semester is Artist and UC Berkeley professor Jan Wurm, who will showcase his art work at the Louie Meager Smith Center Art Gallery, where his pieces will be accompanied by a group of art professors from all over the Bay Area. The showcase will be focused on distinct and assorted ways of illustrating the human form, which was chosen precisely to match what Ohlone's figure drawing class and art appreciation students' focus on this semester.

"The showcase should be a treat for our students," said Art and Art History Professor, Kenney Mencher, for it will allow the students to get up close to professors from their prospect colleges they plan to transfer to. These include professors from Santa Clara University, UC Davis, UC Berkeley and, the Art Academy in San Francisco. Participants are Bryce Vinokurov, Christian Fagerlund, Claire Thor-

son, Christine Hanlon, Dave Pace, Don Fritz, Jan Wurm, Jeff Neugebauer, Jody Mattison, Judy Bonzi, Mary Andersen, Masako Miki, Paddy Moran, Pancho Jimenez, Rachel Lazo, Rob Anderson and Tom Hughes. Mencher also said it would be great for the students to view samples of art pieces from the instructors themselves.

This showcase, entitled "People," could be interesting to all kinds of art enthusiasts, since the art pieces all portray people in different ways. It uses of all kinds of material from charcoal to watercolor to even oil paints. Some examples are Jeff Neugebauer's oil on linen art piece entitled "In Your Image." This piece shows a man drinking with a monkey. Private instructor, Tom Hughes' oil painting on panel piece shows a seated redheaded woman who's naked with her back showing. The showcase includes San Francisco Art Academy instructor Christine Hanlon's mixed media piece entitled "After the Session" and more.

The showcase will run from Jan. 5 - Feb. 2. The reception will be on Saturday, Feb. 7 from 7 to 8 p.m. which will be on the same day of the opening of the Fremont Sym-



phony Winter Concert of "Wagner, Brahms, and More."

Other shows coming up are the well-acclaimed Voices of London which features four performers of classical music from five centuries -showing on Feb. 20 at 8 p.m. Kres Merky as Isadora Duncan will play on Friday, April 3, 8 p.m. and the accomplished musician, composer, and vocalist Jay Sotto, whose music

has been featured on TV shows like "Sex and the City" and "All About Us" will be performing on April 17, 8 p.m.

These performances and many more from the Chops Jazz band, Fremont Symphony, Student Repertory theater, II, Jazz/Rock Combo, Wind Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra will be showing from May through to the end of the semester.

Ohlone business class goes global

By ISAAC WEST
Staff writer

In today's global economy, careers don't always stay within country lines. Director of International Programs and Services Eddie West, along with Business Professor Chris Bolt, aims to offer students an opportunity to expand their international business skills with two new international business courses.

This upcoming fall, Introduc-

tion to International Business will be available. Introduction to international Marketing will likely be offered for the first time in Spring 2010 as well.

Bolt will teach in both of these courses.

The creation of these new courses, was made possible by a grant that Ohlone was awarded last year, by the U.S. Department of Education. It's a Business and International Education (BIE) grant, and it's for just over \$160,000. The

International Programs and Services office helped win the grant. It will also help us fund the development of student and faculty exchange opportunities in China, among other objectives.

"Following the establishment of [these courses], we'd like to create a new Associate's degree in International Business," said West.

"Personally, I'd also like to see us tie in Ohlone's environmental sustainability efforts (i.e. the Newark campus) with our international

business efforts, and create opportunities for students to learn about sustainable (aka 'green') international business practices."

"Students can effectively make progress toward earning it right now, by earning credits in some of the existing Ohlone Courses that are part of it, such as Career Communication and Intercultural Communication, which are both being offered this spring and usually are offered on an ongoing basis," said West.



Weighing
Anchor

By ERIC
DORMAN
Editor-in-chief

Real fix for budget

Suppose you knew a person who spent more than they earned, year after year. Then suppose the economy hit a rough patch, their pay got sliced, their bills went up, and in response, they...did absolutely nothing about it. And when the time came to pay the bills they now had no money for, their answer was...to issue IOUs and hope for a better job, without actually seeking one. What would you call their style of money management?

"Fiscal irresponsibility," "Vegas style" and "what money management?" would all be acceptable answers. Unfortunately, here in California, it's known simply as "business as usual."

Starting last Sunday, the state, facing a \$42 billion shortfall over the next year and a half and dire shortage of cash, was forced to commence issuing IOUs in lieu of payments for many of its bills. The catalyst that brought about this dire situation was a series of events beyond California's control; the economic downturn dipped into revenues while the credit freeze left the state unable to borrow the money it needs to operate. But the toxic brew that allowed that catalyst to work with such devastating consequences—a fiscal policy based upon mortgaging the future rather than balancing the budget—still exists, and is certainly within our control. And until we can neutralize that mixture with a dedication to fiscal responsibility, we will continue to face crises like our current situation.

In the larger scheme of things, most troubling dilemma our state faces is not our cash shortfall; I believe these IOUs will have an appreciable downward effect on our legislators' approval ratings that will be inversely matched by their sudden willingness to find some sort of an immediate solution. Rather, the ugliest beast California faces is a shortfall of flexibility. Constitutionally, we've set so many funding requirements in stone that we are left with almost no flexibility when the money starts running short. Couple that with a legislature made up of Republicans who are unwilling to raise taxes and Democrats who refuse to cut spending, and it isn't too hard to see where this budget impasse was born.

Like diet and exercise, raising taxes and cutting spending are the only steps we can take that will truly cure what ails us. Also like diet and exercise, those are two tasks that none of us want to do. However, if we want to implement a long-term fix to our budget crisis—and as the current and future inhabitants of the state, we should—our legislature needs to make good to us a check in the form of real, bold and painful steps toward a balanced budget.

An IOU isn't good enough.