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# OHLONE COLLEGE MONITOR

Vol. XXXVI No. 10

Fremont, California

Thursday, April 12, 2007

## Run for the Wall



Photo by Jack Husting

**Bennett Oppenheim, Ohlone sociology instructor, prepares to ride off on a 3,000-mile "Run for the Wall," an annual veteran motorcycle ride set for Memorial Day. Story on Page 4, 5.**

## Ex-Army Intelligence officer to speak today

By NOAH LEVIN  
Staff writer

Students interested in learning about America's effect on the world at large and how to prevent another attack similar to that on 9/11 are invited to hear a speech by peace advocate and humanitarian David Dionisi.

Dionisi, author of the book *American Hiroshima*, is responsible for National Awareness for Freedom From War, advocate for the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, previously served as an Army Intelligence Officer and has committed himself to international volunteer humanitarian aid work in every part of the world.

He has also worked for several Fortune 500 companies.

Dionisi's speech will address a wide array of topics, ranging from nuclear overkill and overspending, understanding why terrorists are at war with America, covert propaganda and how to stabilize Iraq.

**The Monitor invites your opinions about the Wars in Afghanistan and Iraq for a special page being planned in two weeks. Please send opinions to [monitor@ohlone.edu](mailto:monitor@ohlone.edu).**

*American Hiroshima* addresses these topics, as well as predictions of an inevitable war with America and Israel attacking Iran, possibly with nuclear weapons - citing plans from throughout the 20th century to covertly attack and kill

American citizens in order to gain public support and approval for various wars.

Dionisi mentions Operation North Woods, which was presented to then-President John Kennedy to disguise American fighter planes to look like MiG fighters from Cuba, and have them attack passenger airlines or army bases in order to justify an invasion of Cuba. Moreover, he cites the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution at the start of the Vietnam War.

But Dionisi isn't merely a conspiracy theory-toting doomsayer. He participates in wide-ranging humanitarian aid work across all corners of the globe.

The ASOC has invited Dionisi to appear in the lobby of Building 1 on Thursday, April 12, from noon until 1:30 p.m.

## Board to reopen frontage bidding

By OMER AHMED  
News editor

The approach to developing the frontage property was revised by Ohlone's Board of Trustees at Wednesday's bimonthly meeting.

The Board will now instruct the administration of the college to work on a development package and seek developers and clients with a new round of bidding.

Previously, the board had worked with Sobrato Development Companies. A non-binding letter of intent (LOI) was created and plans for the development began. However, President Doug Treadway explained at the meeting that the project became derailed. The negotiation over how much of the project would be residential or retail space was one of the main reasons for the Sobrato plan not going forward.

Afterward, a group of local developers, The Ohlone Group, put in

a collective bid on the project but the board decided to step back and reconsider all of its options.

Trustee Bob Brunton recalled the previous frontage negotiation and commented, "I think we have learned that the LOI process wasn't working."

In a search for other options, Board Vice President Garrett Yee and Newark Mayor/Executive Director Enterprise Management David Smith met with officials from Washington Hospital to learn about how they had managed a similar project in the '90s.

Yee, drawing from the meetings, explained that the school acting as its own negotiator and broker was an option, but it had its downsides, mainly cost and time.

After deliberation, the board decided to forgo a new LOI or acting as its own agent for now and, while reopening bidding, to remain flexible - open to suggestions.

## Earth day blooms



Photo by Jack Husting

**Clubs and organizations from across campus each placed a plant in a garden across from parking lot N for Earth Week. As above, each plant was labeled for its sponsoring Ohlone club. More about Earth Week on Page 4.**



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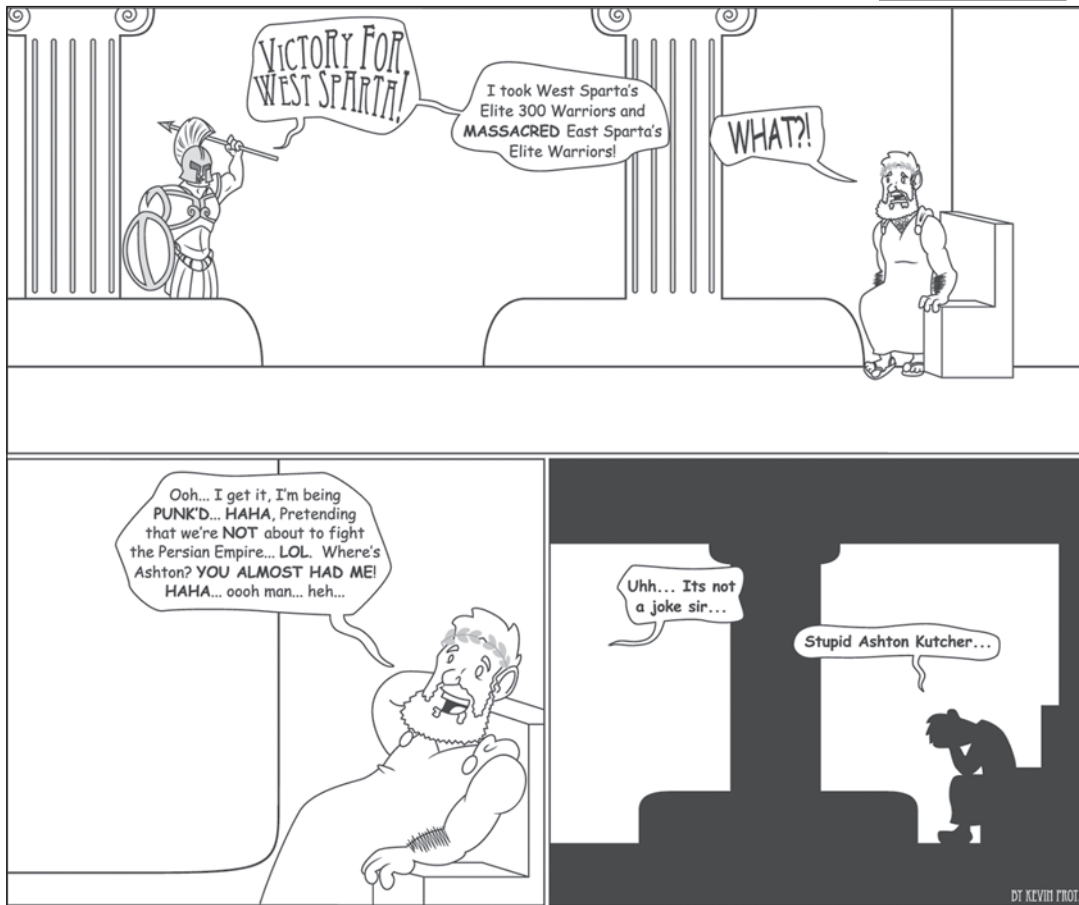


Offices are located in Room 5310 on campus, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont 94539-5884. Call (510) 659-6075. Fax: (510) 659-6076. E-mail: monitor@ohlone.cc.ca.us

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OPINION

# Leonidas isn't Bush and Thermopylae isn't Iraq

By OMER AHMED  
News editor

Film interpretation is always a free-for-all. The 1978 version of *Dawn of the Dead* is the best example of the zombie film to some, an expression of disgust with consumerism to others and a pointless bloodbath to my parents. However, sometimes we assert our own fears and personal views on films when the film doesn't call for it. The most recent victim of this twisted form of interpretation happens to be the

testosterone-drenched *300*. As many of you have already seen, *300* is a stylized portrayal of the Battle of Thermopylae where 300 Spartans and their assorted Greek allies held back the huge army of Persia despite being ridiculously outnumbered. The movie itself is an adaptation of the comic book version of the story, *300* by Frank Miller, which was inspired by a previous movie, 1962's *The 300 Spartans*.

Watching *300*, I was taken in by the intensity of the film. It has

more testosterone than all the female-to-male sex changes in all San Francisco. My friend, on the other hand, saw the movie as a reminder to viewers that intelligent action, assertiveness and politicking are more valuable than passive intellectualizing and reckless violence. Many, many more have seen the movie as depicting the supposed current struggle between Western and Eastern civilization.

This last view, oddly enough, has even found its way to Ohlone. When the Speech Club put up a sign for their club with a depiction of the

King of Sparta in *300*, Leonidas I, quite a few students objected. One student mentioned that the sign was offensive to Muslims and Middle Eastern students because of the East/West conflict in the film being laced with a negative portrayal of the Persians.

Throughout the film, the Spartans are shown as strong, brave, noble and willing to die for their country's freedom. The Persians are shown as downtrodden, dirty and generally unattractive. In some case, they are even shown as monstrous, demonic and deformed. This makes it very

easy to think that the Spartans represent the United States. We have been portraying our perceived enemies in a negative light since the beginning of film as a medium.

Could Leonidas I really be a thinly veiled George Bush? I kinda doubt it. The movie certainly twists history. The Persian army was not a slave army as shown in the movie. Most of the men were soldiers and paid, though probably not very well. Additionally, Sparta wasn't the bastion of the free world as shown in the movie. It was not a democracy

*Continued on Page 3*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# One reader's response to last week's article

DEAR EDITOR,

I was alarmed at the article that Mr. Abraham wrote about Americans, more specifically students of Ohlone, not caring about worldly matters. If Mr. Abraham truly cares about matters on which he speaks then it is recommended that he start a campaign that addresses the following three "closer-to-home" issues.

First, the *Monitor* publishes a newspaper that often has many left-over copies on the racks around campus. Why not send an email to

all registered students containing the *Monitor* instead of printing hard copies? Hard copies are a significant waste of resources. After all, the school is already paying for the electricity to run the servers that send out campus-wide emails. As it currently stands, Ohlone is paying twice to continue to publish the *Monitor* in hard copy while having a system that can deliver it to a wider audience for significantly less.

Second, why can't the ID cards issued by the school include a magnetic strip that can be used as a copy card? Are we supporting an industry that is dying or something? Some major libraries in the Bay Area

already use the same card that is issued to patrons as a copy card.

Third, when will the women's softball team have a comparable field as the men? It doesn't go unnoticed the stark difference between the two fields with which the our teams play their sports. Shouldn't a fairer system be set up to utilized the field that gets the most grooming attention?

These are just a few of the "act locally issues" that should be addressed while we're being encouraged to "think globally." Addressing gender bias on campus and better management of our resources are far superior goals than judging

others that you happen to overhear in the cafeteria.

Sincerely,  
TOUCALIT BENTON

DEAR TOUCALIT:

We at the *Monitor* are very glad to receive letters from our readers. We are flattered that the issues stated above should be addressed to us, and that it is assumed that we can, with the swift stroke of the pen, rectify supposed gender bias and resolve issues of funding (and maybe even get a bit more funding for ourselves, as well). We readily agree that they are issues that

should be discussed.

As for the suggestion that we replace the printed version of the paper with a newsletter that would be emailed to students and faculty at Ohlone - there are many reasons why it is vital that we keep the printed version, at least for now.

The main reason is that the *Monitor* trains students for jobs in the real world - working on newspapers that appear in print form. They also publish online, as does the *Monitor*. To not publish on paper would be like having broadcast students record their radio shows instead of broadcasting them. It's not the same

*Continued on Page 3*

## CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

# What should Ohlone do for Earth Week?



**KEAGAN O' NEILL**  
Business

"We should form a team to pick up scrap and plant trees."



**KAMARA HALL**  
Radiology/Photography

"They should improve the college's look by planting flowers."



**JOHN PHENNING**  
Philosophy/Religion

"They should inform students on how to help the environment."



**KELLY GREER**  
Theater

"We should have environmental issues awareness week."



**YVONNE YAMASAKI**  
Marketing Merchandising

"We should pick up trash for extra credit. I'd do it without it."

## More money this year for Ohlone scholarships

By **MICHAEL ABURAS**  
Staff writer

This semester, the Ohlone Foundation will provide students with even more opportunities for scholarships than the previous year. Last semester, \$4,300 was awarded with still more money available.

"More [scholarships] were posted online but nobody claimed them," said Foundation Assistant Thomas Hsu. Only 12 of the 18 awarded were retained.

Since last semester, the dollar amount has risen from \$8,000 to \$10,000. "There are a lot of opportunities. People just have to apply; it's not that hard," said Hsu.

Although all of the scholarships have slightly different requirements, they all oblige the applicant to write a one-page, double-spaced 12-font letter about why they should

be awarded the money.

In this letter, the applicant should discuss what they intend to do with the money, what their educational goals are and how it will benefit them. "If they're in financial trouble, describe that. It's also good to talk about community involvement," added Hsu.

Hsu explained that community involvement shows a willingness to go out of one's way to do something good with one's life.

The writing doesn't have to be eloquent as "we're looking to get to know the person. It does help to get it proofread to show you didn't just type something up in five minutes and toss it in an envelope," said Hsu.

Hsu said that last semester all the winning student applicants mentioned goals - "it looks good when you have something you're

shooting for."

The money for scholarships comes from individual donations with a good portion from endowments. Not all scholarships require that students sign up for financial aid.

Several scholarships and requirements include:

**Abe & Hannah Hoher Memorial Scholarship (\$500)** - Students must be enrolled full-time (12 units). Students must also have a 3.0 or greater and demonstrate need through financial aid.

**Nummi Citizens Scholarship (\$500)** - Students must have at least 6 units, a GPA of 2.5 or greater and show evidence of campus or community involvement.

**EOPS Scholarship (\$150)** - Must be enrolled in EOPS, carry at least 9 units with a 2.0 or higher and have three counselor contacts.

**ASOC Leadership Scholarship (\$500)** - Must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher, two letters of recommendation and must be involved with the college community. A few examples include: club officer, tutor, club founder, community service, etc.

**Luvett Music Scholarship (\$500)** - Student must be a declared music major, have a 3.0 or higher, be enrolled as a full-time student and have a letter of recommendation from an Ohlone faculty member.

The deadline to apply for all scholarships, except two, is April 30. The Raza Day Scholarship application is due April 25 while the Anne E. Golseth Excellence in Student Leadership Award is due April 27.

The Raza Day Scholarship is awarded to students who have helped the Latino/Chicano com-

munity through activism and other charity works. La Raza is Spanish for "the race" and colloquially refers to Latinos as a whole.

The Anne E. Golseth Award is the largest of the scholarships with a \$750 value. For the award, the student applicant must have a valid ASOC ID card, have a GPA of 2.5 or greater and be enrolled in 12 units or have 30 completed units. The award is the highest leadership honor Ohlone offers to students.

The scholarships available for Ohlone students are not as hard to obtain as many people think, according to Hsu.

Students may print out an application from the Ohlone scholarship website and turn the completed form in to the financial aid office.

For further information, visit the scholarship web site at [www.ohlone.edu/org/scholarships](http://www.ohlone.edu/org/scholarships).

## Testosterone, not politics

Continued from Page 2

and the state collectively owned slaves in order to regulate their use by citizens. And obviously the Persian army didn't employ giant ogres and I doubt they imported white rhinos to kamikaze the enemy. White rhinos are the friendliest of rhinos, after all.

None of the twisting is really meant to make America look good or make the East look evil. For one thing, the pagan and Zoroastrian Persia of 480 BCE isn't a particularly good parallel to the modern Islamic Iran or the greater Middle East, let alone the East as a whole. Nor is Sparta a particularly good analogue to the Christian and secular states of the modern West.

All the twisting is meant to highlight the Battle of Thermopylae as

an example of bravery in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds. This is why the sizes of the armies in the movies are exaggerated. In reality, the Spartans had more than 6,500 Arcadians, Corinthians, Thebans and other Greeks to help them. The Persians had 200,000 soldiers in total. Still a major discrepancy, but hardly the 300 versus the "thousand nations of the Persian Empire" as seen in the movie.

The point of the movie is the heroism, sacrifice and, quite frankly, tons of disturbingly pretty bloodshed. The colors of the film highlight this, the portrayal of the armies highlights this and even the portrayal of the Persian king Xerxes I as androgynous highlights this.

Looking at the film as a story

of East versus West is taking the film and the story of the battle of Thermopylae out of context. The point of the movie is not politics or education. The first point of the movie is to entertain, the second is to get your adrenaline pumping and the third is to show a lot of stylized blood splatters. If politics is in there, it is very low on the list of the film's priorities.

After all, the epitaph at Thermopylae for the Spartans doesn't say anything about their enemies. The story's focus is and should always be on the Spartans themselves and their bravery unto death.

The epigram written by Simonides of Ceos reads, "Stranger! To Sparta say, her faithful band / Here lie in death, remembering her command."

## Don't forget to act locally when thinking globally

Continued from Page 2

and it's not what is happening in the real world. Of course the publishing world is changing, and there may come a day when newspapers are published primarily online. When that happens, the Monitor will change too.

Another reason for continuing the print version is that it is the traditional news-on-paper final product that propagates objective news journalism, which is seen less and less in today's society, plagued by the confusing clash of

ideas sent to us by televised and internet media.

Also, the Monitor prints 2,500 copies of each issue, just enough to reach interested students. We end up throwing away no more than 150 copies from each issue, and nearly run out on some issues. Waste is at a minimum. And we recycle.

As to the topics we address in our Opinions section of the newspaper, they vary in their relative "importance" and, as they are the opinions of the individual writers that write them, cannot go through a sanction-

ing process. There will always be additional matters of subjectively greater importance, and we urge that readers submit letters to arrange to have their own opinions expressed in the Monitor. If you would like to submit an opinion piece to be considered for publication in the Monitor, you need only email us at [Monitor@ohlone.edu](mailto:Monitor@ohlone.edu). It is a great opportunity to share your observations and opinions with others.

**MATTHEW SO,**  
Opinions editor

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Applications Due by April 30, 2007



# Remembering Vietnam: Instructor to ride



By **ERIC DORMAN**  
Features editor

Astride a gleaming black Harley, with wraparound shades and iron-gray hair streaming in the wind, Sociology Instructor Bennett Oppenheim looks like any biker poised for a 3,000-mile joyride across America.

However, the ride he's preparing to take will be for a different reason.

"As I'm riding, I'll be revisiting the many feelings suppressed over the years regarding my involvement [in Vietnam] and the loss of friends whose names are on the Wall," said Oppenheim, who served in the Vietnam War.

The ride Oppenheim is preparing for is the "Run for the Wall"

annual motorcycle ride, in which veterans from all over the nation ride to Washington, D.C. for Memorial Day.

On Sunday, May 27, Oppenheim and about 350,000 other motorcyclists will ride in the "Rolling ThunderParade" from the Pentagon parking lot through downtown Washington, finally ending at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

The Vietnam War was America's longest war, lasting from 1959 to 1975, with America involved from 1965-1973. The war began when communist-led rebels (the Vietcong) began attacking the government of the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam). The Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam) later came to their aid, prompting the United States to send troops in aid of South Vietnam. North Vietnam eventually won the war, but not before the American death toll reached 58,000, and about 1 million Vietnamese soldiers and 4 million civilians were killed.

Oppenheim enlisted in the Marines at the age of 18 in April 1966, a decision that he knew at the time "all but guaranteed that [he] would fight in Vietnam." Even though the war was escalating, he felt he had a duty to serve his country—a feeling he now views as foolish.

"At 18, I was naive and ignorant," said Oppenheim. "I believed conventional wisdom and that one must serve one's country in time of war."

Seven months later, Oppenheim stepped off the plane onto Vietnam soil. Forced to "neutralize" the enemy on a daily basis, he quickly learned the necessity of "turning off" himself in order to do what needed to be done.

"What I experienced is that you learned quickly to emotionally 'turn off' and engage each day as though it didn't matter," said Oppenheim. "It didn't make it right, but it made it easier to do what you had to do."

That necessary task of "turning off" was a big de-

tractor from Vietnam veterans' attempts to return to normal civilian life, said Oppenheim. After living in an emotionally "turned off" state for so long, returned soldiers didn't have the time or place they needed to "turn back on again."

"Going from war back to civilian life is a very difficult psychological metamorphosis," noted Oppenheim, "and there are a lot of consequences to [not providing a way for soldiers to turn back on], including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and often suicide."

Though Oppenheim himself survived the war uninjured, around him he saw his friends injured and dying. Throughout the course of the war, over 50 percent of his friends were killed in action.

But despite the rampant killing he witnessed on a daily basis, Oppenheim never despaired completely of making it out of the war alive. "You always have hope," he said, "but you can't be preoccupied with life and death" because that causes one to lose focus.

When Oppenheim returned to America after serving his time, he was faced not with welcoming celebrations but with hostility. "We were looked at as outlaws, as the reason for an increasingly unpopular war," remembered Oppenheim. "We were shunned by society...we were looked at as baby killers, as pariahs; we were yelled at and disrespected. We were part of the problem, not part of the solution. Instead of reminding society of a victory won [as in previous



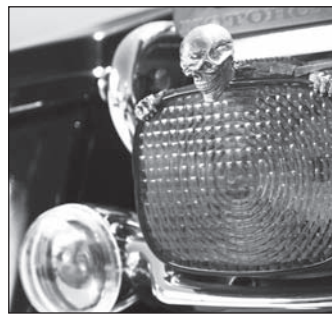
**Sociology instructor and Vietnam War veteran Oppenheim is wearing a leather "Vietnam Vets" shirt and riding a Harley-Davidson motorcycle. He will be participating in the Run for the Wall Memorial Day. Right and left, Oppenheim rides his Harley-Davidson motorcycle. On the left, he poses beside his bike.**

wars], we were a constant reminder of a failed occupation."

None of this made assimilation back into civilian life any easier, noted Oppenheim. Many hid their military service. Many blamed others—the current administration, the American people—for what had been done to them.

Oppenheim said that while he witnessed this, he was personally able to avoid it. "I knew that if I didn't lose my anger and my rage, I would not be able to function or be a reasonable person."

To cope with his conflicting feelings and America's rejection, Oppenheim began traveling, first hitchhiking to New York,



## Spend week helping Earth

By **MARGARITA KITOVA**  
Staff writer

Ohlone's LIFE club, ASOC and the Sustainability Club will put on an "Earth Week" next week from April 16 to 20. The activities will include earth-centered events, live music, food, speakers, free giveaways, information, games, contests & more.

College President Doug Treadway will kick off the events with a short introduction on Monday at 11:30 a.m. Following that, the band WHOGAS will play from noon to 1 p.m. in the Quad.

The schedule for Tuesday promises to be even more interesting, with the band NEXUS playing in the Quad from noon to 1 p.m. The same day, the LIFE club will be having an art contest with a "Global Warming" theme. The winners will win cash prizes.

On Wednesday, Biology Instructor Walter Arenstein, who helped organize Earth Day in New York, will come to speak on the progression of Earth Day from noon to 12:30 p.m. For the next half hour, Nina Rizzo of the Global Exchange will talk about what people can do locally to help the environment. In addition, KOHL will provide a disc jockey from 11 a.m. to noon. On Thursday, students will have an opportunity to attend a "Meet the Candidates" forum for ASOC in the Quad. Another planned event is the tree planting ceremony that will happen between the Palm Basque and Building 1.

Students can all contribute to a clean campus on Friday. Teams from various departments of the school will be cleaning up the whole campus, and the LIFE Club participants will be collecting recyclables as well.

The LIFE Club, ASOC and the Sustainability club will have environmental information tables each day.

There are also tentative plans for a PG&E table, which will aim to inform people of the importance for saving energy. There will also be laptops available for students to take sustainability tests on.

If enough funds are raised for the week, food will also be provided.

Next week is the time when students should all become aware of what they can do to help our environment and preserve the beauty we are surrounded by. Need more incentive? Last year some of the teachers gave extra credit to students who went out to pick up trash. This shouldn't be students' only motivation, though. The events planned are a great opportunity for all students to contribute for a cleaner and even more beautiful campus.



Photo by Jack Husting

**On an Earth theme, the LIFE Club created a garden near Parking Lot N. LIFE, ASOC and the Sustainability Club will put on an "Earth Week" next week.**

# Harley 3,000 miles to Washington



War veteran Bennett Oppenheim, right, is reflected in the mirrors of this ride to Washington for Memorial Day. Below left, a skull flies through the wind; below right, he flies past and below

Photos by Jack Hustling



United States to rebuild his life. He got a job, married, and raised a family of twin boys. Still, he said that he never forgot his time in Vietnam, and is very concerned about the parallels between the Vietnam and Iraq wars.

The Iraq war has many of the same characteristics of the war in Vietnam, noted Oppenheim. In both wars, he said, the U.S. went in for the wrong reasons, the decision to commit troops was made by non-military officials, the electorate was ill-prepared for a long struggle, there was no achievable exit strategy and the government was not prepared to handle returning troops.

"So far as I'm concerned, the only differences [between Iraq and Vietnam] are time and place," declared Oppenheim.

Oppenheim warned not to rule out the possibility of a draft for the Iraq war, as happened in Vietnam. "If the war endures much longer, if tours of duty are extended, or if we get involved in another Middle East skirmish, the likelihood of a draft is much greater," said Oppenheim.

Oppenheim went a step further on the subject of drafts, stating that a draft should be a prerequisite for the U.S. entering any war. "If the nation knows we are going to institute a draft, we will think long and hard before entering any kind of struggle," and a draft would ensure sufficient forces to end the war, said Oppenheim. "Neither of which took place here."

When asked what he would do if his twin boys - aged 29 - wanted to fight in Iraq, Oppenheim thought a long time before choosing his answer carefully.

"I would respect their decision, but I would warn them that this is not



a war worthy of their personal sacrifice," said Oppenheim. "I would encourage them not to be part of this ill-advised endeavor."

Oppenheim decided to participate in the "Run for the Wall" ride for the first time this year because it's something he has always wanted to do and because his friend and riding partner Ed won't be able to make the ride much longer. He plans on leaving Tuesday, May 22 at 2 a.m., the morning after the final of his last class, Sociology 101. He and Ed will ride across the country for five days in time for the "Rolling Thunder" parade on Sunday - although Op-

penheim admitted that it probably wouldn't take them quite that long to get there.

"We'll ride fast and hard," said Oppenheim, "and let's just say that we'll probably make it in less time than we should."

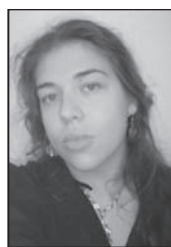
This will not be Oppenheim's first cross-country trip, or his first time to the memorial. However, he said that the remembrance of his friends and his own experiences haven't faded with time. "I've visited the memorial three times now," said Oppenheim quietly, "and let me tell you, it doesn't get easier with each successive visit."



## You may not know Jack - but is knowing Jill any worse?

Knowledge is a funny thing. We all have it, to some extent, but it's like an answer to a logarithm problem - never the same twice. The way you just *know* something one moment can change like the wind, as when you *know* you've turned the gas off only to come home to a burning building and a highly irritated landlord.

There are different sorts of knowledge, too. There's IQ (intelligence quotient) and the recently coined EQ (emotional intelligence), there's photographic memory and the ability to do huge sums in your head, there's having a green thumb and being great with animals and kids and, on the other hand, shining in front of a crowd and being a top-notch demagogue, there are idiot-savants and autistic geniuses and the kindest people you ever meet, who put two and two together and come up with eight, and there are



**Devil's Advocate**

By ANNA NEMCHUK  
Editor-in-chief

the biggest bastards ever, who save corporations on legal technicalities and kick puppies in their spare time.

And who's to say what kind of intelligence is better? I've known kids that excel at homework and organize their pencil boxes by lead thickness, study for tests three weeks in advance, play two instruments and baby-sit on the weekends - I think they're batshit insane, but I have my own brand of dementia.

(Consequently, these are also the kids whose mothers start them on SAT tutoring a little early, in my opinion - right around

the time they've finished potty training. These people are always amazed that bookstores don't have a section for kindergarten test prep and highly offended when I offer a nice coloring book instead.)

I've known people who perform their best under pressure and so are chronic procrastinators. You can usually pick them out of the crowd by their heightened color (heart-attack mauve), rapid breathing (hyperventilation is a lifestyle choice), agile stride (where's the elephant stampede?), unique fashion sense (let's see *you* pick out matching socks with 30 seconds to spare), piquant expression (widening of the eyes and twitching of the brows facilitates the thought process, doncha know), digital aides (maybe you can get by on one Blackberry, but my contact list barely fits on three) and nifty accessories (I

*know* there're five pencils in my hair - I put them there, didn't I?).

That would be journalists generally and yours truly in particular.

I didn't study for the SATs. I didn't even know the format of the test, so when I scored a 1400 on the PSAT junior year I thought that was terrible. Upon hearing some of my friends' tears caused by the 1100 they'd received after grilling study guides for the past two years, I was just confused.

Then there are people like a coworker of mine - triple majors in chemistry, astro-physics and nuclear engineering with Pulitzer-winning novels, loving spouses, a couple of adorable Labs, stable hairlines and a 10-minute mile - in other words, aliens.

But if there's one thing the human race can't stand, it's that damn grass on the other side. Sure, you can do 30 push-ups,

but can you write code? You're getting top marks in art history class but can't get a date if you were covered in chocolate sauce, clutching hundred-dollar bills and built like Fabio. You're an empath; you actually feel people's pain and can coax a stone to smile but are damned if you can write your name legibly or walk and chew gum at the same time.

Does one type of intelligence forestall another - a sort of balancing act the brain performs?

And who's better? I can take a test on the fly and B.S. an essay in 40 minutes. (How long did you think this column takes?) But my study skills suck (although my alliteration's nothing to sneeze at) and I'm constantly on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

But that's how my brain works, and I like it. Keeps me on my toes.

Now, *did* I turn off that gas?

## Running for the Wall

By ERIC DORMAN  
Features editor

The ride Oppenheim will be taking part in his trip to Washington, "Run for the Wall" (RFTW), is an annual motorcycle ride for veterans. It aims to raise public awareness of the effects of war, and promote healing among war veterans.

The ride was started in 1989 by two Vietnam veterans, James Gregory and Bill Evvans. It grew in popularity and became a yearly Memorial Day tradition.

The cross-country trip takes 10 days and ends at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial the Sunday evening before Memorial Day. On Memorial Day, riders will have a choice to join 350,000 other motorcycles in the Rolling Thunder Parade through Washington, D.C.

During the 3,000-mile ride, RFTW participants make stops at memorials, hospitals and schools. The members are of a range of ages, from 8 to 80.

In addition to veterans, riders include active military, supporters, friends and family.

Participants pay their own expenses and gas money, as well as a nominal charge for the event.

"Some people join 'Run For The Wall' and think of it as just another vacation or motorcycle event," said the "Run for the Wall" description statement. "After one or two days, though, you realize this is something very special."

# New Ohlone instructor speaks about the real ER

By **ERIC DORMAN**  
Features editor

Treating sick celebrities, treading lightly around the local Mafia and witnessing psychiatric shenanigans involving fake murder and bribery, all for substandard pay—and you thought your job was difficult.

In “Stories from Real-Life ER: a Physician Talks about Her Career as an Emergency Room Doctor” life-long emergency room doctor Jessica Johnston detailed some of her most memorable stories and gave advice on Friday at the fourth Brown Bag Science Seminar of the semester.

Johnston, an M.D. who worked full-time in emergency rooms for more than 30 years before going part-time to teach biology at Ohlone last year, had plenty to say about her career choice’s challenges as well as its benefits.

“Medicine is a career that’s always going to be there,” said Johnston, who teaches Bio 107, Biology of Sexual Reproduction. “The hours are long, the pay is only decent, but it’s a career.”

Johnston started off her talk by trying to clear up some common misconceptions surrounding doctors. First off, she said, doctors are just regular people, no more perfect than the average human being. Secondly, she claimed that physicians are not all fabulously wealthy, either; most pediatricians earn yearly salaries of around \$90,000. Thirdly, doctors aren’t all brilliant. “All you

have to do to get through medical school is get into medical school,” Johnston declared.

Still, even getting into medical school wasn’t an easy process for Johnston. Married with two young children, she had no intention of becoming a doctor when UCLA asked her if she was interested in getting a medical degree through it. Without telling her husband, she flew down for the interview and ultimately got in.

Because the Army paid Johnston’s way through medical school, the first work she did was at the now famous Walter Reed hospital. Because the emergency room offered regular shifts, it quickly became Johnston’s favorite place to work.

After spending a month at Walter Reed, Johnston traveled back to California, where she worked for three months in the emergency room in San Francisco General Hospital. Johnston said her medical training there was something she never could get today because it was so hands-on.

“These days, you just don’t get that kind of training.”

When her three months were up, Johnston was offered a job at an emergency room in a small town outside Los Angeles. Though she started out as doctor, she quickly rose to the position of director.

Unfortunately, the local Mafia was quite active in Johnston’s town (in order to protect the innocent, she did not mention the name) and

the “boss” asked Johnston specifically to work with them. Johnston declined, but a friend, who also worked in the emergency room, was not as wise. He soon left the town and did not return.

Not all of Johnston’s stories had elements of danger; many of them were more bizarre than scary. For example, Johnston shared one emergency room with a psychiatry unit, which contained both a doctor and a psychiatrist. The two didn’t get along very well to begin with, and matters weren’t helped by the fact that every Easter, the doctor dressed in a bunny suit for the festivities.

Feeling that this behavior was unprofessional, and not being on very good terms with the doctor in the first place, the psychiatrist divulged to his patients one day that he “wished somebody would just kill the guy.”

He didn’t mean it, but that was all the local mob, who had been plotting to smear the psychiatrist, needed. They took the doctor in his bunny suit to the desert, poured ketchup over him to look like blood, and snapped a picture of his apparently dead body.

They then gave the picture to one of the psychiatrist’s more mentally unstable patients, and told him to give it to the psychiatrist and tell him that he had killed the doctor, as asked.

When the patient presented the faked tale and picture to the psychiatrist, the latter individual

believed every word. When asked by the patient to write a check for \$100,000 to keep the whole thing quiet, the psychiatrist wrote the check at once. He was picked up the next day by the police and charged in the coverup. As a result, for one day Johnston worked as a psychiatrist.

Through her life working in an emergency room, a few faces stood out. One was singer Frank Sinatra, and another was woman tennis star Billie Jean King, who came in complaining of chest pain.

In another emergency room, a woman came in, asking for treatment. It appeared that she only understood Spanish, so Johnston—a native English speaker—had to struggle through her explanation of treatment to the woman, who continued to ask detailed questions.

Much to Johnston’s chagrin, as

the woman was being wheeled out of the room after treatment, she sat up and said in flawless English, “Boy, I hate gringos who think they can speak Spanish.”

On a more serious note, Johnston also addressed the challenges facing those who choose to work in emergency rooms today. For example, Johnston said last year she earned only one-third the salary that she earned in 1980. At the same time, she noted that malpractice insurance and premiums have skyrocketed.

“I earn \$125 for saving someone’s life,” said Johnston.

The next Brown Bag Science Seminar will be Friday, April 13 from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in Room 3201. It will be titled “Farming in the Bay Area: Breeding, Direct Marketing and Filling Niches” and the speakers will be Fred Hempel and Jill Shepard.

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## April

**12 CSU East Bay Info Session** -- 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Smith Center. Topic "Becoming a teacher and earning your Bachelor's Degree with CSU East Bay." A seven-quarter program for transfer students interested in becoming elementary school teachers and earning a B.A. in Liberal Arts. Subtopics: Multiple subject credential, Liberal Arts degree and questions and answers.

**12 Men's Baseball** -- 2 p.m. vs. Cabrillo College here at Ohlone.

**13 Brown Bag Science Seminar** -- 11:45 a.m. in Room 3201. Presentation will be given by Fred Hempel and Jill Shepard about "Farming in the Bay Area: Breeding, direct marketing and filling niches." Find out about the science and business of breeding and marketing seedlings to meet the increasing demand for gourmet produce in the Bay Area. Internships available, free refreshments available prior to the seminar. Admission is free.

**13 Men and Women Swimming** -- 2 p.m. vs. Sierra College here at Ohlone.

**14 Women's Softball** -- 1 p.m. vs. Chabot College here at Ohlone.

**14 Auditions: Miss Saigon, for Summerfest 2007** -- 9 a.m. to noon in the Jackson Theatre. We are looking for anyone interested in being a part of a dynamic production. Male and female actors are welcomed, over the age of 16, to portray multi-cultural roles of marines, officers, soldiers and citizens of Saigon and Bangkok. Asian performers are strongly encouraged to audition. Also casting people with some acrobatic/martial arts experience. Auditions will be conducted in a group format. Be prepared to sing 16 bars of a ballad or 32-uptempo from a contemporary or pop musical. No acappella pieces allowed. An accompanist will be provided. Bring double-sided music.

**14 Super Flea Market** -- 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in parking lots E and H. Vendors sale a variety of things like jewelry, food, tools, gift items, toys, household supplies and collectibles. They are held on the second Saturday of each month. Parking is \$2 per vehicle and admission is free. All proceeds support Ohlone College Programs.

**14 TESA Emergency Preparedness Fair** -- 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Washington Hospital West, 2500 Mowry Ave. in Fremont. This event is free and will include live demonstrations, supplies, giveaways, workshops and educational booth. Ready or not, disasters happen.

**15 Fremont Symphony** -- 2 p.m. the Jackson Theatre. For more information, or to purchase tickets please visit the box office or call (510) 659-6031.

**16 LIFE Meeting** -- 1 to 2 p.m. in Room 14B. LIFE is an exciting new club that meets on Mondays. Come join the fun and take part in "Liberated Individuals For the Environment." Everyone is welcome.

**16 M.E.Ch.A Meeting** -- 1 to 2 p.m. in Room 14A. Come check out the M.E.Ch.A club, meets every Monday and everyone

is welcome.

**16-20 Earth Week 2007** -- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the upper level Quad. Live music, food, environmental info, tree planting, art contest, free giveaways, games, speakers, campus cleanup and much more.

**17 Men's Baseball** -- 2 p.m. vs. College of San Mateo here at Ohlone.

**18 Discussion About Eating Disorders** -- 2:15 to 3:45 p.m. in Room 8205. The Psychology Club presents Joanne Lucich PhD to talk about eating disorders. This presentation will be followed by question and answer section and light refreshments. Everyone is welcome. For more info email ohlonepsychclub@yahoo.com.

**19 Open Poetry Reading** in the library, 1 - 3 p.m., to celebrate National Poetry Month. Read either an original poem or a favorite written by someone else. To sign up, contact English instructor Bob Mitchell (979-7415 or email rmitchell@ohlone.edu) or stop by the Library Information Desk. Light refreshments will be served.

**20 New Art Display** -- Annual Fine Art and Design Student Show. In the Louie Meager Art Gallery. Can be seen through May 15. Students compete in a juried show in all the art and design programs at Ohlone

College. More than 200 pieces are chosen to be in the gallery. Over \$2,500 in prizes and scholarships are donated by local venues and benefactors, which are awarded to the outstanding students in each category. Gallery is open Monday through Friday, noon to 3 p.m.

**20 Brown Bag Seminar** -- 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in Room 3201. Topic is "Quarks, Leptons, Gauge Bosons, Dark Matter, and Dark Energy: Building Blocks of the Universe." Brown Bag Science Seminars are designed to stimulate interest in and awareness of topics, trends and careers in science. This event is free.

**20 Earth Day Litter Pick Up** -- 2 to 5 p.m. meet in the upper level Quad. Purposes of the event are: To reinforce in a visible way that controlling litter on campus is the responsibility of everyone, assist in the clean-up of litter that has built up over the past year, reinvigorate the recycling efforts of the College and increase campus community awareness of recycling as an individual responsibility.

**24 Travel Abroad** -- Exploratory meeting: Sydney, Australia in Fall 2007. 6 p.m. in Room 5209. Check out what all the excitement is about and how you can be a student of the world in fall of 2007.



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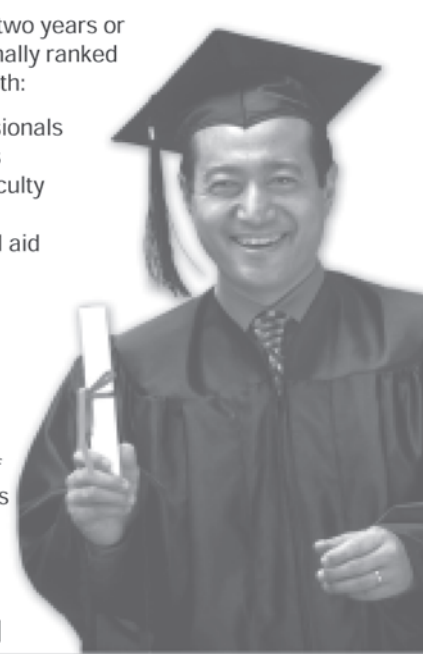
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## Johnson and Wright sign intent to USF

By NICK ZAMBRANO  
Sports editor

Balloons, cake and apple cider - the festivities were definitely just right Wednesday night, as two of Ohlone's own took center stage. Ceciley Johnson and Danesha Wright, both of the women's basketball team, signed letters of intent to play for the University of San Francisco.

The Mission Coffeehouse played host to the celebration as coaches, friends and family gathered for the ceremony to honor the two. The show ran a little behind schedule as Johnson was stuck at a stop light right around the corner. But as soon as she arrived, it was down to business.

With smiles on their faces the two started to sign the official paperwork committing them to play for the Division 1 USF Dons. "It's very exciting," said Wright. "I've actually been waiting to play on this

kind of level. And this competition is like...is where we need to be."

The point guard Wright led the Lady Renegades in scoring last season, with a total of 604 points for the season and averaged 20.6 a game. To accompany those 20.6 a game, Wright also averaged 8.2 assists per contest. Johnson, who stands at an impressive 6'2", averaged a double-double every game with 13.2 points and 10.4 rebounds. It's safe to say that they will be missed running the court for Ohlone.

"I'm happy for Ceciley and Danesha," said Ohlone Head Coach Elizabeth Stanley. "But also on a bittersweet note, we're losing two stellar athletes. It's going to be hard to replace them."

Besides Johnson and Wright, two more from Stanley's group are inching closer to signing letters of intent. Aoife Sands and Melanie Inouye both hope to hold their own signing parties soon.

Ironically, Ohlone and USF



Photo by Nick Zambrano

**USF bound: Ceciley Johnson, left and Danesha Wright already sporting their new school's shirts.**

both share the same team colors, so Johnson and Wright will still be representing the green and gold.

After the signing was officially

over, Wright made a little speech, "I guarantee you next year, me and Ceci are going to put on a show."

## Despite record, Ohlone keeps fighting

By JEFF WEISINGER  
Sports editor

After bringing their record back up to .500 going into their meet against Fullerton back on Mar. 22, the Ohlone Swimming Team has continued to struggle, yet are showing signs of improvement in the process.

Unfortunately for the Renegades, their improvement would not help too much as they lost their most recent meet against Cabrillo College back on March 30.

The girls side lost their events by a score of 106-85, while the men's side lost 99-87.

For the men's side, Cody Angeles did well in the freestyle events and Kevin Ludt did well in his sprint freestyle events. For the girls, Ashley Rogers won the 200m freestyle, the 100m breaststroke and was part of the winning relay team that also included the speedster Dolly Walters, Kat Ashley and Katie O'Dea.

But the one thing the Renegades lacked two weeks ago was their presence of divers. Ohlone had no divers available to compete, which led to Ohlone being shutout in the diving events, which led to Cabrillo



Photo by Jack Husting

**Kat Ashley is an anchor of the successful women's relay team. The relay team also includes Ashley Rogers, Katie O'Dea and Dolly Walters.**

College racking up the points and taking the win.

But there is now a solution to the "dive-less" problem.

Enter Renegades rookie diver McKensie Goodmanson.

The former gymnast made her diving debut three weeks ago against Fullerton, but is still learning the skills needed to dominate in competition. Yet considering that she is teaching herself the

techniques, she's doing better than most would think.

"It's hard without a coach," said Goodmanson, who is currently working on two difficult dives, which we might see in competition soon.

But regardless of recent struggles, the Renegades are looking to get lucky this Friday the 13th as they will take on a tough, freshmen-dominated Sierra College team that

is considered to be one of the best in Northern California.

Three weeks after that meet, Ohlone will host the State Championship, in which three Ohlone swimmers may be in. Ohlone's Ashley Rogers, Katie O'Dea and Dolly Walters are all on the bubble to qualify for state. If they do qualify, they will compete for the state titles on the weekend of May 3-5.

## Renegades' upcoming schedules

### BASEBALL

Thurs., 4/12/07: vs. Cabrillo College, at 2 p.m.

Sat., 4/14/07: at San Jose City College, Time TBA.

Tues., 4/17/07: vs. College of San Mateo, at 2 p.m.

Thurs., 4/19/07: vs. San Jose City College, at 2 p.m.

Sat., 4/21/07: at Chabot College, at noon.

Tues., 4/24/07: vs. Southwestern College, at 2 p.m.

Thurs., 4/26/07: at Hartnell College, at 2 p.m.

Sat., 4/28/07: vs. Gavilan College, at noon.

Tues., 5/1/07: vs. Skyline College, 2 p.m.

Thurs., 5/3/07: vs. West Valley College, 2 p.m.

### END OF SEASON

### SOFTBALL

Thurs., 4/12/07: at Mission College, at 3 p.m.

Sat., 4/14/07: vs. Chabot College, at 1 p.m.

Tues., 4/17/07: vs. College of San Mateo, 3 p.m.

Tues., 4/24/07: vs. Foothill College, 3 p.m.

### END OF SEASON

### SWIMMING

Fri., 4/13/07: vs. Sierra College at 2 p.m.

Sat., 4/21/07: Nor Cal Diving in Modesto, at 8 a.m.

Thurs-Sat., 4/26-28/07: Coast Conference Championships at Ohlone, at 10 a.m.

Thurs-Sat., 5/3-5/07: State Championships at Ohlone at 10 a.m.

### Triples alley

By TOMAS ORTEGA  
Staff writer

## Swinging and missing

Eight games into the San Francisco Giants' season and I can already see where this season is going to be headed. Right to the bottom of the National League West. This is coming from a guy who loves the team. I live and die with every win and loss of theirs; but at the same time, I have the ability to step back and analyze what is going on around the league. More importantly, around the division.

So far, the Giants have won two games, while the Colorado Rockies have an even 4-4 record at fourth place in the division. The ROCKIES! They are never supposed to win. But hey, I guess it's early and things will soon enough fall into place.

Rationally though, I don't think so. Although it is only eight games into the season, the Giants are second to last in the most important offensive category in the MLB, runs scored. A great example is the terrific game played between SF and the San Diego Padres Monday night.

It was a rematch of last Wednesday's game between Giants young starter Matt Cain and San Diego's Chris Young. Cain struggled with his command early and ran up his pitch count. He eventually found his niche in the third and started mowing people down, allowing no hits through six innings. These are the makings of a no-hitter, I told myself. However, up stepped Khalil Greene, a Giant-killer, who lined the first pitch he saw Cain in the seventh frame into the left field corner for a double. A walk and two sacrifices later, the Pad's had their first and ONLY run of the game.

The Giants' offense, meanwhile, was absent. They did get five hits in the game including a pair of doubles by the slowest-man-in-baseball Bengie Molina. Yet, they were only able to advance as far as third base once the entire game.

ZERO! That's the number of memorable clutch hits the Giants have had this season. When your pitcher is busting his ass to keep your team in the ball game by allowing only one hit through seven frames, he is telling you that you MUST win this game. "Good pitching always beats good hitting." Very true. Unfortunately, this doesn't win ballgames if your offense can't score for your teams' "good pitching." I have a pretty good feeling Monday night's game against the Padres is a microcosm of the rest of the regular season for YOUR San Francisco Giants.