



Shopping for deals and building reputations at the flea market

By **MORGAN BRINLEE**
Staff writer

For many the Ohlone College Super Flea Market is more than an opportunity to empty out their garage and sell off closets full of old clothing, for some it is a livelihood.

Many vendors at the Ohlone Flea Market are making a business of selling their collected wares. "This is part of our livelihood. Selling here is one of the markets we use to keep ourselves afloat," said Brendan Leathem of Crescent Hill Nursery. Leathem and his partner, Nathan Krupa, bring a portion of their self-described "weird and unusual" plants to flea markets around the Bay Area in an effort to expand their business.

For married couple, Tim Smith and Andrea Hapin, the Ohlone flea market is a testing site for their new business. Smith and Hapin sell modern and antique jewelry that Hapin finds in an-

tique stores, at jewelry shows, commissions from designers, and also buys wholesale. Hapin had recently sought to change her stressful job and had always had an interest in the jewelry business; with her husband she began Sonnet Style Jewelry. "We are

thinking of a store and trying to build a website, this is the first manifestation of that," said Smith. The couple is new to the business of vending, having only been sell-



Photo by Morgan Brinlee

Vendors peddle their wares to passing shoppers at the Ohlone Super Flea market last Saturday morning.

ing for 3 months, and they have already discovered it is more work than people would think. "It's a lot of work, no doubt about it, the fun part is only a few hours

to come out here and meet people face to face. In my day job I'm an accountant, and I like that, but this is fun," said Smith.

Other vendors keep their busi-

ness a little more informal. They hunt for goods at antique shops, garage sales, and flea markets that they then clean up and resell. "It's a major treasure hunt, and a major addiction. The collecting never ends, but it keeps you broke," said vendor Chris Lajeunesse, who sells antique jewelry, perfume bottles, purses, hats, and scarves.

a week," said Smith. The couple first began selling at the Berryessa and De Anza flea markets as well as some events in San Francisco, but last Saturday marked their first time at Ohlone.

"It's fun

For whatever reason vendors participate, the Ohlone College Super Flea Market draws people from all over the bay area. Maria Rivas comes up from San Jose every month to shop at the Ohlone flea market because of its great variety in goods and vendors, as well as the cozy feeling atmosphere of the flea market. "For being so small this has really wonderful, quality stuff," Rivas said.

The next Ohlone College Super Flea Market will be held in parking lots E and H on November 12th from 8 am to 3 pm. If you would like to become a vendor at the Ohlone flea market you can contact Elaine Nagel at (510) 659-6285 for more information, or visit the flea market website at http://www2.ohlone.edu/org/flea_mkt/.

Officers open up about what happens on patrol at Ohlone College

By **JESSICA LOSEE**
Staff writer

Officer Benjamin Peralta is at the wheel of the large sedan, painted in black and white; his dark sunglasses and uniform complete the image of a man of the law.

"This is what we call our office," said Peralta.

Peralta is one of the many people who work everyday to ensure that every student, staff member and visitor on campus is safe and secure. In the back seat is his trainee, Miguel Mendoza, who has been here for four months. The security personnel and officers who make up the Campus Police are on patrol five days a week, eight hours a day. Not only do they hand out parking citations, break up fights, attend to medical emergency calls, they also respond to 911 calls on campus, maintain the parking lot ticket machines, control traffic, wrangle cows and horses off campus, and even unlock closet doors. On Monday, Peralta even saved a cat that had crawled into a student's engine block. Peralta had to jack up the car and get the cat out without damaging the student's wiring or harming the cat. "There is really no typical day," said Peralta.

Within two hours they responded to a call about someone possibly stuck in an elevator, two 911 hang-up calls, a call about unlocking a storage closet door, putting a sign up and maintaining the ticket machine in parking lot P.

It turned out that the elevator had no one in it, the 911 hang-up calls were just people trying to dial-out of the school to numbers outside of the campus, and the storage closet was duly unlocked and opened. These all may seem like menial tasks, but each is important. "We don't take our



Photo by Jessica Losee

Officer Ben Peralta and his trainee Miguel Mendoza in front of their patrol vehicle.

stops lightly, anytime," said Peralta, explaining that once a 911 call resulted in saving the life of a student who wanted to kill himself.

One thing that Peralta pointed out is that the officers can get anywhere on campus within two

to three minutes, allowing for a quick response every time, without the police having to speed, putting pedestrians and other drivers at risk.

Whether the officers cross campus in their car or on foot, they are constantly interacting with students

and staff, waving, wishing others a good morning, always smiling, always moving from one place to another, thoroughly covering the campus. "

We don't want to be tied up in one location," said Peralta. "It doesn't bode well for us."

Last year, Peralta only remembers handing out one ticket. The scariest thing about the job, according to Peralta is attending to a fight between students, or going to a car that has been robbed, or the more extreme example of the sexual assault last semester in the library.

"Those are the scary moments," said Peralta. "When you go into the unknown."

One of the oddest calls that Peralta has received since coming here in 1998 was a man howling at the moon while doing martial arts.

"It's fun working here," said Mendoza. "You can't get into a routine, there's something different everyday."

While patrolling the parking lots, Peralta and Mendoza also

had to fix the ticket machine for students and guests to buy daily parking passes for the upper parking lots.

Not only do they put up temporary signs saying that the particular machine is out of service, but they also replace the ticket paper, remove change and dollar bills from the machines and even run maintenance on the computer itself.

In fact, all of the security staff has been trained in the maintenance of the machines.

No matter what they're doing, these savvy security officers keep their smiling demeanor while also having a hard shell to keep things in order.

Even when they pulled over a student for not completely stopping as she came out of the parking lot, the two wished her a good day as they let her off with a warning and a smile.

"I think it goes a long way to make a positive contact," said Peralta.

Deaf Counseling Center welcomes two new staff members into the fold

By **ANNIE UTTER**
Staff writer

The Deaf Center Counseling Services provides guidance to deaf and hard of hearing students,



Photo by Annie Utter
Claire Ellis

helping them meet their academic and personal goals. There are currently two deaf counselors employed in the center:

Claire Ellis is the only full time deaf counselor. She graduated with a MS in rehabilitation counseling from San Francisco State University. Ellis initially joined Ohlone College as part of an internship program in 1992. She not only assists her students in class, she goes above and beyond to provide personal support. "I enjoy counseling [to students] and like to see students succeed in their educational goals," said Ellis.

Nan Zhou has recently joined the Deaf Counseling staff as a

part time counselor. Zhou grew up in China where he attended a deaf school. In 1990 Zhou moved to America while in the process of simultaneously learning American Sign Language (ASL) and English. Zhou graduated with a BA degree in psychology from Cal State University Northridge. He then received his degree in social work from the San Francisco State University. Zhou is also fluent in Chinese Sign Language. Zhou helps Claire Ellis in the Deaf Counseling Center by assisting in planning workshops and academic goals for deaf and hard of hearing students. "I enjoy meeting wonderful people and like to work with students who have di-



Photo by Annie Utter
Nan Zhou

verse backgrounds," said Zhou. Zhou explains that he can relate to many foreign deaf students because he himself knows what it's like to move from another country to America.