Keep your identity free

What if you could pop a pill and become autistic for a week? What if you could temporarily rewire your brain to focus intensely on one task, shutting out commu nications and even time itself? Is it possible that we could return to some past time? And if you did, would that re-wired person still be you?

Questions like this could someday answer a major ecological question—what caused autism in the first place? Scientists believe an autism epidemic may be tied to broad changes in brain chemistry that began decades ago. The “Atkins Diet,” for instance, will get people to eat a low- carbohydrate diet, but what about the “Atkins Diet” for the brain? Could this be a good time to answer the question of autism in our species?


Individuals for the Environment (LIFE) club, having organized a viewing of Al Gore’s “An Inconvenient Truth” only a year prior, decided to screen “The 11th Hour” free of charge to students, with the intention of increasing environ mental awareness among Ohlone students.

Lately, the LIFE club has found itself riding a wave of publicity as both Ohlone and California at large have made environmental and sustainability issues two of their top priorities. The opening of Ohlone’s Newark campus and its arsenal of eco-friendly technology have made it a model for California Community Colleges as well as having spurred student interest in environmental issues. Accordingly, the activities of the formerly peripheral LIFE club have come under the spotlight as “The 11th Hour” and films like it have become directly relevant to the future of Ohlone.

As an expected detonator in his career, DiCaprio has joked about how “The 11th Hour” has given him peace of mind in more ways than one. “The tabloids and the paparazzi don’t care what I have to say about global warming or getting away from dependency on fossil fuels. I think I’ve just bored them into leaving me alone.” He is, however, extremely serious about this project, having not only narrated but also produced and written it. It had a generally good reception for an environmentalist documentary, making $60,853 in four locations in its first weekend. The focus on the myriad environmental problems of which human activity has been the cause, the tone constantly chiding the audience throughout the movie toward a solution. It featured prominent scientists, politicians and environmental activists such as former Soviet leader Mikhail Gor bachev, psychiatrist Stephen Hawkins and environmentalist Paul Hawken. Reception at Ohlone, although disheartening on the first day, picked up by the second day, estimated by LIFE president Farrah Naqui to have been about 20 and 100 people respectively. The increase in the audience was due in large part to advertisement via word of mouth.

New campus up and running

Continued from Page 1

his granddaughter’s electronic Disney book, which squawked “dreams do come true!” when Smith pressed the appropriate button. Smith went on to quote Christopher Reeve: “So many of our dreams at first seem impossible, then they seem improb able and then, when we summon the will, they soon become inevitable.” The inevitable is here, the College of the Future is here today, and to all the young people out there, dreams do come true!

Along with Smith, Fremont Mayor Bob Wasserman and Union City Mayor Mark Greene also spoke. Greene, who drew attention by wearing a green Renegades swimming hoodie underneath his sport coat, originally attended classes at Ohlone before going on to Berkeley. He predicted that much more attention would be heaped upon the campus, calling it the “newest tourist trap in the Tri-City area.”

Corbett also voiced the idea that the Newark Center would achieve notice in its building design as well as its operation. “I’m going to bring you all to Sacramento so you can show everyone the right way to build a campus,” she jokingly pledged. Former Ohlone President Floyd Hawke was able to shed some light on the humble beginnings of the Newark Center. When Hawke became President in 1994, the Newark Center was located in MacGregor Elementary School. This lasted until 2000, when the Newark School District informed the college that the school was needed for other purposes and that the college would have to move elsewhere.

After being evicted from Mac Gregor, Hawke began searching for a more permanent Newark base. Initially, the plan was to occupy 40 acres of land by the bay being sold by Cargill Salt; however, the location was inconvenient and it was unclear whether the area would pass the environmental inspection necessary for building. While the Cargill deal was under consideration, the college began eyeing another piece of property— the stretch of land along Cherry, a site which had both a good location and plenty of space. At first, Newark officials were uninterested in selling the land to the college, hoping instead to sell the land to businesses, which could prove more lucrative for the city. But later the city had a change of heart and agreed to sell the land to Ohlone. After the passing of a $150 million bond measure in March 2002, the college purchased the land and, in 2006, began construction on what would ultimately be a $120 million campus.

The ceremony concluded with resident Ohlone Indian Andy Gal van leading the crowd outside where he conducted a ritual blessing of the four directions of the campus. “On behalf of my ancestors, the Ohlone people, we welcome you, because whether you’re in Fremont, Newark or Union City, you are on Ohlone land,” said Galvan. “It’s a good day to be alive.”

Various professors also offered extra credit for attendance. Farrah added “This wasn’t an sugarcoated as ‘An Inconvenient Truth’... A lot of people were surprised [by what they saw] and more motivated to act. Ohlone has found in the LIFE club an instrument with which it can educate and prepare its students for an environmentally uncertain future. LIFE so far has no objec tions to that. Currently, according to Cynthia Garcha, a LIFE club member, the club’s main beneficiaries are Ohlone faculty. LIFE, through movies like “The 11th Hour” and various other green events, hopes to attract more students. “One of the biggest prob lems we face is inspiring people who don’t feel the need to be inspired,” Garcha said. “It’s like were in a culture on autopilot.”
R.W. Kendrick to play concert

By BARRY KEARNS
Staff writer

“The joy of performing is kinda stressful,” said Ohlone music teacher R.W. Kendrick.

While this is Kendrick’s first concert, he has played in lots of musicals as a student and numerous times at the pond.

He will be playing a nylon electric acoustic guitar for solos and a regular electric guitar for jazz.

The planned repertoire will feature both classic and smooth jazz.

Kendrick commented that the Smith Center event, “is a launching point,” describing it as a “great venue.”

The concert is set for Feb. 8 and will be filmed and recorded.

He is currently looking for a manager, professing that he could use some help with the business end of performing to better concentrate on his music.

When asked about his influences, he noted that much of it had to do with what age he was when he listened to certain artists.

He remembers being a fan of Creedence Clearwater Revival at the age of 14 and then going into Johnny and Eddie Winter.

At around the age of 20, he got into jazz music.

Other influences such as George Benson, West Montgomery, Larry Carlton and Joe Pass have made their mark on his particular style.

However, the biggest influences on his music turned out to be his teachers: Warren Nunes, his teacher of seven years, and Tuck Andress.

Once Kendrick felt the need to acquire his own sound, he found he had to sacrifice some aspects of music, such as songwriting.

Early on, he recalls getting some mixed reviews of his songs, but found that “people always enjoyed my playing.

As he anxiously awaits Friday and his first publicized concert, Kendrick is mainly concerned about his equipment, cares that might not have plagued him as much when he was just a “side man” instead of the main man.

Why the guitar? Why not a sax?

“You can’t get away from the guitar in the 20th century,” Kendrick chuckled.

Afghanistan unveiled

Professional artist Lisa Levine displays her work, focused on grief recovery, at Ohlone’s Louie-Meager Art Gallery until Feb. 28.

‘Grief Work. Art Heals.’ exhibit examines mourning

‘Koochi Sisters’ is one of a series of photographs by former Ohlone student Mojghan Mohztashimi showing rarely seen Afghani village women. Her photos, gathered during recent visits to her homeland, are on view in ‘Life and Spirit of Kabul’ at the Light-Room Gallery, 2263 Fifth St., Berkeley, until Feb. 15. Call (510) 649-8111.

‘Afghanistan unveiled’

Photo by Mojghan Mohztashimi

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