



Devil's Advocate

By ANNA NEMCHUK
Editor-in-chief

Church - hate is good

"The American Army is a Fag Army!" proclaims the Westboro Baptist Church on godhatesamerica.com. The anti-gay, anti-American, anti-Jew, anti-Catholic, anti-flag, (apparently anti-pretty much everything, as I can't really find anything that they're for) Kansas-based church was recently ordered to fork over \$10.9 million to the family of a U.S. marine for picketing his funeral with such charming slogans as "God hates fags." and "Thank God for dead soldiers." The church's mature and thoughtful response to the matter can be found on their website: "As long as the Lord our God gives us breath, and He continues to kill your G.I. Joe wannabe brat kids, we will still preach at funerals [...] Pass your laws, file your lawsuits. [...] WE WILL NOT GO AWAY [...] We have but one word for you: HA!"

WBC, led by Fred Phelps, is the same group that picketed around Newark in conjunction with transgender teen Gwen Araujo's murder and Newark Memorial High's subsequent performance of "The Laramie Project" in 2002.

The first glimpse of the website made me laugh. The primitive, garish graphics, the sensationalistic text better suited to an eBay ad than a religion, the antagonistic, arrogant, hate-filled expletives against all things non-WBC, the ludicrous, convoluted, nonsensical arguments that make taffy out of logic ("For more commentary in real time, read every word of our new blogs. Your soul depends on it!") - more than anything else, the site seems like an elaborate April Fool's joke gone way overboard.

Except, as far as I can tell, these people are serious. And that's right around the time my brain came to a screeching halt. I'm literally having trouble wrapping my head around the fact that there are lucid (sane?) adults out there who honestly believe god is punishing America because that is what happens "when you fill the army with fags and dykes."

And one of the most repugnant parts of the whole mess is that the Phelps clan, bloated with lawyers, uses free speech legislation to their advantage. After all, they declare pompously, the First Amendment means they can spew their particular brand of back-lot zealotry at will.

After having taken the censorship class with Professor Katona last spring, I can readily attest to the many limits on what most people consider "free" speech in this country.

But I have to say, much as I abhor all forms of censorship, muzzling these idiots at funerals, churches and public places seems a fair compromise to mercy killing. They'd enjoy that too much.

Literature dark and stormy

By MARGARITA KITOVA
Staff writer

The gothic novel is described as containing "mysterious deaths, supernatural happenings, a moaning ancestral portrait, a damsel in distress," and, according to the Oxford Companion to English Literature, "violent emotions of terror, anguish, and love."

If that sounds like your kind of literature, you may be interested in Gothic Novel English 119, a class that will be offered in Spring 2008. It will cover such topics as dark romanticism and the gothic impulse in 19th and 20th century literature.

In the class, students will read books like "Phantom of the Opera," "Jane Eyre" and "Dorian Gray," as well as see vintage films of novels like "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" and "Nosferatu."

The class will be taught by Professor Cynthia Katona, and the last time it was offered was when Katona was in Sydney, Australia with Ohlone students on their semester abroad.

The course fulfills GE requirements, and it is one of the elective courses for the English Major. The Gothic Novel class is three units and it will include lots of reading and a



Illustration from 'Halloween in Germany,' from an 1840 collection of gothic novels.

single paper, said Katona. The class will have only one section, offered on Monday night from 6:30 to 9:40 in HH208. Katona is likely retiring after next year, so this will be the last time she will teach the class.

The prerequisite for English 119 is English 101A or equivalent. Students should show up for the first night regardless of whether they meet the requirements, though. Katona said that many returning students take the Monday night class and meet the requirements

other ways.

Other interesting things that students will learn include the meaning of the strange plants in "Rappaccini's Garden;" Anne Rice's "Interview with the Vampire," the cult classic that makes Stephen King look like kid stuff, according to Katona; as well as the complex secret of the library in "The Name of the Rose." The latter work will be studied in connection with the preoccupations of the Romantic, Victorian and Modern eras.

Smoking still illegal on Ohlone campus

By INEZ BLACK
Staff writer

The Student Health Center has been instrumental in helping Ohlone become a smoke-free campus.

"We had a grant to promote it," said Sally Bratton, director of the Ohlone Student Health Center.

So, in June 2004, the regulation was passed, and Ohlone became a "smoke-free campus." Bratton said that the Sustainability Committee took the over the anti-smoking campaign after the regulation was implemented, and it has waned a

bit as little publicity has been done. Also, Bratton noted that cigarette butts have reappeared all over campus. People have been e-mailing Bratton saying they have seen people smoking on campus where it is not permitted.

This has led to another big campaign to heighten the awareness of the Ohlone policy.

The Great American Smoke-Out began Nov. 1 and it will end on Nov. 15, which is the date of a planned turkey raffle and breakfast in the Quad, starting at 8 a.m., for those who want to sign up to be smoke-free.

Bratton indicated that the most successful programs for stopping smoking are those that limit access to smoking areas. Smoking secession programs are not as successful. People getting sick are not as successful in stopping smoking. Doctors warning patients is not as successful in stopping smoking.

Bratton said, "People have to realize that policy does work in successfully getting people to stop smoking."

"We have about 25 volunteers who will help us do an educational campaign, to give people tear-off

Blood drive gets 55 units

By INEZ BLACK
Staff writer

After an innovative Dracula-based promotion campaign, the Oct. 31 blood drive resulted in 55 faculty, staff and students donating blood, according to Sally Bratton, director of the Ohlone Student Health Center.

It was particularly important this year, as the Red Cross had to cancel their Southern California blood drives for two weeks during the fires, Bratton said. Typically, Ohlone averages 46 volunteers to donate blood, making this drive a success.

The Red Cross team of 20 members arrived at 7:30 a.m. to set up in the cafeteria. The drive was scheduled from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. There were so many volunteers the station stayed open until 5 p.m. Bratton said, "It takes about a half an hour from the time they go in to do their intake to find out if they are eligible to be donors until they actually have their blood drawn.

"We were so backlogged that we had people wait an hour and a half. They were great. They were so patient."

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She indicated it was merely a matter of educating people of the policy. Most people are not hostile. As a matter of fact, the Newark Campus will be complete smoke free-not even smoke in the parking lots.

Bratton said that Ciggy Butts will not be there as they donated the Butts costume to the Alameda County Tobacco Control Coalition, as they do many smoking secession programs.

So Ciggy has graduated and is now working in his field, Bratton pointed out.

World Forum now set Dec. 3

By JASMIN TOUTOUNCHI
Correspondent

The World Forum on the international perspective of deaf culture, originally scheduled for Nov. 14, has been rescheduled to Monday, Dec. 3.

Roz Rosen, director of the National Center on Deafness (NCOD) at the California State University Northridge, will speak from noon to 2 p.m. in the Craig Jackson Theater, in the Smith Center for the Fine and Performing Arts.

Rosen will give insight on the international deaf community and the challenges faced, especially in third-world countries. Rosen's presentation was postponed due to availability problems.

According to a 2006 press release from California State University Northridge (CSUN), the National Center on Deafness (NCOD) provides communication access and tutoring programs for deaf or hard of hearing students, as well as leadership and social opportunities.

Rosen graduated from Gallaudet University with a bachelor's and master's degree as well as a doctor-

ate in education from the Catholic University of America. Rosen also served for eight years on the board of the World Federation of the Deaf. Her experience goes as far as serving for three years as the president of the National Association of the Deaf. Joe McLaughlin, dean of deaf studies and special services, said, "She is very aware of what is happening."

"With Fremont's California School for the Deaf and the positive and encouraging environment, Ohlone has become a draw for deaf students in the Bay Area."

In particular, with the many resources provided, the deaf community thrives. "Being deaf is simply

a different mode of communication and Roz Rosen tries to bring that to the attention of her listeners," McLaughlin explained.

The Ohlone College World Forum series started in spring 2005 and has brought speakers on global issues into the campus twice each semester. The most recent speaker was B.S. Parkash, who explained the changing global profile of India and the dynamics of the relationship between India and the U.S. Admission to World Forums is free.

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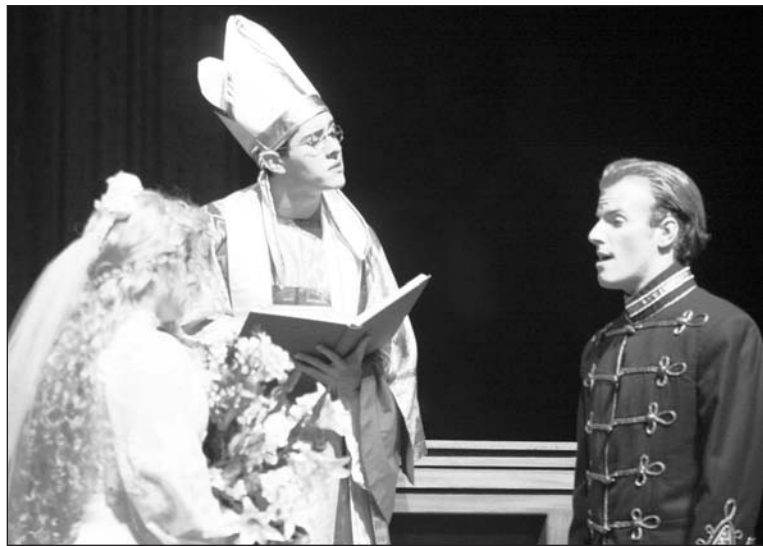
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'Much Ado' opens tomorrow night

Actors rehearse for 'Much Ado About Nothing' which opens tomorrow at 8 p.m. in the Jackson Theatre. Clockwise from left: Antonia, played by Stephanie Pintella, Beatrice, played by Tabitha McBride, Hero, played by Stacey Lynn Bell and Friar Francis, played Phil Vallejo, look on; Pintella, left, and Claudio, played by Wes Walters, argue; something captures the attention of McBride, Pintella and Bell while Vallejo makes a pronouncement to Bell and Walters.

Photos by Daniel Yuan



Tired of bad breath, stinky clothes and being broke?

Don't be shy... you know you want free stuff

Great American Smokeout
Thursday, November 15, 2007
8:00 am - 10:00 am in the Quad

Breakfast food will be provided, along with smoking cessation materials and quit kits.

All students and staff who stop by will be entered into a drawing for a free "cold turkey".



This material is made possible with funds received from the Tobacco Tax Health Protection Act of 1988 - Prop. 99, through the California

Sponsored by the Ohlone Student Health Center and COUGH.

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