High-schoolers strut their theatrical stuff at Ohlone

Charles Tuttle

Staff writer

On the Friday and Saturday before Spring Break, an army of 800 high school thespians invaded Ohlone. This onslaught of actors was equipped with an arsenal of flowing verbs, amplified movements, and sweeping melodies and harmonies.

March 20 and 21 was the Ohlone College High School Theatre Festival, an event that brought high school students from 24 schools all over the Bay Area, some coming from as far away as Salinas. The festival is the largest of its kind in Northern California and has been happening at the Ohlone campus for 21 years. The dedicated staff includes more than 100 judges, 30 high school teachers, and 60 of Ohlone’s own staff and students to coordinate the events.

Many of the judges are professionals who seek to improve and critique the works of the students they grade and witness at the festival.

Motivation is provided in the form of numerous awards offered in 35 acting categories such as performance, dance, dramatic design and musicals.

The three top awards are given directly to the participating high schools. The awards are the Festival Sweepstakes for the highest cumulative score, the Judges Sweepstakes for the highest scored single performance, and the Tech Sweepstakes for the school with the highest total points in design.

The Marin School of Arts won the Festival Sweepstakes, Lowell High School won the Judges Sweepstakes, and Oakland School of Arts took the Tech Sweepstakes.

“The Festival is a magical two-day experience, and Ohlone College is proud to support the next generation of theater artists,” organizer and faculty member Michael Navarra said.

Letter to the editor, from the editor

So it’s Wednesday night. Tomorrow is Thursday and the Monitor newspaper comes out in the morning. We haven’t started writing yet, and my adviser just hung himself from the balcony in defeat.

The process of this thing you’re reading now is a long-winded one. Between the late-night board meetings, cobbled together news stories, and gallons and gallons of coffee, we somehow get it done week in and week out.

There’s writing, phrasing, designing, rewriting, rephrasing, editing, checking sources.

We’re here Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Those Wednesday nights are sometimes the tough.

As Wednesday evening stretches to the early hours of Thursday morning, keyboards and mugs are our best friends.

So thank you for picking this paper up and giving it a read. Ask me about it and acknowledge that you’ve read it.

Sure, my response will be snide. I make a guilty-pleasure of it. “Ohlone has a paper?” and smile, but it means a lot that you read it.

Come upstairs and say hello. We’re above the cafeteria. Yes there is a room above the cafeteria.

Got a story idea? We’d love to hear it.

If it’s great we’ll smile and thank you, then follow up on it and make a good article.

If it’s awful we’ll smile and thank you, then follow up on it and make a good article.

We’re snide, silly and sometimes cynical, but we do care about what we do.

The content we provide is important to us, we want you to know what we know.

Now yes, I did just write an entire column about myself. Is this self-serving?

Well, screw you. It was April Fool’s Day.

Join my shenanigans on Twitter @OTRwithMitchell

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