



Culture Pirate

By OMER AHMED
News editor

When Web classes flex

I know I bring up Texas far too often, but the few good ideas it has are sometimes worth mentioning. Strangely enough, most of these good ideas involve education.

Texas, in addition to having a hybrid state university/community college, has developed a way to make online courses more accessible to all its students.

If you are enrolled at any Texas community college, you can take any online course at any other Texas community college without having to apply to that school. All the online classes are provided by the same system, which any student from any school can log into. The system also recognizes prerequisites across the system. This allows students access to a greater number and, more importantly, a greater variety of courses.

The situation is quite different here in California. Before this semester began, I decided I needed more classes in my major, religious studies, to show transfer schools that I was committed to the discipline. Unfortunately, I had already taken three out of the four courses offered here at Ohlone. So, after a quick web search, I found Introduction to Comparative Religion offered online at San Bernardino College.

Seemed perfect. With the quick turn-around that online admissions provided, I was registered in under 24 hours. Unfortunately, to register for the course I needed to meet the prerequisite of San Bernardino's English Writing 1A or equal on their placement test.

I have met these requirements with English 101A at Ohlone, but there is no way for San Bernardino to know this. To register in the class, I would have had to get my transcript or a statement from an Ohlone counselor, and then take those to the admissions and records in San Bernardino, about 6.5 hours away, to get it verified. If I had the time, or the gas money, to go to San Bernardino, I wouldn't be taking an online class. It is too much hassle.

The entire point of online classes is to make education accessible to all students. If the California community college system adopted a system similar to the Texas system, students would have easier access to the entire range of courses offered in the system. Ohlone not being big on religious studies would not be an issue because I could have taken Advanced Issues in Islam from De Anza. Similarly, Ohlone's Survey of North American Indian Cultures would rectify De Anza's lack of Native American studies.

With all the offerings from the College of the Redwoods in Eureka to Mesa College in San Diego available to students, everyone's needs could be met no matter what they want to study.



Not your average RC car

How Technology Works student Valerie Parker adjusts a remote-controlled fuel cell car she and her classmates built. The car works by splitting water, then harvesting the electrons.

Photo by Jack Husting

New course reveals how things work

By KYLE STEPHENS
Staff writer

An Ohlone course, How Technology Works CNET-114/ENGI-114, will qualify for CSU lab science credit for the first time this fall. How Technology Works is a course focusing on practical understanding and application of science concepts.

A penchant of the course is the use of contemporary technology to

explain scientific concepts. How computers, iPods, robots, solar panels, GPS and other devices function are subject to discussion in the breadth of the course.

In an example of hands-on science experience, aspiring engineer and CNET-114 student Valerie Parker described a class project, a remote-control car powered by a hydrogen fuel cell. The cell works by splitting water into hydrogen

and oxygen molecules through electrolysis and then harvesting the electrons on a platinum sheet as the two come together.

Combining the merits of both a physically present and online course, How Technology Works exists as a "hybrid" class. On the online side, course materials, tests and resources are given, and in person, labs and further learning are carried out by the instructor and students.

Another in-person component is the course's numerous field trips, to the Tech Museum of Innovation, the Intel Museum and NASA Ames Research Center

Two sections will be available this fall, taught by Computer Studies Instructor Richard Grotegut and Stanford graduate Lily Swift.

In summary, Parker described the class as "awesome, a really great experience."

Student joins fight for leper rights

By BRIAN CHU
Staff writer

Lepers in Taiwan are being evicted and their homes bulldozed down. Ohlone student and activist Steve Liu is doing something about it.

Since 60 years ago, lepers in Taiwan have been arrested and moved into concentration camps. Their families have disowned them, often saying that their relatives had "died." These victims were then collected, herded and deposited into a small plot of land slightly smaller than the Ohlone campus, the concentration camp Lo Sheng. They have been there their whole lives, under government rules and regulations, following the laws and sacrificing their own well-being to contribute to what Taiwan has called its "civic well-being." Now they are being betrayed once again by the same people who had shut them inside their concentration camp in the first place. And they are being removed for the sole reason of expanding the Taiwan mass transit system.

Liu has joined thousands of college students all over the world in protesting this violation of human rights. Years ago, a leper concentration camp in Hawaii was to be bulldozed to create a vacation resort, but strong global response convinced the government to turn it into a museum and symbol of human suffering. Liu and students around the globe are trying to do

the same. A website has been set up in which activists from six different continents have taken pictures of themselves holding signs (see right) and uploading them to the internet.

Last week, Liu, along with a dozen other protestors marched to the Taiwanese embassy in San Francisco and handed over a document with requests to save the concentration camp in Lo Sheng. They did this in parallel with the march that took place in Taiwan several days earlier, when over 7,000 students and professors marched into the capital protesting the destruction of the colony. Over 1,500 protestors participated in the "prostration" march, in which for every step they took they knelt and bowed down with their foreheads touching the ground, all in humble request of the government to heed their cries.

There is no lack of underhanded bureaucratic activity in the whole affair. The government has claimed that the land is no longer in their possession and that they have sold it off to private construction companies. Coincidentally, these companies are owned by senators and other officials within the government system.

Not only will these politicians benefit out of convenience in the expansion of their mass transit system through the Lo Sheng area, but there are many valuable construction materials within the hills and mountains of the region as well. Taiwan is an island with relatively

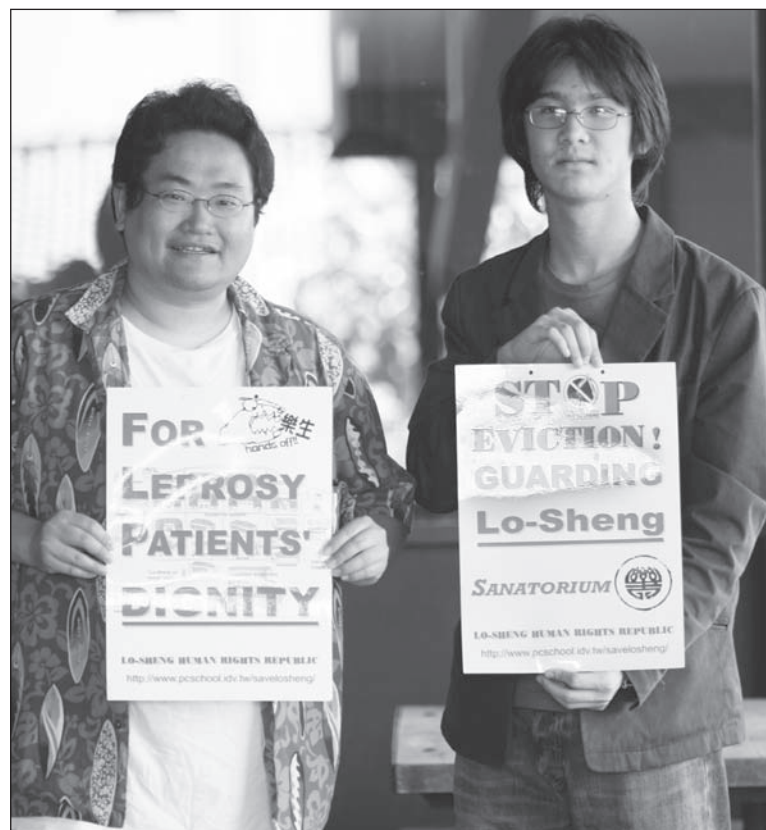


Photo by Jack Husting

Student Steve Liu, left, and classmate Brian Chu hold up signs as part of a worldwide effort to promote leprosy awareness.

small amounts of natural resources, and due to the current political climate with China, it is unable to import cheaper building materials from the latter. In summary, it is the greed of the few and powerful that is overriding the needs of victims and under-privileged.

The United Nations believes that this is a clear violation of hu-

man rights. At this time, foreigners protesting in Taiwan and protestors standing outside the Premier of Taiwan's house have been arrested.

Human rights groups, consisting mostly of social-minded Taiwanese college students, have formed a patrol system around what remains of the camp. So far, they have proven

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All Ohlone is a stage for 800 high schoolers

By **KYLE STEPHENS**
Staff writer

Over 20 schools, 800 students, 450 entries and 100 judges from all over California participated in 37 different events that made up this year's Ohlone College High School Theater Festival.

The festival, in its thirteenth and largest year yet, is a competition of theater skills. It allows aspiring actors and technicians to compete and interact with fellow theater students from across the state, as well as to experience Ohlone's facilities.

"It's a friendly competition, about having lots of fun," said Ohlone student and event staffer James Deveareaux.

There were two main categories of events showcased: theater and design/tech. In the "theater" category, events included one-act plays, both humorous and dramatic, musical theater, dramatic and humorous contemporary monologue and theater games. In the "design/tech" category, events included scene design, costume design, graphic design, tech Olympics and video/

music.

Festival Coordinator Michelle Hartmungurber described the event as an opportunity for participants to perform in one of the best theaters in the area, and to survey the Ohlone campus - "[a chance to] experience the Ohlone College theater program." The festival also allows for Ohlone's staff to be on the lookout to recruit prospective students for their program.

Students receive judgment for their performances in both an empirical score, and in feedback on their performances. This scoring comes from a wide variety of judges, from all manner of theater fields. Tom Blank of the drama department said that many of the participants have "so much need for attention and feedback."

Joanne Schultz, Ohlone dean of business services and judge at this year's event and in years past, called this year "the biggest year we ever had. It's a fun event to do - I've been doing it for years."

Furthermore, Schultz pointed out that the festival lets theater students see each other in action. Unlike



Photo by Kyle Stephens

Michelle Foletta, an Irvington student and participant in the Maxi Musical Theater event, waits in full costume at the High School Theater Festival.

sports teams, which by their very nature face up against each other, those in theater don't have much reason (as they are occupied with their own shows) to observe each

other in their element, to learn from or just to enjoy.

Joe Nichols, a second year staffer added, "Every year we get something different."



Devil's Advocate

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

Why fret about it?

Due to my recently occurred birthday, I've been contemplating, well, age. (Okay, I've mostly just fixated on the presents.)

It doesn't seem like the concept of age has grown or lessened in significance, though its parameters constantly shift. A century ago, it was normal to die in your fifties, marry before 20, drink as soon as you could hold up a bottle and have 13 kids by 30. These days, baby boomers are sucking down Botox like mother's milk, getting hitched before 25 earns you looks of consternation, there's a three-year gap between when you can imbibe alcohol (21) and die for your country (18) and household pets are outnumbering progeny (at least Fluffy doesn't demand an allowance). And that's just America.

A couple just walked into my bookstore - he lightly pimply, fuzzy-haired, barely shaving, of the squeaky voice, she blond, wide-hipped but narrow-shouldered, shimmering, both no older than 16 - holding hands and asking for Wiesel's "Night." My first thought: "How cute." Second: "Aren't they too young to be dating?" Third: "You hypocritical wretch. How many notches were on YOUR belt by 16?" Fourth: "Point. I'll shut up now."

I don't look like a child anymore, but I still feel like one. Driving by high schools throws me; the kids seem so little, though I remember feeling gigantic at that age, all five feet and three-quarters of an inch of me. On the other hand, I'm still startled when my 40-year-old colleagues address me as an equal, though I grew up more around my parents' friends, middle-class Russian intelligentsia. This has resulted in, among other things, giving me an abject terror of anything human-looking under the age of 12.

When I hear my parents moan about how old they are, I scoff. With the human lifespan being close to a century, worries about age seem a bit ludicrous, especially because though flaming goats falling from the heavens are in short supply these days, you never know, you might be the lucky one to be blessed with a close encounter and an unexpected trip to the coroner for reassembly. As R.A. Heinlein, speaking through Lazarus Long, once said, "There is no conclusive evidence of life after death. But there is no evidence of any sort against it. Soon enough you will know. So why fret about it?"

I think death and taxes ARE subjective and the only certainty is life. Age is just a reminder to get on and enjoy it, as we haven't got forever. Kind of like the worm in the bottom of the Tequila bottle - you wouldn't appreciate drinking it half as much if there wasn't an end in sight.

Concert puts dancers in their element

By **CHEYENNE MARTIN**
Staff writer

The Ohlone College Spring Dance Concert opened in the Jackson Theatre on Friday, April 20 at 8 p.m. The theme of the concert was "Elements": earth, air, water and fire. The concert included four suites, each dedicated to an element.

"Elements" was "a collaboration of many creative hearts," said Artistic Director Janel Tomblin-Brown. The inspiration for the show was "the need to have a more cohesive dance production, accompanied by the growth of our dance population and program needs."

Most dance numbers were choreographed by students enrolled in Brown's choreography class and were chosen through strict requirements; each choreographer must have performed in the previous year's spring dance production before interviewing with Brown for the opportunity to choreograph. For the select few that were chosen, practice started during the winter break and continued through the

spring semester. Brown worked closely with each choreographer to put the production together.

The concert opened with a large volcano rising from the stage as a woman danced from within the peak. Set designers Fred Alim and Stephen Wathen went above and beyond throughout the entire production, keeping in theme while wowing the audience with their attention to detail and their ability to make each part of the scenery fit its corresponding dance.

The first number, "Shan Mow Mountain," was a lyrical piece choreographed by Cassie Begley featuring dancers dressed as jungle animals. While the choreography was unique and entertaining, it might have been too challenging for the dancers, as most of them broke character and looked exhausted by the end.

The first obviously enjoyable number from the audience's perspective was "Pagdiriwang," choreographed by Onel Higginbotham. Another lyrical piece with an African theme, Higginbotham's piece had a lot going on, but despite

this, every section's dancers were extremely in sync with each other. The high energy of the song, set and performers was contagious.

The most visually appealing number was "Respire (Hallelujah)." Choreographed by Kyle Meirs, the scene opened with the performer's silhouettes. Though the dancers could be heard breathing, this only enhanced the personal, emotional feel of the a capella version of "Hallelujah." The "barely there" costumes and free flowing hair of the performers, as well as the theatrical elements, created a feeling of souls trying to connect. This breathtaking performance appeared to be a favorite of all.

"Allegory" was another beautifully done performance. The ensemble was extremely tight in their beautifully performed routine. The male soloist, Higginbotham impressed the audience with his precision and technique. The ensemble was extremely tight in their beautifully performed routine. Each performer blended together almost as one movement. The end, however, was the most touching, as a screen

dropped in front of the dancers, blocking the audience's vision, only to have light beam down dramatically at the last second to reveal two separate emotional poses between the duet and the ensemble.

"Calm Before the Storm's" choreographers, Denise Loustau and members of the Chaotic Strain Dance Company, knew how to demand the audience's attention. This hip-hop number was upbeat and full of energy. Dressed like rebel school kids, the performers rocked the theater and impressed the audience with their enthusiasm.

"Internal Inferno," choreographed by Carolyn Quindoy, was the most intense, high-spirited number of the show. This fast-paced hip-hop routine, highlighted by a red and black theme, was not only interesting to watch but also showed off the talents of each dancer, no matter the skill level.

The show concluded with a finale featuring the complete cast, a reflection upon the entire show.

Next year, the dance program will be celebrating its 10-year anniversary. The feature for that production will be "Then and Now" with a mixture of alumni dancers along with current dancers at Ohlone College. The dance program is continually growing, a trend that Brown hopes to continue. "I welcome every dancer into my dance [program] that has the desire to perform," said Brown.

In the dance program's near future, Brown will be taking a group of dancers to China next week. The group, which she refers to as a "core group of dancers," will represent the Ohlone College Dance Program in China.

Next for the Smith Center is "Comedy Sportz" this Friday.

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