



## Culture Pirate

By **OMER  
AHMED**  
News editor

## Bubba correct about pluralism

One doesn't usually look to former presidents for religious wisdom but "Bubba" Bill Clinton made an interesting comment on CNN's "In God's Name" this weekend.

The former president, a Southern Baptist, basically said that while firmly secure in his faith, no person in this world should believe that they personally understand the totality of the "true" faith. Neither pastor, nor imam or yogi - no man has the full vision of the way of the universe.

This rung a bell for me since I, as an agnostic, can't seem to decide on faith one way or another. I can logically believe in a god or the divine but I can't rationally believe in evil or hell at the same time. They seem mutually exclusive. When I ignore the classic dichotomy of good and evil, Taoism suddenly seems to make the most sense. And in moments of boredom, the traditional Rastafarian sacrament seems more than just a tad bit attractive.

For me, the doors to the divine are many but I can't find my way out of the broom closet and into the hallway. Most others I know have already stepped through a door but this doesn't necessarily mean they like the room they are in or that they can leave it.

My young Texan cousin Sofia is just beginning to doubt her Christian faith, believing it may be brainwashing her. She doesn't think about it too much, tough. Her older brother, Jason, has already rid his version of Christianity of everything added by the apostle Paul and is having his "Church of Jason" tested by the rigors of the Army. My mother abandoned her "Mexican Catholicism" after a pilgrimage to the Basilica of the Virgin of Guadalupe where she saw starving Indians outside the shrine. My father is a Muslim but his version of Islam is so liberal that it fits better in San Francisco than it does in his native Pakistan.

How could so many people, all humans with the same basic needs, go in so many directions? My first answer is pluralistic; that they are all heading to the "truth" along different paths. But I don't know that. When it comes to the facts, I don't know much beside what I can experience with my few physical senses. Everything else is mental, unconfirmable.

Faced with the same dilemma, many of my friends have become atheists but the absence of evidence is not the evidence of absence. Whatever you believe in, don't assume you are one hundred percent correct. Even if you can't confirm anything, work as hard as you can in your mind and your heart to find what you can believe is true. If you just accept your views without thinking, there is no point in believing.



At left, Jonthan Varquez and Mark Badua promote their club to interested students.

## Club Day held in Bosque

By **NOAH LEVIN**  
Staff writer

Day one of "Club Day" was held down in the palm bosque on Wednesday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. With about 20 clubs in attendance, only a handful of students not working at the tables were there to peruse the clubs. KOHL, Ohlone's resident radio station, was also in attendance, playing top 40 hits as students milled about the grass beneath the shade of the palms.

Moved from the quad in front of Building 5 to the Palm Bosque in the front of the campus, the event picked up little traffic on its first day. ASOC's committee chair had decided to move the event due to possible bad weather, the constraints of campus construction and the hopes of picking up more foot traffic from students heading up to class from the parking lots.

Clubs in attendance included the Student Ambassadors, the Respiratory Therapy Awareness Club, the Psychology Club and Interact/Rotary Club. Free candy and other treats were given out to attract students to the various booths, while Ohlone radio station KOHL entertained and gave away movie tickets and Screampfest passes. Club Day will continue into Thursday.



Above, KOHL personnel and Ohlone instructors Tom Briseno, Robert Dochterman, and student air personality Lynn Wilson raffle away movie tickets and Screampfest tickets to students every 15 minutes during Club Day.

## Early Childhood Studies conference

By **FRANKIE ADDIEGO**  
Staff writer

The Ohlone College Early Childhood Studies Department will present the Second Annual Children, Parents and Educators Conference on Saturday, Sept. 30 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Ohlone Kidango Childhood Development Center.

Topics will include working with children with challenging behaviors, curriculum, taking care of the personal and professional self, how to open your own school, and more.

The keynote speaker will be Cheryl Jackson-Williams. There will

also be a raffle and other activities.

Advanced registration is required. The registration fee is \$20, which will include breakfast and lunch.

ECS staff will also be able to purchase bottled water for \$1.

Online students will be able to earn half a unit of Early Childhood Studies credit by attending the conference.

The unit credit will cost the standard \$13, the same as any half-unit course, and can be paid for after registration.

The course number is ECS-325A with the synonym number 028818. Registered students can sign up on WebAdvisor.

For more information contact Janice Fonteno at (510) 979-7496.

## Fremont Symphony opens the season

By **FRANKIE ADDIEGO**  
Staff writer

A formal crowd arrived at Ohlone's Jackson theatre for the season opening of Fremont's Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra.

The performance featured works by such composers as Prokofiev and Berlioz. It also featured a recent piece written about Fremont.

The orchestra managed to showcase a very professional technical proficiency without sounding sterile or contrived.

The audience rose as the orchestra opened with the "Star Spangled Banner." Then Conductor David Sloss introduced a piece called

"Hymnus" - written by longtime San Francisco Symphony member Mark Volkert after he was commissioned by the Fremont Philharmonic earlier this year.

While sections of the song were previously performed at an earlier Pops concert as "Fanfare For Fremont," this was the first time the composition was played in its entirety.

The Fremont Philharmonic was joined by guest pianist Kenric Tam for Prokofiev's "Concerto No. 2 in G Minor for Piano and Orchestra." Prokofiev is perhaps best known for his compositions "Peter and The Wolf" and the ballet of "Romeo and Juliet." This earlier work from

1913 established him as something of an "enfant terrible," according to Sloss.

This selection proved to be the centerpiece of the evening, with Tam's incredible piano playing astounding the audience.

So powerful was his right-hand technique that it was easy not to notice that the rest of the orchestra had cut out during his solo spot.

During the intermission, he told the Monitor that he had been playing for 11 years and that, "I plan to keep recording even when I get older."

After the intermission, the orchestra finished the evening with Hector Berlioz's "Symphonie Fantastique," composed by Berlioz

in 1830.

It was an autobiographical piece that represented his obsession with an actress he had seen in a production of Hamlet in an abstract way.

The orchestra simulated sounds such as thunder and a head rolling with various percussion instruments.

Ohlone's Live Recording and Sound Reinforcement class recorded the performance. The instructor of this course, Tom Johnson, is also a tuba player in the orchestra. "He's probably one of the best in the business," said Fremont Symphony Orchestra Treasurer Susan L. Rose. "He's a wonderful recording engineer."

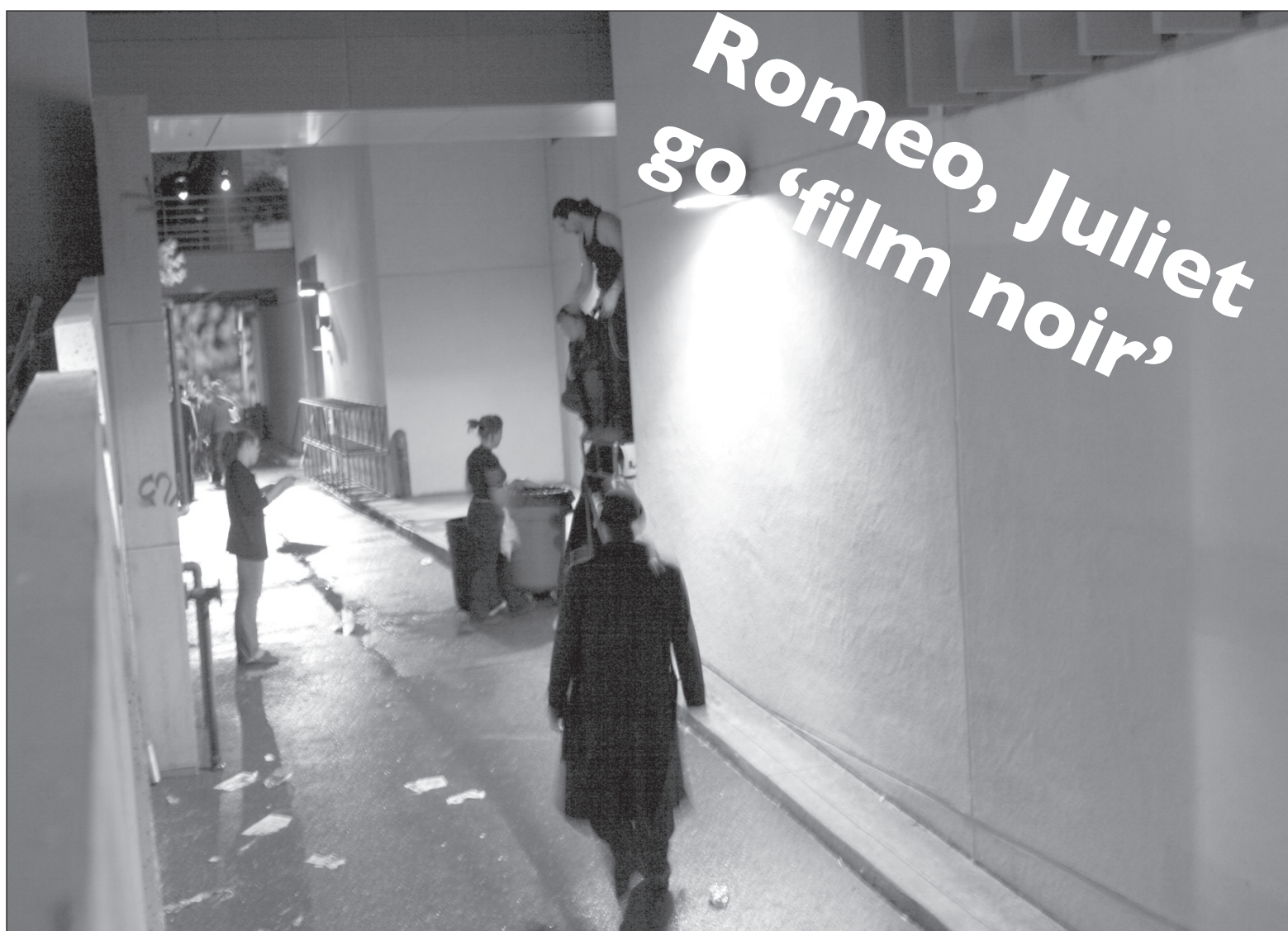


Photo by Christa Meier

Rehearsals on the set of the futuristic 'Romeo and Juliet' behind the Smith Center.

## Drama class films intro for fall play

By EMILY BURKETT  
Staff writer

A dark alleyway filled with fog, garbage, and a broken-down car lit by surreal orange and purple light is not exactly the kind of place you'd want to wander down in the middle of the night. Yet that's just what a score of theater students at Ohlone did.

The Ohlone College theater has transformed the alley behind the Smith Center into a futuristic dystopia as the set for their version of "Romeo and Juliet." The company filmed a three-minute prologue for the play last Thursday, Sept. 22.

The corner was lit by the headlights of three cars, purportedly driven by the Capulets, Montagues and an ambiguous third-party gang. Threatening gang members dressed in all black with their loyalties delineated by their armbands stalked Romeo and Juliet as the couple made their way through the set.

The prologue ends with Romeo and Juliet cornered by the gangs and then cuts to the actual play as performed live by the company members.

The special effects used by the company in the filmed prologue lent a very "Clockwork Orange" feel to the set. Dry ice generated fog leaked from the sewage grates and swirled in the contrasting lights. And that was just the prologue.

The theater managed to condense a typically three-hour play into the space of one hour to accommodate the typical high school period. "We want students to say, 'Hey, I can understand this,'" explained Theater Director Tom Blank.

There's a reason behind that. Working in collaboration with the Fremont Gang Suppression Task Force, the Ohlone Theater plans to tour the five different Fremont high schools, Newark Memorial, James Logan and several other high schools. The play centers around the

conflict between three gangs with "tasteful" bloodshed depicting the effects of gang violence.

"At one point, one gang member scrapes out the eyeball of another gang member," Blank explained gleefully. While it may seem gruesome, the violence is meant to convey a positive message.

The troupe hopes to show students the danger in gang membership and discourage participation. In the same stroke, the Ohlone actors are demonstrating a positive outlet for excess time and energy in teenage lives.

This is particularly poignant in light of the recent Kennedy stabbing. In fact, Kennedy High School booked the Ohlone play just after the stabbing.

"The idea is to have Shakespeare language and an anti-gang violence message," said Blank.

The company has brought together a talented cast and crew including Mike Daw, the fight choreographer

for "The Three Musketeers."

Faculty hope that the play will generate an interest in theater with the high school population.

Ohlone has provided a unique opportunity to students, allowing them to work with equipment and ideas that most graduate students would envy. Students were responsible for composing all music used in the play.

The set is entirely student-built and was made to be collapsed and constructed in the space of 20 minutes, the typical prep time before a performance. The set also has to fit into the back of a car. It was designed to include built-in lighting, so the company can give a performance virtually anywhere.

Ironically, the play features no swords, a bit unexpected for a Shakespeare piece. Instead, actors will be wielding knives, screwdrivers, and a good portion of the things passengers are no longer allowed to carry onto planes...



Devil's  
Advocate

By ANNA  
NEMCHUK  
Editor-in-chief

## To ink? Maybe for a day or so.

I've a love-hate relationship with NPR. I love the scholarly debates, but I prefer listening to music when driving. But if it weren't for them, the tattoo I would have gotten might have poisoned me.

A gaggle of MDs and PhDs at Harvard have banded together and come up with tattoo ink that's safe, consistent in ingredients and, most importantly, very easily removed. The company, called Freedom-2, has taken the motto "Self Expression Without Regret" and run with it. The technology is based on biodegradable dyes bound to FDA-approved polymer beads that can be broken up with a single pass of a laser, allowing skin to harmlessly and tracelessly absorb the pigments. They're also looking into "Time Limited Tattoos" – applied similarly to traditional methods, but fading over a pre-determined span.

Currently, each state in the U.S. settles on its own tattoo-related safety regulations and licenses are not hard to obtain. Modern tattoo removal means are less than perfect, often failing to complete the job and potentially releasing carcinogenic heavy metals into the system.

My first thought was wary happiness. Imagine not stressing over having to bear a once-beloved design for the rest of your life, or spend your weight in gold to be rid of it. Piercings have long enjoyed a certain resigned recognition; the logic being that at least you could remove them and little evidence would remain. It's past time body ink took its spot in the limelight. I can see couples getting TLTs of each other's names, set to fade within a year – a much more original anniversary reminder than a calendar mark. "Do you see still love me, Honey? Okay, time to renew the ink."

Terrible at telling time? Your "2007" design should disappear when 2008 comes knocking. Alma mater a matter of pride? A bushy evergreen with a four-year death toll will remind you to stay on track with classes. An ornate dragon scrolling luxuriously across her back can be wiped clean and traded for a backless Vera Wang wedding gown showcasing flawless, elegant bare skin, only to reappear a week later, his initials in the corner.

In a world as uncontrollable as ours proves, man will ever strive to discipline his surroundings. Of everything in this life, your body should be yours to do with as you please, and anything that facilitates that in a safer, more joyous way is definitely a broadcast I'd tolerate NPR for. After all, now I know exactly what I'm waiting for with my first tattoo.

Freedom-2 plans to release its products next year and more information can be found at [www.freedom2ink.com](http://www.freedom2ink.com)

## Health Center serves 20,000th student

By MORGAN BRINLEE  
Feature editor

There is nothing like serving your 20,000th customer - for most businesses, it means success has finally arrived. For the Ohlone College Health Center, it is much the same story.

"Last week, we saw our 20,000th patient," said Director and Nurse Practitioner Sally Bratton. "When I saw the number come up as 20,000 I screamed out 'Yay!' That really shows how much work we do. That's 20,000 people that would have had to get care somewhere else."

For confidentiality reasons, the patient's name cannot be disclosed; however, it is known that the 20,000th

patient was seen Sept. 19.

"He is a nursing student," Bratton said. "I wanted to ring bells and have balloons, or get a Starbucks gift card for the 20,000th patient, but about five minutes later, he walked through the door."

The Health Center here at Ohlone uses an electronic system to log and count their patients. This system has been in use since they moved into their current building location.

"We've been using this system... I want to say, at least six years, but I'm not completely sure," said Health Center Office Manager Janet Quijas.

The program runs statistics for the center, reporting on how many patients were seen each month, what

they were seen for, what medications they were given, etc.

Due to financial reasons, students who visit the college's Health Center are divided up into two groups.

One group consists of students who come into the center and receive some sort of hands-on care. For example, ones who come in for treatment of an illness, injury, family planning, lab results, or x-rays are counted as provider visits. These patients make up the 20,000 patient numbers.

Every other student who visits the Health Center for over-the-counter medicine, questions, condoms, HIV testing, or mental health counseling are categorized as patient contacts and are not included in the patient

count in an effort to save money. For every patient seen, the Health Center is obligated to pay \$2 of malpractice insurance.

"I've probably seen 26,000 patient contacts," said Bratton.

The Ohlone College Health Center is funded solely through the student health fee. All health center salaries, supplies, and equipment are bought using money from the mandatory student health fee. This allows Bratton to check back with her patients without them having to pay a co-pay or doctors fee.

"I like to practice continuity of care, kind of like Mom," said Bratton. "I'm trying to teach students health care responsibility."