



## Culture Pirate

By OMER  
AHMED  
News editor

## VT killings: an OC risk?

The news media exaggerates when it says that every college student has been affected by the tragedy at Virginia Tech. If you have been watching coverage on CNN, or god forbid, FoxNews, then you have seen the people at the scene, the memorials across the country and the President flying down to VT. Yet I know a lot of people, my friends included, still have a blasé attitude. Whether it is from being too busy in their own lives or the defense mechanism of thinking it could never happen to them, nothing really seems to have hit home. So I want to give a bit of a local history lesson.

De Anza College is a fellow community college about 16 miles from Ohlone. A quick trip on 680/280 will take you there and a number of people from my old high school go there. In many ways, it is another Ohlone. The buildings even look the same.

On January 29, 2001, a De Anza student was arrested for conspiracy to attack the school. He was Al Joseph Deguzman, a 20-year-old Filipino-American who seems to have shared much in common with Cho Seung-Hui.

Many of the similarities are superficial. Both were of Asian descent and were around the same age. Others are not so superficial; both students wrote disturbing works and seemed to be deeply lonely, isolated and depressed.

Both also had the potential to do massive damage. Cho actually went through with it. Deguzman was caught when he had photos of himself with a cache of 54 weapons developed at a local Longs Drugs. It may have been a cry for attention. Whether he was going to do it or not, Deguzman was sentenced to seven years in prison. At Folsom, he hanged himself with his bed sheet.

There is always the potential for someone to go off the handle and attempt a shooting on campus. A number of solutions have been talked about. Some are a bit wacky; others are reasonable. Armed officers on campus isn't the worst idea. In particular, the Ohlone officers I know are people I would trust. However, legislation can't fix what some are calling an epidemic in our schools.

The reality is that the world we live in is not always welcoming and pleasant for everyone. Sometimes a Cho or Deguzman or Kimveer Gill or Eric Harris can get disconnected and disturbed. It is a social problem that transcends race, class and space. It happened at VT, it almost happened at De Anza and it could happen at Ohlone.

I wish I had a fix - everyone does - but the best I can think of is to just be nice to the next person I see looking lonely. We are quite the dicks sometimes.

# Earth Week brings bands, plants to Quad

By NOAH LEVIN  
Staff writer

The Ohlone Quad is the campus epicenter for environmental awareness all this week, culminating with Earth Day on Friday.

Festivities began mid-day on Monday, April 16, with President Doug Treadway addressing the gathered students and faculty on the Quad. President Treadway gave a speech commemorating the first Earth Day, which took place in New York in 1970.

The President's speech was followed by the rock band Who GÄS (short for "Who Gives A Shit"). Front man, vocalist and guitarist Brandon Valatka commented on the meaning of the band's name, saying, "Who gives a shit about what clothes you wear, what car you drive, what god you pray to, or how much money you have. People have been wrapped up in that shit for so long, we feel it's stunting the evolution of the human race's spiritual growth."

The Associated Students of Ohlone (ASOC) were also out in force throughout the week. Monday and Tuesday, the ASOC sold pepperoni and cheese pizza for a dollar a

slice, with Monday seeing the sign-ups for the cardboard-and-duct-tape boat race and Tuesday featuring sign-ups for a basketball tournament.

The LIFE Club was also present through out the week, with club president Mari-Louise Javier working closely with ASOC President Candice Kirk during the festivities. The LIFE Club promotes sustainability and environmental awareness to the students of Ohlone, hosting an art contest on Tuesday with a \$200 prize for student entries and \$100 prize for faculty entries.

Tuesday's music was supplied by Bay Area band Nexus, a reggae/rock/jam band that is entirely self-produced.

Environmental activist Walter Arenstein then took the podium. Arenstein was one of the founding organizers of the very first Earth Day. Arenstein gave a speech addressing the changes in attitude toward environmental issues, as well as the environmental situation in our country and in others.

"Just because America is im-



Photo by Jack Husting

**The band Who GÄS kicks off Ohlone's Earth Week Monday. From left, lead guitarist Brandon Valatka, drummer Tom Paxton and base guitarist Dano Porter perform before a crowd on the Quad.**

proving [environmentally], doesn't mean you're off the hook," Arenstein stated. "It is your generation's responsibility to help spread the success to every part of the world!" He noted that while people in America have access to clean water and breathable air, there are over 3 million premature deaths a year in developing countries due to contaminated water.

Nina Rizzo took the podium next. Rizzo works as part of the California Freedom from Oil campaign, which is in turn part of Global Exchange, an environmental and human rights group. "As students, we have a power to... demand our leaders are held accountable," said Rizzo.

Sustainability Coordinator George Rodgers then mentioned Ohlone's efforts to promote sustainability. Rodgers told of the possibility of the school buying a hydrogen bus. The campus police cars are also to be retrofitted to use alternative fuels. Rodgers also mentioned the possibility of discounted BART cards for Ohlone students to help cut back on college emissions.

The Earth Week festivities will continue into Thursday and Friday. A tree planting ceremony will also take place at 1 p.m. at the foot of the stairs outside of Building 1. On Friday, there will be a campus-wide clean-up, in which all are welcome to join.

# Veggies, not gas, fuels student's BMW

By KYLE STEPHENS  
Staff writer

I personally have no issues with paying for gas; I ride my bike to school. But for the rest of you folks with cars, as prices continue to rise, you may begin to wonder about alternatives to the pump.

Ohlone student Nick Conover has already made that leap, by converting his car to run on vegetable oil.

Conover drives a 1986 BMW 324d, a model made in Germany and never sold in the United States. It is essentially the same as the domestically available BMW 325, except that it has a diesel engine.

A diesel engine is required for modifying a car to run on vegetable oil, as diesel fuel is comparable to vegetable oil.

Both are denser than standard gasoline, which lends more "bang" per volume; in other words, less fuel gets you farther. Both fuels also have a very high ignition point, which requires the specially designed diesel engine.

Conover has been running mostly off of veggie power since he converted his car last November. He used a conversion kit from Greasecar.com, which ran about \$800, though prices vary based on make and model of car.

Conover said installation wasn't hard, though according to Greasecar, this, too, varies between cars (installation specialists are available). The kit consisted of the necessary hardware fittings, a separate tank for the vegetable oil, and a heater to warm the otherwise thick, viscous oil in order to make

it flow. The heating system works by rerouting the engine's coolant through a heat exchanger inside the veggie oil tank.

Since the engine needs to be sufficiently warm to run on oil, the car needs to be warmed up for about five minutes running on regular diesel. Conover's car has a switch on the dashboard to switch between fuel sources.

Vegetable oil is very cheap - it can be obtained for free from many restaurants (this has an upside for them, since there is no need to pay for waste pickup of the oil).

"It does require some labor," said Conover, "but when you consider that a 55-gallon drum of veggie oil is worth its volume in diesel fuel, which right now is about \$176... [it's] well worth it."

As said, vegetable oil is comparable to diesel, and as such it has diesel's increased mileage. Conover's BMW gets about 30 miles a gallon. According to Greasecar.com, "There should be no difference in fuel economy between diesel and vegetable oil."

Vegetable oil burns in a way known as "carbon neutral." "This means that for every gram of carbon my engine spews into the air, there are corn, soy, or other oil producing plants absorbing that same amount of carbon to sustain its normal biological functions," said Conover.

There are some drawbacks to vegetable oil, though. "My fiancé hates the smell of the exhaust," noted Conover. "Depending on my source of oil, my car can smell like anything from egg rolls, to tortilla chips to French fries."

There are also road taxes - which pay for the maintenance and construction of new roads - which are exacted when you pay at the pump which Conover avoids by using vegetable oil. Conover says if there was a way to pay such, he gladly would.

Vegetable oil is also not recognized by the EPA as an alternative fuel, so there are no tax or commuter lane benefits as there are with hybrid or electric cars (diesel hybrids are, however, in the works).

Conover noted that economic

reasons propel his car as well. "When I buy diesel fuel, it is made from oil, which means my money is supporting other countries, many of them, such as Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, who either harbor, or otherwise cannot control terrorist populations.

"By using new vegetable oil, my effort is supporting the American farmer, and therefore the American economy. I take my money away from the grasp of terrorists, and keep it where I believe it is beneficial to America."

**GO WHERE YOU WANT**  
by getting credit for who you are.

Apply your qualifying credits towards a bachelor's degree at DeVry University.

- It's possible to build from your associate degree and earn a bachelor's degree in as little as 14 months.
- Small class sizes and individual attention from instructors with real-world experience.
- For DeVry Northern California graduates between October '05 and June '06, 93% of those in the active job market were employed in their fields within 6 months of graduation at an average salary of \$45,000.
- Tuition assistance is available to those who qualify.
- DeVry offers more than 7,500 scholarships nationwide valued at \$75 million.

So contact us today and see how we have everything you need to get your education, and your future, to the next level.

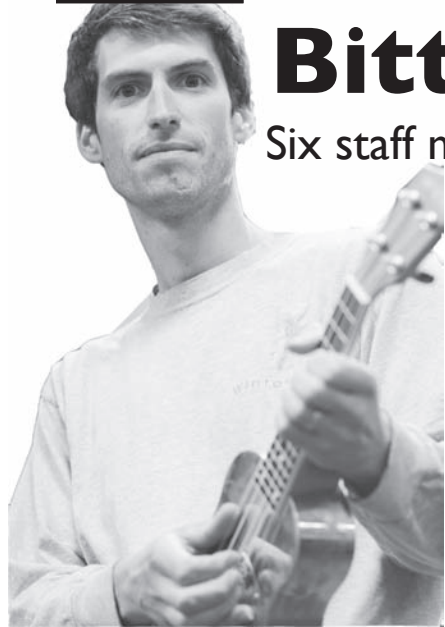
Contact 800.348.1017 or visit us online at [www.devrynow.com](http://www.devrynow.com) to get the credit you deserve.

FREMONT CAMPUS  
6600 Dumbarton Circle  
Fremont, CA 94555

DeVry University

© 2007 DeVry University. All rights reserved. Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, [www.ncaahc.org](http://www.ncaahc.org).

Local: (510) 574-1200



## Bitten by the ukulele bug

Six staff members play the ukulele, Hawaiian for 'jumping flea'

By **MICHAEL ABURAS**  
Staff writer

The ukulele – it's not just a miniature guitar. The instrument, the English translation of which means "jumping flea," has a detailed history. In 1879, a ship of Portuguese immigrants arrived in Honolulu to work the sugar cane fields. One of the immigrants, a man named Joao Fernandes, decided to play his friend's braguinah, performing his native folk songs. Impressed by the speed of his fingers, the Hawaiians called the instrument "ukulele."

This little flea has bitten many of Ohlone's faculty, especially in Building 1, where the Ukulele Renegades rehearse. The Renegade performance ensemble is composed of three main players: Collections Librarian K.G. Greenstein, Technical Service Librarian Kathy Sparling and Mailroom Clerk Hal Griffin. Students may remember the Renegades' performance as part of the "Friends" component for the Ohlone faculty band "Chalkdust and Friends."

However, it was not "Chalkdust" but a bookstore sale event several years ago with a Hawaiian motif that brought the three main members together.

"I was walking around in a Hawaiian shirt and had a plastic ukulele when we met," remembers Griffin.

Griffin came across Greenstein and Sparling, who were playing

the song "5-foot-2." "They suggested that we get together at lunch time [to practice]," said Griffin. The trio would typically meet for rehearsals on the second story of the library.

Originally it was not intended for the Renegades to play in public, but that changed with Chalkdust.

"Chalkdust had been asking us for a while," said Griffin. "We turned them

down, and finally after some more asking we agreed to play as part of the 'Friends' part of 'Chalkdust and Friends.'

"That's what caused us to have a name, and start and end songs together," said Greenstein.

Coming from a military family stationed in Hawaii, Griffin picked up the ukulele in 1952 while in 8th grade. As part of the curriculum, he took a class about Hawaiian instruments and decided to pick up the ukulele.

Griffin stopped playing in 1954 when he left Hawaii, and didn't pick up the instrument again until he met the players here. Griffin currently owns five different ukuleles.

One of those players is Greenstein, who received her first ukulele from her Hawaiian mother.

The other main member of the Renegades is Sparling. She took it up to become a member of Dodge's Sundodgers, who had yet to adopt the name and was only a trio. Al Dodge was a founding member with underground

art legend R. Crumb, who together formed "R. Crumb and His Cheap Suit Serenaders." After Crumb moved to France, Dodge was looking to start a new band.

Greenstein had known Dodge for a while and thought that Sparling would be a perfect fit for the vocalist position. However, Dodge insisted upon having a singer who could play an instrument. "He didn't want a singer who just banged on the tambourine every other song," said Sparling.

Dodge recommended the ukulele and taught both Greenstein and Sparling, how to play it.

"Kathy Sparling has a magnificent voice. K.G. is not far behind. I'm by far the worst singer and there's some songs I don't sing at all," commented Griffin, regarding the vocal accompaniments in the Renegades.

Another two members who participate in the Renegade's rehearsal are Web Course Technician William "Extreme" Paoli and Library Technician Linda Dickerman.

Dickerman became hooked on the ukulele around three years ago. "K.G. handed me her ukulele and said 'come on, we're going to play,'" she said. Her two favorite songs to play with the ensemble are "Ukulele Lady" and "Little Grass Shack."

Paoli also has about the same amount of experience. "I've been playing guitar for 15 years and I asked if I could play guitar and K.G. said 'No,'" explained Paoli. Paoli described Greenstein as a ukulele enthusiast who introduced him to the instrument.

Another faculty member who does not reside in Building 1 but does play the ukulele is foundation assistant Thomas Hsu. "What I like about the ukulele is that you don't have to play it like a ukulele," said Hsu. "I play it like a guitar and play blues and stuff."

For those interested in ukuleles and the Renegades, they will be performing at the 14th annual Ukulele Festival of Northern California Sunday, April 29, 2007 at the Hayward Adult School.



Photos by Jack Husting

**Ukulele-playing staff strum in harmony, Hawaiian shirts and all. From left: Web Course Technician William "Extreme" Paoli (also at top left), Collections Librarian K.G. Greenstein, Library Technician Linda Dickerman and Mailroom Clerk Hal Griffin.**

## Alumnus publishes third book

By **MANIKA CASTERLINE**  
Staff writer

Fremont native and Ohlone College alumnus Tony R. Rodriguez invokes memories of life in the East Bay through his third book, entitled "Simplicity Regurgitated: Poems And Shorts."

The namesake of the book, in a

twist of irony, conveys abstractly enough how I felt once I set the piece down. The depth of emotions the author was attempting to describe fails to be believable, lacking genuine real-life parallels. Pieces such as "Convuluted" and "The Printed Word" would make a creative writing professor cringe in fear due to the fact that contextually

they are not nothing but mere run-on sentences.

The truly standout piece is "Newark." The poem notes how the location is only notorious via the newswires because of the brutal murder of Newark teenager Gwen Araujo in 2002. He states, "I do hope that that transgender thing made you feel prime, because the

nation will soon forget that appalling, evil crime."

Rodriguez continues by writing that he hopes the nation will never forget. It provides the honest perceptive that while the suburban town has a bland veneer that ceases to inspire one to greater heights, it needs to seek a positive rationale to be known for.

In his short story, "Multiple Scars," Rodriguez tells the contemporary tale of a feuding mother and father. The story alludes to the type of world in which divorce is the common outcome. However, the father does not play the typical male role as the instigator; he plays with the children instead. I enjoyed that this particular piece is a refreshing departure from what is normally spewed out by the mass media. And that instead of a villain, the father character is the child's role model of what to aspire to.

Rodriguez was born on Aug. 22, 1977 in Fremont, CA. He is currently is a teacher at Moreau Catholic high school.



**Devil's Advocate**

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

## Web: part of problem

I'm typing this on a monitor hooked up to two PCs, surrounded by several sets of speakers, a printer, a scanner, a DVD burner, countless CD and DVD players, this little blinking thingy that I still don't know the use of and an Internet connection only unplugged when my cats get a little overzealous in their romping. I've known how to use a computer since my father, a gymnast cum software engineer, brought home our first official one when I was nine. (I was disappointed; I'd thought it was a pizza box.) So forgive me if this is a bit hypocritical.

Get off the damn Internet!

This particular horse's just about been flogged to death but the darn thing will not croak and I'm compelled to contribute my tuppence.

Unless that rock you call home is also soundproof, you've probably heard of the Virginia Tech school shootings. The first things to hit me after I heard the news were horror and grief, never mind exasperation. (If you feel like checking out of this world, kindly have the decency to do it without taking innocent bystanders along. They might not share your suicidal tendencies, difficult as that it to believe. Jerk.) The second thing was the ludicrousness of the campus security's response. The more news stories I read about the whole thing, the fishier it seems. Upon finding two dead bodies in a college dormitory, wouldn't it make sense to maybe, oh, I don't know, EVACUATE THE CAMPUS? Apparently, relevant authorities deemed it more appropriate to...send out an email warning kids to stay inside and away from windows. Even admitting the police were sure their original suspect (the ex of the first female victim) was off campus, whatever happened to better safe than sorry when it comes to lives?

Two hours later, surprise! A few more dozen students and faculty dead. Now how much did staying put instead of making like a bat out of hell help VA Tech's student body? The part that happened to check their emails during the two-hour period between the shootings - and didn't think the message was spam.

Could it be possible we've come to rely just a teeny bit too much on technology? It's one thing for a 15-year-old to be obsessed with MySpace - quite another for checking your email becoming tantamount to survival.

Absence of growth signifies stagnation i.e. technology is a good and necessary part of human development. But there's something to be said about doing it the old-fashioned way, the way our forefathers did - yell your head off and run around headless-chicken style.

**MISSION PIZZA**  
1572 Washington Blvd.  
Fremont  
Ohlone Village Center  
**651-6858**

**LIVE MUSIC**  
**FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS**  
32 Micro Brew and Import Beers on Tap!

**DOUBLE COUPONS DAYS SUNDAY THROUGH TUESDAY**

**\$3 OFF**  
**ANY LARGE PIZZA**  
Good for up to 4 Pizzas  
**SAVE \$6-\$9-\$12**

**\$2 OFF**  
**ANY MEDIUM PIZZA**  
Good for up to 4 Pizzas  
**SAVE \$4-\$6-\$8**

**\$1 OFF**  
**ANY SMALL PIZZA**  
Good for up to 4 Pizzas  
**SAVE \$2-\$3-\$4**

**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. ©Valpak®, 7/2005. Advertise with Valpak Bay Area, Inc., (925) 254-9636 358302.3846