



## Weighing Anchor

By ERIC DORMAN  
News editor

## Changing our habits

Old habits die hard, and new ones are difficult to produce. It's a simple fact, but seems to be a devilishly difficult one for organizers and lawmakers to comprehend, to the detriment of their creations.

Take last Saturday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual California Coastal Cleanup Day. According to the California Coastal Commission, 50,000 volunteers swarmed to more than 700 cleanup sites around the state to rid our coastline of debris.

Sound like a success story? Well, yes and no. While it may be a success in terms of bringing trash-reducing volunteers to the coastline every year, it's a failure in the sense that every year, the volunteers have more trash to pick up. It may have altered the habits of a few individuals to pick up trash once a year, but it has done nothing to alter the habits of the offenders—those who neglect to tie down the loads on their pickups on the freeway, dump trash in the wetlands to avoid paying the fee at the dump, and those who drop their cigarette butts and Coke bottles wherever they feel like it. And sadly, no matter how hard those 50,000 work every year, it will always be the offenders, not the volunteers, who define the success or failure of the program.

Does this mean we should hold Coast Cleanup accountable for the litter polluting our coastline? Certainly not. However, we should not expect once-a-year events like this to change the public's larger habit of using coastlines as surrogate dumpsters.

Another example of a program designed to change a habit, but flawed in design, is the Bay Area Quality Management District/Metropolitan Transportation Commission decision to fund free public transit for up to three Spare the Air days per summer to reduce pollution. The program is designed to encourage people to use public transportation in the hot days of summer.

While this may be an ambitious undertaking, the program's \$3.9 million price tag is hardly money well spent. For example, on one of last year's free ride days, BART carried 28,000 more riders than usual. The next day, the ridership was back to usual. The single day of free rides did nothing to change the habits of the majority.

What's the moral of this? The simple answer is that no one-two- or three-day event is going to change the way the majority of us live our daily lives. In order to change our habits for the better, programs need to reach into our lives on a day-to-day basis. Only once this understanding is reached will programs such as Coastal Cleanup and Spare the Air become successful.



Staff Photo

Photo by Andrew Cavette

Students gathered in the lobby of Building I for Club Day, staged to introduce students to Ohlone's extracurricular offerings.



## Club Day exhibits new offerings

By INSIYA GINWALA  
Staff writer  
and ANNA NEMCHUK  
Editor-in-chief

The first of the two Club Days, Wednesday Sept. 19, saw the Building 1 lobby crowded with students, members, faculty and

advisors. Nearly a dozen clubs were represented, among them the Psychology Club, the Biology Club, L.I.F.E. Club, the Speech Club and the Game Developers Club.

Ohlone is usually home to more than 20 diverse clubs: some focus on social issues, such as the Psychology Club, some on academics, such as

the AGS (Alpha Gamma Sigma) Club, some on ethnic issues, such as the MEChA, and some on more technical endeavors, such as the Pre-Pharmacy Club, the Math League and the Business Club.

Clubs are considered by most counselors to be an effective way to demonstrate extracurricular interests

to prospective four-year universities as well as simply making one's time at school more interesting and involved.

Club Days will continue on Thursday, Sept. 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Building 1 Lobby.

Club Days are sponsored by the ASOC.

## Ohlone employs environmentalist

By BARRY KEARNS  
Staff writer

Narinder Bansal is a congenial man who is quick to smile and discuss his passions; he has just been hired to work full-time as the instructor for environmental sciences and technology at Ohlone College.

Bansal always greets people with a smile and, occasionally, the offer of some candy. His hospitality conveys the sense that he is aware of all environments, including his office, and strives to make one feel comfortable there. There are picture of locations and art from various cultures posted on his office walls. They are pictures, he feels, that ultimately represent our world, a world that, in his own words, he is very much in love with.

Bansal was born in England and moved to the United States in 1980 when he was 11. He remembers facing a sense of culture shock when exposed to the more lax system of discipline in American public schools where there were no school uniforms or corporal punishment. He graduated from American High School in 1988 and immediately went to Chabot College where, after studying for a year, he decided that he might not be ready for college and went to work. Later, he came to Ohlone College as a student and took a class in physical geology taught by George Rodgers.

"That's the class that turned me on to the environment," Bansal said. "It provided a lot of the holistic approach that I needed."

Bansal attended Ohlone College from 1991 to 1993, as a passion for the environment ignited within him. He then went to Cal State Hayward, now University of California East Bay.

"So I took an introduction to environmental studies class and that was it; that's where I got turned on

to the environmental studies movement. Again, in the 1990s it was a big movement. So I was in the right time to explore that kind of 60's and 70's kind of environmental ethics and that kind of fun stuff."

Bansal also spent many of his early years traveling the world and has been to places like Canada, India and England. There he gained a "different perspective of life." Countries like India and Mexico allowed Bansal to gain an appreciation of, and analyze, their landscapes and to view first-hand the similarities and differences of developing and developed countries.

"The travels awakened me," Bansal said.

George Rodgers recalls noticing Bansal standing out in his class "first of all, for his enthusiasm for school and for life." Rodgers also commented that while Bansal was working on his Master's, he had been an adjunct professor at Ohlone and was one of the best the college has ever had. When asked how it felt to have a former student work alongside him, Rodgers said that he is please to see what has become one of his former students.

He added, "It makes it all worthwhile."

Bansal teaches classes in physical geography and geographic information science. Physical geography is the science that attempts to understand the natural environment and the systems that comprise it. Geographic information science is the discipline that captures, compiles and analyzes geographic information with the aid of computers, which can then be used to extrapolate spatial relations and features of the earth. Certification in GIS is available and can be used in a variety of fields ranging from marketing to city planning. Bansal breaks his course into three classes: introduction, advanced and a special project.

## What did Ohlones eat?

By VANESSA BAUMAN  
Staff writer

Have you ever wondered what the Ohlone Indians ate? Or how they survived when they got sick or got infections? If you are interested in finding out about this and actually tasting some of what the Ohlone Indians ate, then you should consider going to the next Brown Bag Science Seminar.

The seminar will be held tomorrow afternoon, Friday Sept. 21, from 1 to 2 p.m. in Room 2133. Dr. Gessica Johnston, a biology teacher at Ohlone in addition to being a medical doctor, will host the "Wild Edible Plants" Seminar.

"I will have samples of acorn meal to taste, and there will also be some discussion of medicinal uses of plants you might not think of, such as poison oak," explained Johnston.

This seminar's main focus will be on the discussion of what exactly the California Natives ate and used for medicine, but it will also explore the various types of edible plants that grow in the wild and the different plants, nuts, berries and even insects that are edible as well. Johnston anticipates that this week's seminar will be very interesting and informative. You never know when you might get lost in the forest somewhere and need something to eat.

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Photo courtesy of Janel Tomblin-Brown

**Ohlone dancers pose for photo while touring Chinese city. Bottom row, from left: Morgan Lindstrom, Janessa Wong, Janel Tomblin-Brown, Adrian Rios, Michele Leonard; top row, left to right: Onel Higginbotham, Michelle Frye, Ashley Bogue, Danny Mendoza, Caroline Quindoy, RJ Navalta, Taylor Rivard, Wendy Chan, Kyle Meiers, Jasper Gong, Nicole Vandenburg, Sarah Aronson and Sergio Suarez.**

## Ohlone dancers travel to China

By INEZ BLACK  
Staff writer

Two of the four Ohlone dance companies traveled to China in May – Footnotes and Beatz n Pieces. Janel Tomblin-Brown’s cultural exchange dance group totaled 20 students – three theater technicians and three Beatz n Pieces dancers, with the rest coming from Footnotes.

Tomlin-Brown said, “We were in China for eight days. We met Dr. Treadway there. He was part of the exchange that invited my dancers and me to go as dancers, as dance has no language barrier. Dr. Treadway had previously invited the Shanghai Dance Troupe to come to Ohlone College and perform as part of the cultural exchange, and so, in May 2007, we reciprocated.”

She continued, “Included in Footnotes were jazz, lyrical, tap, contemporary, modern [dances]. The Beatz n Pieces are break dancers... First, the exchange dance was

at the Shanghai Dance Academy, Shanghai, China. The second was at Hangzhou and it was so beautiful there. The companies were very well received, more so at the second arts college in Hangzhou, China.

“Our performance was very different from theirs. It excited the Chinese students and they were yelling and giggling. Their dance training was phenomenal – well beyond our level – but we were able to make something fun. We did a ‘Dream Girls’ dance, which I thought was a little cheesy, but they loved it, yelling and clapping... They were so appreciative and wanted our autographs.”

Tomblin-Brown explained that the difference between the Chinese troupe’s performance and atmosphere, and the Ohlone companies’ was “the difference between attending an opera and a rock concert.”

“The food was great,” she continued. There was really no difference between breakfast, lunch and

dinner, but it was all good. It wasn’t until the sixth day that the students went looking for McDonald’s. There was a McDonald’s, KFC and Pizza Hut.

“Traveling to a developing country can be a culture shock for anybody and I think it gave our students a great sense of appreciation for all that we have here in our culture that we may otherwise take for granted,” she added.

She said that the exchange planted a seed that needs a lot of watering and nurturing, “I think that our dancers have a greater appreciation for the ability to dance at a level that affords them an opportunity for travel and cultural exchange. They were able to do this with dance being the language with no barriers. There are words to the music, but when [the audience] doesn’t understand the words, the performer really has to dig deep to further express a language with no barriers.

“We are trying to set up an exchange in the Philippines. The

Beatz n Pieces just came back from their tour from Aug. 14 -28. The four performers had concerts in Manila, Thailand and Malaysia. They are looking at going back with Footnotes next August.”

Tomlin-Brown’s Footnotes are visiting nearby high schools for recruitment by performing and are targeting dance and PE programs.

Footnotes and Beatz n Pieces aren’t the only dance groups on campus; several other groups are planning events to take place at Ohlone this semester.

Bliss - a woman’s contemporary dance company - will be teaming up with Illusion for performance in the Nummi Theater on Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 1. Illusion is an all male contemporary dance company. Cassie Begley, artistic director for Bliss Dance Company, said, “Because we are a group of women dancing about women’s issues, it just feels right. The fact that every rehearsal we laugh and connect with each other is just an added bonus.”



Devil’s Advocate

By ANNA NEMCHUK  
Editor-in-chief

## Drink. Not drunk.

“Want to get smashed tonight?” “Nah, I’ve an early class.” “What about a glass of wine?” “If I don’t get drunk, what’s the point?”

I’ve encountered that conversation many times. Granted, I was raised in a household where dinner without wine is like eating with your feet - but explain to me why it has to be all or nothing?

True, when you’re 14...err, 21, that is...and stealing your first sips of bad beer gone flat in the back of your cousin’s pick-up only to end the night contemplating the beautiful pearly shade of your mother’s immaculate toilet as you desecrate it with everything you’ve even thought of consuming during the past two years, alcohol is a four-letter word. A sweet, sweet four-letter word.

But with age, maturity and a job comes the opportunity to enjoy one of the world’s oldest pleasures: strong drink. Unfortunately, today’s attitudes toward alcohol seem to render it a black and white affair; either your parole officer expects you at the AA meeting every Tuesday or your yearly consumption consists of a liquor cherry Aunt Frida pushes on you every Thanksgiving.

For thousands of years, in almost every culture, alcohol, along with other intoxicating substances, has been a medium for socialization, a liquid lubricant for human interaction. While it’s true that many of those partaking partook a bit too freely, it’s also true that for as long as people have been building bridges, they have been falling off those bridges. This means neither that you shouldn’t cross a bridge until you’re a certain age nor that you should somersault off the railing. Just cross the damn bridge.

As H.L. Mencken, in his “Portrait of an Ideal World” said, “The harsh, useful things of the world, from pulling teeth to digging potatoes, are best done by men who are as starkly sober as so many convicts in the death-house, but the lovely and useless things, the charming and exhilarating things, are best done by men with, as the phrase is, a few sheets in the wind.”

## Student trip to N.Y. planned

By SANDEEP ABRAHAM  
Staff writer

Although they may be a few days shy of a white Christmas, 25 Ohlone students will get the next best thing as they celebrate New Year’s Eve with hundreds of others watching the ball drop in Times Square.

Drama instructor Mark Nelson will be organizing a trip to New York City on the cusp of the New Year from Dec. 29 to Jan. 6. It will be part of Nelson’s Theater Appreciation class, TD105.

Students will have the opportunity to see a Broadway performance such as *The Lion King*, *The Color Purple*, and *Mary Poppins*, each of which are currently playing, as well as tour the famed Radio City Music Hall where they will get to see a holiday performance by the Rockettes, one of New York’s prominent dance groups.

The trip will cost about \$1,200 for students who choose to share a hotel room with three others and \$1,400 for students who wish to board with only one other room-

mate. These deposits will also cover airfare, tours, some meals and subway passes. Students will have a high degree of freedom to explore the city and broaden their horizons on their own time, though there will be an optional agenda and a few preplanned mandatory events.

There will be informational meetings throughout the semester for the purpose of briefing registered and interested students on the trip. All deposits are due by Dec. 3. For more information on the trip, email Nelson at mnelson@ohlone.edu.



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