



## Clubs show goods

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De Aztlan (MEChA) has been active on campus quite some time. The goal of the club, said member Azim Mogaddad, is to promote multicultural harmony.

Members of MEChA also put together gift baskets, which they aimed to raffle off with the proceeds going to fund conferences and field trips.

The club, which has about 20 members, meets Tuesday and Thursday. The room and times have not yet been decided.

Another long-running club on campus, ASOC, had dedicated their table to raising money for the American Heart Association. For a donation of one dollar, students could receive a basket of heart candies, a CD, a pen, and an iPod case.

ASOC president Candice Kirk explained that the decision to sponsor the American Heart Association came from the fact that it was Valentine's Day and hearts symbolized the holiday.

"We decided to raise the bar a little this year," said Kirk, gesturing to the heart candies and CDs. "We want to really put a name out for ourselves."

ASOC funds speakers on campus, such as world forums, and also funds projects such as the new tables that were recently installed around campus. Members are elected and meet every Tuesday from 4-6 p.m. in Room 1130. Meetings are open to the public.

Another club present was the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor society (AGS). One needs a 3.0 grade point average or higher to join, and members receive a certificate and chance at a scholarship at the end of the year.

Furthermore, AGS sponsors events such as Breast Cancer Awareness Week and a book drive, where



Photo by Eric Dorman

### Alekh Jha stands behind the LIFE club booth at Club Days Tuesday.

students can donate their textbooks at the end of the year, said director and associate instructor Matt Freeman. The books go to students in third-world countries. The drive was so successful last year that Freeman said he hopes to provide a scholarship to some third-world student from the money raised this year.

To join the club, which has about 125 members, email Freeman at mfreeman@ohlone.edu.

Ohlone another club showcased was the Unicef club, which is devoted to raising money to help children in other countries by funding advances in medicine in developing countries. Last semester, the club raised \$84, said club member Su Wai. They are aiming for at



Photo by Eric Dorman

### ASOC Vice President Tatyana Homady sells heart candies for the American Heart Association at Club Days.

least \$100 this semester.

Wai said that the club is planning a fundraiser this semester that would involve paying to shoot a basketball for a possible prize.

A more recent club, the psychology club, was created by psychology professor Sheldon Helms about three years ago and is led by psychology professor Tom McMahon. Its members go on field trips to places like the sleep center at Washington Hospital and bring in guest speakers to speak about psychology.

The club's 10 members meet every other Wednesday from 2-3 p.m.

"We get a lot of shy people," said member May Fendell, "but they usually come out of their shell because this club is fun."

## V-day: myths behind the day

By MARGARITA KITOVA  
Staff writer

Every Feb. 14 across the country, candy, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones, all in the name of St. Valentine. But who is this mysterious saint and why do we celebrate this holiday?

The history of Valentine's Day, as well as its patron saint, is shrouded in mystery. But we do know that February has long been a month of romance. St. Valentine's Day as we know it today contains vestiges of both Christian and ancient Roman tradition.

So, who was Saint Valentine and how did he become associated with this ancient rite? Today, the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus, all of whom were martyred.

One legend contends that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. When Emperor Claudius II decided that single men made better soldiers than those with wives and families, he outlawed marriage for young men, his crop of potential soldiers.

Valentine, realizing the injustice of the decree, defied Claudius and continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When Valentine's actions were discovered, Claudius ordered that he be put to death.

Other stories suggest that Valentine may have been killed for attempting to help Christians escape harsh Roman prisons where prisoners were often beaten and tortured.



Photo by Jack Husting

### A heart carved in the hills above Ohlone.

According to one legend, Valentine actually sent the first 'valentine' greeting himself. While in prison, it is believed that Valentine fell in love with a young girl – who may have been his jailor's daughter – who visited him during his confinement. Before his death, it is alleged that he wrote her a letter, which he signed "From your Valentine," an expression that is still in use today.

Although the truth behind the Valentine legends is murky, the stories certainly emphasize his appeal as a sympathetic, heroic, and, most importantly, romantic figure. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, a purchased Valentine became the most popular way to declare affection.

The cards, which often resembled miniature works of art, were usually hand painted and lavishly decorated with lace, silk or satin and flowers made from the feathers of tropical birds.

The current popularity of St. Valentine's Day owes much to the modern postal service. Until the mid-1800's, the cost of sending mail was far beyond the means of the average person. Even worse, the postal service demanded payment not from the sender of the letter, but from the recipient.

Still, people continue to find a way to spend money on Valentine's Day: the San Francisco *Chronicle* estimated that the average man spends \$156 and women spend about \$85 apiece.

# Student finds brother on MySpace

By MICHAEL ABURAS  
Staff writer

The phenomenon known as Myspace has been used to promote rock stars and models, hook up with boyfriends and girlfriends, or just as a channel to express one's interests.

However, for Ohlone student Jason Calibo it was a means to find a half-brother he had only heard of, but never met. Jason and his brother, Josh, a Marine stationed in Arizona, had the same father and different mothers after Josh's father divorced and remarried.

"At first I was pretty skeptical about it. I wasn't sure if he was going to respond," Jason said of his first discovery of a Josh Calibo MySpace page. Still, when he and Josh began corresponding, he knew he had made the right move.

"I was ecstatic because growing up I had family issues," said Jason. "I thought it was cool that he had understood what I had been through. Being isolated from that side of my

family, he was able to take me in and not reject me for who I am."

Jason also learned of another half-brother through Josh, who he intends to contact soon.

Jason said that learning of his siblings was no easy task. Growing up, Jason always heard of having half-siblings on his father's side, but was isolated from that part of his family.

Then in 8th grade, Jason's friend's sister, who went to the same high school as Josh, brought up Jason's last name, and asked if he had any siblings. "Growing up [Calibo] wasn't a very common last name," explained Jason. "I was isolated from that side of my family." In addition, within his immediate family Jason was an only child.

As a child, Jason discovered a cousin he had never met competing in little league. During a game, after Jason's name had been announced, the cousin, a player on the opposing team, came to ask Jason about his name and his dad's name. Jason was convinced that they were related

when the player called his dad by his high school nickname, "Tinker." However, the older sister decided to bring her high school yearbook to Jason to show him a picture of



Photo courtesy of Jason Calibo

### Jason Calibo poses on MySpace

who she thought his older brother was; a senior named Josh Calibo. After looking at the picture, the last name and mulling over Josh's features, Jason was convinced that Josh might be his brother. Nevertheless, Jason did not pursue trying to contact Josh.

It wasn't until last semester that Jason, on a whim and with the as-

sistance of Myspace, decided to investigate the possibility of Josh being his half brother. "One day I was bored and decided to do a search to see who else was around that had the same last name [on Myspace]," said Jason.

Jason eventually came across someone with the name of Josh Calibo. The Josh on the page looked different from what Jason had remembered in the year book, mostly because Josh was older, but Jason still recognized him.

Jason decided to email Josh and see what would happen, but was sure to remain tactful. "I didn't want to sound like a crazy kid," explained Jason. "I approached it in a manner where I explained the family tree; who my mom was and who my dad was." Josh replied in three days.

Josh explained to Jason that he had spoken with his mom about the circumstances and confirmed that Jason was his half brother. According to Jason, Josh was enthused. "I think the reason he was stoked was

because I found him," said Jason.

In addition, it was a subject that Josh brought up in his email that helped convince Jason that the relationship was real—they both had similar experiences in their family growing up. Josh offered to give Jason "a better understanding of our family."

Josh also revealed to Jason that he had another brother on his side of the family named Bobby, who is currently the supervisor at the Marriot Hotel in Fremont. Bobby has yet to be informed of Jason's existence.

Jason explained that he hasn't gone to the Marriot to meet Bobby, because "it's a lot easier to talk to someone when you don't have to talk face to face. I don't want to put him on the spot like that."

However, Jason and Josh currently have plans to meet. "When I responded to him I told him that [as soon as I can get to California] we should go grab a cup of coffee or beer," said Jason, "and get acquainted."



Photo by Kevin Protz

**Nate Nimgaonkar, left, speaks with Sang Trieu, center, and Jessica Lopez at a condom give-away during Sexual Responsibility week.**

## Responsibility's hot: sex week is here

By **NOAH LEVIN**  
Staff writer

Culminating on the ever-hectic Feb. 14, Sexual Responsibility Week came to Ohlone from Monday Wednesday. The three days of events were part of an educational outreach event recognized by colleges across the nation.

It was no coincidence, then, that the event reached its "climax" on Valentine's Day, with the Ohlone's Student Health Center nurses giving out gift bags, promotional items, and above all, a seemingly limitless amount of free condoms.

This year's Sexual Responsibility Week kicked off on Monday with the Student Health center staffers wearing large condom hats, dispensing information about practicing safe sex.

Tuesday saw Lee Wu, also known as Dr. Sex, presenting Condom Café, a seminar on proper condom use. Wednesday's event was focused on Partner Communication, with health center staff giving out free condoms, candy, gift bags, and

small, questionnaire note cards to give to one's partner. The cards asked questions relating to commitment, emergency contraception, previous partners and getting tested for Sexually Transmitted Diseases, or STD's.

Tuesday's event didn't receive as many attendees as had been hoped for by the health center staffers, which the health center staff attributed to the excitement of Club Days. The health center proceeded to set up a booth alongside clubs for Wednesday to address partner communication, garnering more attention.

However, though Sexual Responsibility Week has come to an end, the Ohlone Student Health Center always has information for students interested in responsible sex practices. The health center also offers free HIV testing administered by the Tri-City Health Center. Roughly 130 students get tested each semester, showing that the health center, as well as Sexual Responsibility Week, reaches many students and makes a difference.



Photo by Tomas Ortega

**Presidential Executive Assistant Shelby Auer teaches piano on the side.**

## New presidential assistant arrives

By **KANYA GOLDMAN**  
Staff writer

When you call President Doug Treadway's office, you're likely to hear a soft-spoken...piano teacher?

Shelby Auer (pronounced "hour") has taken over the role of executive assistant in the president's office.

Originally from Southern California, Auer graduated from U.C. Berkeley in 2003 with an applied mathematics degree and made her way to Fremont just over a year ago.

"I have an appreciation for smaller environments with quality teaching," Auer said, which is what brought her to Ohlone. On any given day, she can be found doing a plethora of duties including coordinating board meetings, handling board of trustee issues or answering phones.

Auer also said she teaches piano part time to 15 students and volunteers with the Fremont Symphony. "One of my life goals is to open my own music school," she said.

When she's not working and taking a yoga or archeology class at Ohlone, she may be found hanging out with her husband of a year and a half, a law student at Santa Clara University or with one of her two cats, Bing (Crosby) and Virginia.

## Belasky brings back artifacts

By **MARGARITA KITOVA**  
Staff writer

Paul Belasky, geology and paleontology instructor at Ohlone, has compiled a collection of paintings and slides that will reconstruct what the world looked like in prehistoric times.

Belasky spent three months last summer on his sabbatical leave in Europe, through Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Russia - where he lived until moving to the United States at the age of 14 - Poland and Lithuania.

Throughout his travels, Belasky was collecting materials, visiting museums and research institutes and getting specimens. He has made slides of paintings and images to help his students visualize prehistoric life.

Belasky spoke about some of the paintings he saw, including one by a famous Czech artist of the giant predatory bird Diatryma, which lived 50 million years ago.

Looking at such photos is like traveling in a time machine, he

noted. Sometimes you wish you were there, he added, and then you see a huge Tyrannosaurus Rex devouring a dinosaur and you're grateful you're here.

The instructor has also compiled a collection of poems penned by geologists and has already translated more than 40 poems from Russian. He is planning on including Russian

poetry from geologists in a volume about earth sciences and cultures coming out in a couple of years.

Additionally, Belasky is involved with educating people about global climate change and

thinks that knowing what happened on Earth before may give people an idea of what will happen to the Earth in the future. In the Fall 2007 semester, a new class will be offered called "The Changing Earth," about the stages the planet and its climate has gone through.

Belasky will give a talk in March about climate change, using the images he's collected on his trip.

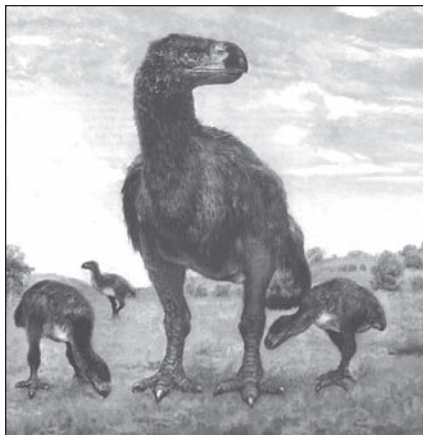


Photo courtesy of Paul Belasky

**A painting of the giant prehistoric bird diatryma.**



**Devil's Advocate**

By **ANNA NEMCHUK**  
Editor-in-chief

## Just be perfect

Perfection has taken a bum rap. No one wants to be perfect anymore; rather, we all strive to be "ourselves." Beauty in the eye of the beholder and all that. The yardstick for feminine allure is easily the most debated. From MTV's bared midriffs to Hefner's heinies, from catwalks to shaved heads, from blonde ambition to girl-next-door, everyone and their sister has an opinion of what the ideal woman should look like.

Mummy says you're beautiful just as you are, Cosmo tells you to lose 20 pounds and get a nose job, your doctor's talking BMI while the pastor's droning about inner light and the boys declare they don't care what you look like as long as you look the way they want you to.

I'm flipping through Luis Royo's "Conceptions III," mostly pencil sketches of fantasy women, and he dedicates the book to the "feminine figure" and "a search for the ideal of beauty, an unattainable beauty, which has always been sought...in our society the meaning of an unreachable dream is stronger when talking about femininity...All fields have let themselves be taken by its inextinguishable strength."

I fell in love with Royo from first glance. His women are all sharp lines and flowing colors, as erotic as they are proud, as often bearing weapons as they are nuzzling creatures possessing way too many teeth. They are also all, without exception, breathtakingly gorgeous. Shall we call him chauvinist for not giving his creations pot bellies and stretch marks or pat him on the head and excuse the non-p.c. attitude because he is "artiste?"

What is wrong with reaching toward perfection? We spend so much time these days waxing poetic over all the ways we're good enough, we never seem to actually try to improve.

No, people are not and should not be cookie-cutter clones. Yes, beauty is an individual thing, though with mass media being as prevalent and powerful as it is today, not nearly as much as most would like to think.

Perhaps the key is in individual perfection over the garden variety "hotness" of reality shows. Instead of the billionth Angelina Jolie makeover, it'd be nice to see the shine of your real hair color instead of Glamour Puss #20, the shape your hips will be from playing in the park with your kids instead of regular lipo after daily consumption of your weight in pizza.

There IS perfection, dammit. And stating that you're 100 pounds overweight and proud of it is not it. Neither is anorexia, or a life on depression pills.

Go look up Royo for inspiration. Beauty is happiness, strength and health. And maybe a pouty look or two.

## Broadway to Ohlone

The parody group Forbidden Broadway Special Victims Unit will perform Feb. 23 at the Jackson Theater in the Smith Center. The six-member cast will parody such performances of "Wicked," "Fiddler on the Roof," "Annie" and others.

This is the second time 24-year old Forbidden Broadway, based in New York, has performed here. Tickets are for the 8 p.m. show are \$25 for adults, \$12 for students, available at the box office. Order tickets online, e-mail [boxoffice@ohlone.edu](mailto:boxoffice@ohlone.edu)

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