



Klent has fun with chemistry, fire

By JAMES HENDRA
Staff writer

Bang! Last Friday's Brown Bag Seminar opened with a small chemical reaction, very similar to a rocket, or a jet engine, without the machinery. More like an explosion, actually.

Jim Klent, retired professor of chemistry, demonstrated matter and energy and the changes they undergo, in Room 3201 from 1 to 2 p.m. More than 200 people attended.

Klent said that there are many types of chemical reactions. First, he sprayed hair spray in various things, such as cardboard tubes, to see how it reacted.

He put a ball in the tube, ignited the hair spray and the resulting mini-explosion sent the ball flying across the room, causing heads to duck in the crowd, a crowd which filled all the seats in the lecture hall and overflowed around the walls.

He also mixed some chemicals together that then glowed bright blue. First he mixed copper and a compound called luminol in a container that included a twisted glass tube. With the lights turned out, the

solution glowed bright blue as it worked its way down the twisted tube and into a beaker. From the audience there was much "ooOoooooh"ing and "AaaaaAaaahhhhhh"ing.

After that experiment burned out, Klent moved to another one, in which he pulled out a block of dry ice in a Styrofoam container. He showed that the block had a hole drilled in it, about an inch and a half in diameter. Then he poured a LOT of magnesium powder into the hole, and lit it with a butane torch.

Quickly covering the hole with another slab of dry ice, to protect the viewer's eyes, the ice started to glow bright white with the magnesium light source for several minutes. It burned so long, and it created enough smoke to set off the fire alarms in Building 3.

One campus police officer and a couple of workers from Buildings and Grounds showed up to see what the alarms were about. By the time they looked into Room 3201, Klent had moved onto another experiment and the alarms had stopped.

Klent was demonstrating an old lamp, used in coal mines many

years ago. The lamp consists of a container of anhydrous calcium carbide, which, when mixed with water, produces acetylene, a flammable gas, which burns with a bright light. These lamps were also used on bicycles.

That lamp burned through the entire rest of the presentation. After the lamp, he put some regular water, and some calcium chloride, into a bottle, put a silver solution inside, and started to shake it. At first it looked like the glass was turning purple. But then it turned out that the glass was being coated with silver on the inside. As it was doing that, it was being passed around the lecture hall. By the time it got past the first row, it was almost a perfect silver on the inside.

Klent took out a bag of marshmallows, placed them in a vacuum chamber and sucked all the air out of it. It was looking like the experiment had failed, when he pulled the tube out of the chamber and the marshmallows shrunk to about a fourth their normal size. About the size as a marble.

Then he took out a generator

that produced 10,000 volts of electrical current, but at such a low ampere that it was mostly harmless. To demonstrate, he took hold of the live metal prong with one hand, then a light bulb with the other hand, grounded the bulb to a water faucet, and it lit up like... well... a lightbulb.

Finally, he took a mixture of sugar and cream, added some vanilla, put it into a bowl and asked for a volunteer. A strong-looking guy from the audience came up and Klent handed him a canister of liquid nitrogen. While Klent was stirring, the volunteer started to pour in some liquid nitrogen. This stuff is so cold that you can flash-freeze flowers with it.

After all the liquid nitrogen was added to the sugar and cream, and after all the stirring was done, Klent took the bowl and showed it to the audience.

It was ICE CREAM. To show that it was harmless, he ate some himself then offered it to anyone who was interested. Lines formed that didn't let out until long after the presentation was done, with not much ice cream left.

Correction

Last week's *Monitor* said that Ohlone's tutoring and mentoring project for grades K-6 offered credit for transfer to UCs and CSUs.

Actually, it offers only general education unit transfer to the CSU system.

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Forensics team wins medals

From staff reports

The Ohlone College Forensics Team returned from the California Community College Forensics Association (CCFA) State Championship Tournament this past weekend in San Diego with Gold and Silver Medals in debate, won by two of the top 10 debate teams in the state.

This is the first time Ohlone has medaled on the state level in debate, earning multiple medals in other events as well.

"The Forensics Team did a great job," said debate coach Dave Curtis. "The debaters proved they have the skill and knowledge to beat 60 other teams."

Garnering the Gold Medal in Parliamentary Debate was the team of Andrea Adams and Joyce Chuang. "I feel like we've accom-

plished a major feat- I couldn't have done it without my partner," said Chuang. "This win proves we have what it takes to go all the way at nationals."

Earning the Silver Medal in Parliamentary Debate was the team of Erica Jubilado and Tony C. Yang. "It was extremely competitive," said Yang. "Even though we lost in the final round to the undefeated top seed from Southern California, it was a good learning experience."

The two debate teams brought back Ohlone College's first-ever state championship medals in debate. As a result, all five of the traveling members of the Forensics Team have qualified to advance to the National Forensics Tournament held in Philadelphia, PA in April.

Cara Cuison, a team member specializing in prepared speeches,

missed breaking into her medal rounds on two out of three speeches by only one point. In addition to winning debate gold, Chuang received a Bronze Medal in her Speech to Entertain. Yang won Bronze Medals in Extemporaneous and Impromptu speaking.

"We have a great chance at nationals," said Director of Forensics Teresa Sutowski. "Because we have a great group of dedicated and hard-working students."

The Forensics Team is continues to hone their skills in preparation for the upcoming national tournament.

The award-winning Forensics Team can be seen performing at the Forensics Showcase on March 30, in the Nummi Theater at 7 p.m. Admission is \$5 and all proceeds go toward the team's traveling expenses for the nationals in April.

Guitar group to play here

After performing sold-out concerts throughout the Midwest, the Minneapolis Guitar Quartet will play the Smith Center Saturday, March 19 at 8 p.m.

The Minneapolis Guitar Quartet (MGQ) started in 1986 and mixes various genres inspired by chamber music and string quartet traditions. MGQ's sound ranges anywhere from Renaissance and Baroque, Spanish, Latin America and Romantic.

Tickets are available at \$25 for adults, \$15 for seniors, \$10 for youth and \$15 for Ohlone College students.

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