

DNA lab confirms twins are genetically identical

By SANDEEP ABRAHAM
Staff writer

Anna and Mary Rosa, sisters currently attending Livermore High School, have been identical twins for as long as they could remember. However, three months ago, the twins were startled to find out that their parents did not know if they were identical or fraternal twins. The probability that they are identical is 3 in 1,000, making this discovery very momentous to them. Thus began a school science fair project that eventually found its way into Ohlone's biotechnology laboratory.

Livermore High lacked a DNA sequencer, as do most high school science facilities. Ohlone's Dean of Science and Technology, Ron Quinta, had heard about the twins' plight and decided to kill two birds with one stone by helping them out and bringing more attention to

Ohlone's biotechnology program. The program itself, though incredibly sophisticated and poised for a growing career field, is little known, much less understood. Mark Barnby, professor of biology, will oversee the project and hopes this will bring attention to the program's many practical applications within our community.

The project took place in two parts - the first was a fingerprint test and the second a sequencing and comparison of DNA extracted from cheek cells of each twin. The fingerprint test performed was on par with fingerprint tests done by the FBI and Forensic Science Service, a highly renowned British forensic agency that does work for various British law enforcement agencies. This test will help determine whether or not the twins share the same DNA; if they do, their fingerprints would be identical.

The next phase of the project

involved using the laboratory's DNA sequencer to compare various strands of the twins' DNA. Using a cheek swab sample given by each twin, the machine took apart each twin's DNA strands and cloned various portions of them. Once cloned, the machine worked overnight, comparing and contrasting the chemical code of each strand to determine just how similar the twins were.

There was a standard of determination used in which a 100 percent match would mean they were identical twins and a 50 percent match would make them fraternal. Identical twins are the result of one of their mother's fertilized eggs splitting into two, whereas fraternal twins are the products of two independently fertilized eggs.

Much to their delight, the twins found out that they were indeed identical, as they had always believed they were.



Photo by Sandeep Abraham

Anna and Mary Rose, identical twins, pose outside the DNA lab before having their DNA extracted and tested with a sequencer.

ASOC organizes Unity Week

By NOAH LEVIN
Staff writer

The Associated Students of Ohlone College (ASOC) discussed holding a boat race in Ohlone's pool for Unity Week, welcoming one of the founding members for this semester's Earth Day and other things during their weekly meeting on Wednesday, March 21. The formation of a new Pre-Pharmacy club was announced, as well as an Urban Art Club, which is in the works.

Legislative Representative Ken Steadman informed the ASOC of this Friday's Student Senate of California Community Colleges, hosted at Chabot College. Steadman will be traveling to Chabot and was seeking a fellow ASOC member to accompany him, to which he received no response.

ASOC Secretary and Speaker Committee member Tauheed Safi reported that political awareness speaker and activist Dave Dionisi

would be addressing Ohlone students in the lobby of Building 1 on April 14, from noon until 1 p.m. Steadman then briefly addressed the ASOC's plans to change the ASOC constitution, with Representative at Large Carlos Vejar commenting that the constitution, "Needs to be updated." No amendments or changes have yet been made, nor has the ASOC held council on the matter at the time of print. The Earth Day Committee laid out its plans for the week of April 16, with bands on two days and speakers.

Unity Week Committee member Vejar also laid out a tentative idea for a fun event to replace the usual relay foot race. The idea to have a boat race across the pool, borrowed from a local school, would entail teams building a small boat out of cardboard and duct tape only, which would have to not only float, but carry three people. Vejar said that the event wouldn't be so much about the boats themselves working, but

the teamwork and leadership skills that would be involved in building the watercraft. Ideally, teams would be representatives from clubs, and clubs might contribute money to a pot prize, which would be awarded to the winning boat. ASOC members are still pooling student opinion as to whether this event would be preferable to the mundane relay race.

Vice President and Unity Week Committee member Tatyana Hamady also made a money request for approximately \$7,500 to pay for the week of events. Planned events throughout the week include the Gala Event to open the week with a cultural dance show, a Deaf Voice/ASL movie being shown Tuesday and a Pioneers of Civil Rights speaker panel in the Jackson Theater, with a student discussion panel the following day. The week is planned to come to a close with an outdoor movie screening on a large inflatable screen.

Capt's death good for DC

Continued from Page 2

comic in the last five years. With few exceptions, superhero comics just aren't that interesting any more.

To regain the audience that comics once had, the comic companies need to go after their old readers and that means making their content more mature. Marvel started this somewhat subtly in the last few years in an attempt to return to the politicized comics they used to put out in the '80s. Examples of this trend include introducing a Muslim X-Woman, Sooraya Qadir aka. Dust, to deal with the issue of conservative Islam in the U.S. and featuring a public homosexual relationship between two high school-aged superheroes, the Hulkling and Wiccan.

The political message underlying Captain America's death is just the next step in this trend - and it is a good step. If this is a real representation of where comics are going, in the next few years comic fans might stop arguing about who would win in a fight between the Hulk and Wolverine and will instead be arguing who was right about the Holocaust, Professor X or Magneto.



UNIVERSITY of SAN FRANCISCO

Celebrating 150 YEARS
SAN RAMON CAMPUS

The difference is EXCELLENCE!

Earn your degree at USF in two years or less from a university nationally ranked in the top 10 per cent. All with:

- Programs for busy professionals
- One-night-a-week classes
- Outstanding committed faculty
- Convenient locations
- Scholarships and financial aid

Your Best Transfer Choice

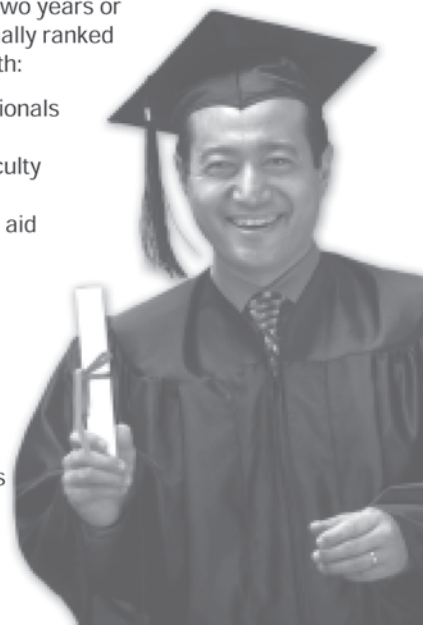
Degree Completion Programs
(minimum 50 units required)

Call today for a schedule of Degree Planning Workshops

Please Call 925.867.2711 or log on to www.usfca.edu/ohl

SAN FRANCISCO • CUPERTINO • SACRAMENTO • SAN RAMON • SANTA ROSA

Educating Minds and Hearts to Change the World



MISSION PIZZA & PUB

1572 Washington Blvd.

Fremont

Ohlone Village Center

651-6858

LIVE MUSIC
FRIDAY AND
SATURDAY
NIGHTS

32 Micro Brew
and Import Beers
on Tap!

\$3 OFF

ANY LARGE PIZZA

Good for up to 4 Pizzas

SAVE \$6-\$9-\$12

With coupon. Not valid with other offers.

\$2 OFF

ANY MEDIUM PIZZA

Good for up to 4 Pizzas

SAVE \$4-\$6-\$8

With coupon. Not valid with other offers.

DOUBLE COUPONS DAYS SUNDAY THROUGH TUESDAY

\$1 OFF

ANY SMALL PIZZA

Good for up to 4 Pizzas

SAVE \$2-\$3-\$4

With coupon. Not valid with other offers.

FREE SMALL PIZZA

Buy A Large Pizza And
Get A Small Pizza FREE.

Equal Toppings Or Less.

Not valid for double coupon.

With coupon. Not valid with other offers.