



**Jessica  
Losee**

## Looking for a place to go

So you're free one night, no homework, no work, no family engagements or school activities, what is there to do?

Well the Fremont/Newark/Union City area has a plethora of suburban entertainments.

Yet, once presented with the quandary of finding something to do out of the blue, most settle for a movie, which for a college student is like going to a fancy restaurant: it's nice, but unnecessary.

A cheap alternative to the typical "going to see a movie" would be the Super Saver Cinema, where one can watch movies that have been playing in theatres for a while. One can pay a third of the price of a normal ticket and still see movies that you didn't have the money to see when they first came out.

The only problem with this is that the closest "cheap-o" theatre has been temporarily closed to move to a bigger, better location in Milpitas.

Aside from going to see a movie, there is Golfland, another place that costs money, but two people can usually play a round of miniature golf for about \$15. Just stay away from the video arcade. Not only do the games tend to eat quarters, but the prizes for tickets you can earn playing games are cheap and uninteresting.

If you are really bored, grab a few friends, a football, soccer ball, or just a pair of tennis shoes, meet up at the closest park and start a game of touch football, or if you're desperate and it's dark outside, flashlight tag.

There are also concerts happening all over the Bay Area, at relatively cheap prices. Although, one must understand that if you enjoy listening to performers that are known well, the tickets may get pretty expensive. Try something different and find a local battle of the bands, a jazz club or rave and see what comes from it. Often times the experience ends up being better than anyone could predict and a lot cheaper than going and seeing the Backstreet Boys Come-back concert.

Don't forget that there is always that necessary snack after you've been playing or partying hard, but instead of the typical drive-through, try one of the many wonderful taquerias, Chinese and Italian restaurants, the really good burger place that nobody knows about (its called Big Bobs Burgers).

You will have fun if you make it. Many young people have survived growing up in the East Bay Area, so can we. It is just a matter of what your interests are, who your friends are, and getting out and making it possible and necessary for you do to something instead of staying home and wasting away in front of the computer and the TV.

# Harrison honored for helping speech department grow

By DANELLE MEYER  
Staff writer

Kay Harrison remembers when the school only offered two speech classes 30 years ago.

"We now offer 14 classes, 7 certificates, and an A.A. degree," Professor Harrison said. It was her efforts, and that of other faculty and staff, that caused the speech department to boom.

This was one of the reasons Harrison was awarded, the National Communication Association's Community College Outstanding Educator Award for 2004.

Winners are nominated by colleagues. The nomination must include a V.P. of Instruction's written support, and it is then sent to the National Communication Association to be reviewed.

"I was surprised to receive a phone call from a... professor from Florida State University...telling me I had been selected to receive the award," Harrison said.

Certain items are taken into consideration, including teaching skills. The person "is recognized for classroom teaching, curriculum development and leadership in the field of communication," Harrison explained.

Brenda Ahnholz nominated Harrison, and Harrison was notified in June to attend a November meeting in Chicago. This is where she received the award. "I love the

field of communication and enjoy sharing that with my students," Harrison said.

Dr. Treadway also announced Harrison's award when he recently spoke to faculty during a Fixed Flex Day meeting.

"I nominated Kay ... because she has been the most important and influential mentor I have had in my professional career," began Ahnholz. "She has helped me to be a better teacher, communicator, and faculty member here at Ohlone."

Harrison said Ohlone's Speech and Communication Department is now "recognized for both its academics and its competitive speech and debate team."

Faculty and students both are continuing to work hard in keeping the Speech Department strong. Harrison is also grateful for the fact that the department has had "full support of the college" through its expansion.

The Speech department's faculty consists of many individuals that make it what it is.

"I have had the pleasure of working with wonderful colleagues ... and the department could not function without our dedicated and skilled part-time Speech faculty—many of whom have been here for 15 years," Harrison said.

"I believe that creating anything special is a team effort and I am proud to be part of that team," Harrison stated.



Photo by Joyce Leung

**Kay Harrison has won the National Communication Association's Community College Outstanding Educator Award.**

# Skyrocketing book prices? Students have answers

By JESSICA LOSSE  
Staff writer

It does not matter how much you get from scholarships or financial aid, book prices will always haunt you. If you're a student, you already know about it.

Not only do textbooks give students bad dreams with the hundreds of pages of daunting, incomprehensible information, but also with their exorbitant price tags.

Yet there are solutions to this corporate monopoly of texts, as some students found out this summer in Sean McLain Brown's English 101C class in Critical Thinking.

He asked students in the small class to address the issue of textbook prices in an investigative essay, which focuses on all aspects and perspectives of the issue.

"It's something all students complain about," said Brown.

The students interviewed not only fellow students about the high prices but also the Ohlone Bookstore Manager as well as publishers and book representatives and collectively presented their findings in these essays.

Students focused their writing on the causes for the rises in book prices and what solutions are available to schools and students.

Brown has already started utilizing one solution for his fall semester classes. He contacted 15 authors

about using their essays and writing in a compilation "reader" for students to use for his English class.

"About 80 percent of the authors I contacted allowed me to use their stories at no cost," said Brown.

Along with his online syllabus, Brown includes online links to relevant readings that aid students in the craft of writing, obviously a cheaper alternative to the expensive instructional textbook.

This method allows students to print, cut and paste, and even create notes from the information online instead of using the textbook.

Students offer various reasons as to why textbooks cost so much, including CDs that come "bundled" in a package with a textbook, newer editions which cost more because of the effort publishers put into revising the text, and the general effort of many editors, writers and researchers as well as the other necessary components to put a book together.

The bundled packages are published without the option of leaving the CD out of the textbook, and



Photo by Joyce Leung

**Sean McLain Brown**

present a real problem for students who are not going to be using the extra multi-media information in their class.

"Sixty-five percent of faculty said they rarely, or never use the bundled materials that come with half of all textbooks," stated the source in Farhan Saiyed's essay.

"You really feel the burning of the hole in your pocket when the \$50 chemistry CD becomes noth-

ing more than a table coaster," said Aaron Arnold in his essay.

Publishers constantly make newer editions that are found to be relatively unnecessary. Instructors may not always use the newer editions of textbooks, but when they are, students find that the difference between the old text and the new is relatively pointless and ultimately expensive for both the company and the consumers.

Arnold's essay also cites ex-publishing executive, Erwin V. Cohen, "Publishers release new editions of successful textbooks every few years—not to improve content, although that may be a byproduct—but to discourage the sales of used books by making them seem obsolete."

According to a citation in student, Blanca Salcedo's essay, "...textbook prices are increasing at more than four times the inflation rate for all finished goods and that wholesale prices charged by textbook publishers jumped 62 percent since 1994."

The solutions to the problem of rising textbook prices that students suggest in their essays include buying used books, using library copies of the book, book-swapping through the internet, and getting fellow students and their schools to protest outrageous prices for texts.

"Students need to be more proactive in their education," said Brown. "They'll complain about, but they won't do anything about it."

# Gala performers are all ready for Saturday's show


*Photo by Krista Martinez*

**From top left, clockwise: Persian dancers Anahita Dadnam and Mitra Khatibi perform together to cool down from rehearsal, The Ijama group, composed of Latrice Cotton, Ielvic Waters, Tranecieya Herbi, Nuwane Kiriheendige, Kathie Yang, Roun Tamaki, Nadia Dadgar, Ivy Brawner and Gemma Jamena from the top left down, pose for a quick shot during the day. And the Ohlone Theater Troop give a dashing finish to their song during an evening practice.**

By **KRISTA MARTINEZ**  
Features editor

This Saturday marks the long awaited Tenth Anniversary Gala celebration for the Gary Soren Smith Center, Ohlone's center for fine and performing arts.

With as many names attending as we have, such as MadTV's and Family Guy's Alex Borstein and talented Latin musician Pete Escovedo, we can lose sight of the

talent from our campus who will also be performing at various locations and times throughout the gala.

Persian dance is expected early in the evening in front of the stairs leading to the outside amphitheater. Just before the Persian dance can begin, there will be a multicultural fashion show on the stairs, stage and preceding staircase in front of the entrance to the Smith Centers offices.

More entertainment is to be found on the inside of the Jackson Theater, just across the hall from the art gallery on the first floor of the Smith Center. There will be a high-energy hip-hop dance show immediately followed by a montage of music and dance from the shows shown inside the Smith Center through all of its 10 years, performed by Ohlone's star performers.

These theater events will be taking place just between 7:30 and 9:30 p.m., leaving plenty of time to visit Lam Plaza for a bite to eat, or a drink, all of which is included with ticket price.

The prelude events promise to be as much of a show to enjoy as the main events. From 7:15 till 8 p.m. the amphitheater will be house to a circus center complete with magic tricks and balloon animals, which

should be as amusing for children in attendance as it will be for the adults.

Gala tickets are still on sale for reduced price at the Smith Center. Ticket prices are \$50 for adults, \$40 for seniors and \$25 for students. Bills larger than \$20 are not accepted. All events and services within the Gala are covered by the ticket price. Schedule is subject to change for any reason.

# Show about independent films opens on Ohlone TV

By **GABRIEL VILA**  
Staff writer

With the new show "The Screening Room," independent film has arrived in style on Ohlone Network TV. Written, co-produced and anchored by noted performer Nizar Ahmed, the show will showcase independent films from around the Bay Area, as well as around the world.

Ahmed, whose acting and "Rick James" curls you may remember from such Smith Centre productions as "Dracula," "The Three Musketeers," and "A Chorus Line," has been brewing the idea of an independent film showcase for some time. "It started when I was looking at my friends' stuff," he said. "I was thinking 'some of this is really cool'... they just need a place to get

it out."

So when the director of television operations, Gary Kauf, asked for "new and original programming," Ahmed came forward with his idea.

The show itself, which opened last night, will consist of three segments, and each will unveil a film or films as time permits. First the film will be introduced, shown, and then reviewed with an eye towards the particular techniques the filmmaker used in his or her film. This last segment occasionally will be somewhat longer, as in the case of the film "Nomads," (a science-fiction piece with "Enter the Dragon"-style fight sequences) after which a full behind-the-scenes look and director interview will be presented.

The films that will be presented on "The Screening Room" vary in

quality and appearance, however "they all are selected carefully from our submissions," Ahmed said. "We don't want films that are just, action-action-action-and then the movie ends because they didn't know where else to go. We want quality films with plot and skill."

And it shows. "ClayTV," one of the films that will be shown, is done entirely in claymation. It's a parody of terrible after-prime-time-television, with humorous looks at "The Crocodile Hunter" and a technically impressive paintball fight. Take into consideration; a regular live action film is filmed at 32 frames a second. A claymation is filmed in 24 frames a second. How many frames does it take to animate a single flying clay paintball shooting across the room? True, the film doesn't look that impressive to our

"Wallace & Gromit" trained eyes, but the skill is there.

Another film, "Les Pantins" hails from France, and gives us an artistic look at... slightly disturbing things. The film is, in simplest terms, a story about two suspicious deaths surrounding a play. The film is done entirely without dialogue, however the quality of the acting tells us all we need to know; the megalomaniacal play director, the downtrodden clown (the main character), and the beautiful however tragic female lead. Unlike most "disturbing" films of today, there is no truly gruesome part, nor are there any real action sequences. The film is simply... off a little. Just watch it.

Despite having a great show, Ahmed admits to being a little understaffed. "We've really been film-

ing with a skeleton crew, and it's been tough," he said. "Sure while we could go and get a bunch of people to work the shoot, we really want experienced people." He added with a grin, "Hopefully, this will make others want to do other quality shows."

The screening room will air, starting on Wednesday, every day for two weeks at noon, 3:30 p.m., and 8:30. After that, the new schedule will be every day at 3:30 and 7:30 p.m.

Submissions to "The Screening Room." Can be sent to:

The Screening Room  
PO. Box 09  
Newark, CA 94539

Questions or comments about "The Screening Room" can be sent to: ohlonescreeningroom@yahoo.com