



# Teachers defend their rights with petition

By **FRANKIE ADDIEGO**  
Staff writer

A petition denouncing the violation of First Amendment rights by the current presidential administration has attracted the signatures of 53 Ohlone faculty and administrators. The "Ohlone College Educators' Petition in Defense of the United States Constitution" was started by Ohlone Mathematics Instructor Geoffrey Hirsch.

Hirsch said the petition was created in order to give a voice to faculty members who not only disagree with the actions of President George Bush, but see him as an enemy of

the Constitution from who they need to "defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the state of California against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

Hirsch said Ohlone faculty signed an agreement that they would defend the Constitutions of the United States and California against such enemies when they agreed to work here.

"Basically it says... defend the Constitution against all enemies," said Hirsch, "and if you look at the Bill of Rights... they've all been battered by the current administration."

The petition cites Bush's con-

troversial wire-tapping program as violating the First and Fourth Amendments.

Also, the document criticizes Bush's suspension of habeas corpus, the torture and rendition that the armed forces committed in Abu Gahrib and Guantanamo Bay, the government's funding of "faith-based" initiatives and the relocation of protestors to "free speech" areas, which Hirsch considers a violation of their First Amendment.

One of Hirsch's biggest concerns, however, is Bush's use of signing statements.

"I had never heard, in my life, of signing statements," he said, "and

so I became aware of these not too long ago." A signing statement is a note that the President can write when he signs a bill into law.

The first President to use such a note was James Monroe. The statements can range from a political statement such as, "this is a great law," to a refusal to enforce a particular part of a bill. Hirsch said that he isn't aware of any other president using signing statements in the way Bush has.

Bush's signing statements can be found on [www.coherentbabble.com/signingstatements/TOCindex.htm](http://www.coherentbabble.com/signingstatements/TOCindex.htm).

Hirsch said, "if [the president]

has a major problem with a law, he should veto it."

Hirsch distributed his petition through an email. Various staff members said, "add my name," and they were added to the list.

"I know at least two people who don't generally sign things," said Hirsch, "but they made an exception."

As for whether or not any staff members are dissenting from Hirsch's effort, he said that only one person wrote to him saying that it doesn't reflect everyone's opinion on staff.

The petition is available online at [www.xanga.com/constitution1787](http://www.xanga.com/constitution1787).

## Rap video filming set Friday

Filming of Ohlone student Ivy Brawner's "safe sex" rap video is scheduled Friday at 5 p.m., behind the Smith Center.

Up to 150 people are expected to be in the street scenes, Brawner said.

"It's going to be big," he said. "Really big."

Arrangements are in the works to have the video shown in various venues.

For information, call Brawner at (510) 938-8400.



Photo by Michael Aburas

## Britany Toitou speaks at the Brown Bag.

# Nightmare of meth abuse

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two recovery programs, spending over 18 months in rehab. Touitou learned how to deal with her emotional problems and interact with people outside of the meth house, which was difficult as she was living in a halfway house with 17 other women.

"As an addict your comfort is the drug. In recovery you don't have drugs to comfort you," said Touitou. She eventually went on to become house manager at a halfway house.

After nearly two years she was allowed to go home after "having found [her] soul again" said Touitou. "Some days the only thing that keeps me sober is the threat of

going to prison," and the memory of the agony I caused my mother added Touitou. Other days she feels strong.

Touitou did experience a setback when she relapsed. As a result, she checked into rehab on her 21st birthday. She also decided that in order to stay sober, she could no longer be with her fiancé because he was still doing drugs.

Although Touitou is still going through legal problems, she transferred to San Jose State last semester from Ohlone and is working on her bachelor's in Criminal Justice Administration and planning to attend law school after her legal troubles are finished.

Showing their support by attend-

ing the seminar were her mother Julie Dibene, her godmother Jill Chandler, and Touitou's friend, Milpitas Police Officer Eric Emanuele.

Touitou dedicated her presentation to her friend James B. Hanks who died, in his 30s, in 2005, from his drug addiction.

Touitou's presentation was part of the series of Brown Bag seminars presented during lunchtime at Ohlone. The Brown Bag seminars are sponsored by the Math, Science, and Technology division of Ohlone and funding is provided by a grant from the ASOC. Brown Bag Seminars are the first Friday of every month in Building 3, Room 3201 and are open to the public.

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