



SUNNY
CYNICISM

By SANDEEP
ABRAHAM
Features editor

Charity vs. capitalism

"Kids in Africa." Quite possibly the greatest conversation-killer in the history of civilization. (Except, of course, in Africa, where it's just conversation.) I've found that lately, I can throw it into any conversation I have and it has about as much of an effect as "That's what she said." Don't believe me? Try it. The next time one of your friends tells you about the 50-inch HD TV he watched the Superbowl on, just throw in a "kids in Africa" and see what happens. Conversational death.

Almost everyone has seen infomercials depicting the squalor and sorrow of fly-flecked African children in the fetal position looking like skeletons with skin tightly canvassed over them. Cue the concerned elderly American man putting his hand on a child, piercing you with his eyes through your TV screen, imploring you to call his 1-800 number and make a "small" donation. It's disgusting, and I don't mean the kids.

At this point, I'd like to say something to my weaker stomach-ached readers. I don't do too well with sincerity and earnest concern. Because if these infomercials really were about sincerity and earnest concern, they wouldn't exist. People would have started giving their money to African children years ago, when these annoying commercials first began showing. And that concerned elderly American man? Ever ask yourself how he manages to dress so well and live so long with all this doom and gloom around him? It's because he's an actor. Grandpa-like figures pleading for despondent "ethnic" looking children are the bread and butter of sympathy and guilt.

Though don't get me wrong. By no means am I telling you not to donate to these children. Just be aware of who gets that money and how they get it. I grew up in third-world countries. Charity organizations were a dime a dozen and not one of them made Hell any less humid.

By the way, social awareness is trendy now. Global warming, Darfur, and the elections - the list goes on. If you're aware, you appear like you care. You could help the cause or you satisfy your conscience by spreading the all-important "awareness" like a cold. But how much of that awareness manifests in a worthwhile effort against society's ills?

We're Americans. We like our toys. We live our lives according to our circumstances. Is it really your fault that you happened to be born into a family living in the Bay Area? Standards of living are certainly much higher here than they are in Africa, but we shouldn't feel guilty for a problem we neither directly caused nor are soon to solve.

National Sex Week hits Ohlone

By KYLE STEPHENS
Staff writer

Sexual Responsibility Week, culminating in National Condom Day, coinciding with Valentine's Day, hits Ohlone hard this week, though the nationwide event is observed at many college campuses.

One of the thrusts of Sexual Awareness week is education in the various forms of available birth control, many of which are available free of charge in the Health Center.

Monday featured a table in the Quad, with information and goodie bags of candy and condoms. Condom roses were also available, as was a sexual facts wheel of fortune. Table staffer and Ohlone Health Center worker Sang Trieu said the event was observed nationally on many college campuses, always at the same time before Valentine's Day. Trieu explained that the event has been in existence for 10-12 years.

Free HIV testing is a weekly service provided by the Ohlone Student Health Center, though on Tuesday there was the added bonus of a free movie ticket for taking the test. Information was presented on new contraceptive technology as well.

Wednesday featured a small presentation on the results of the online health survey held at Ohlone during Spring Semester 2007. The data showed Ohlone to be a more conservative campus, according to Trieu, with many figures below average for the 13 total California community colleges surveyed as well as national values provided by the American College Health Association.

The same organization has been conducting health surveys concerning sexual activity and use of drugs and alcohol since 1998. The data is used in and gathered from community colleges, four-year institutions and private schools, resulting in data from more than 300,000 students. At Ohlone, the target sample of surveyees was 700, and 696 responded in the randomly administered online survey. Ohlone was also the only campus to administer the survey in this fashion.

The survey reported relationship statuses as: 46.3 percent single, 27.9 percent married or with a domestic partner and 22.9 percent engaged or in a committed relationship. It also reported that 91.3 identified as heterosexual, 1.7 as gay or lesbian, 2.9 bisexual, 0.2 transgendered and 4.1 as unsure percentages, respectively. These characteristics, according to the survey, are fairly reflective of Ohlone student demographics, though blacks were underrepresented and whites were overrepresented.

The survey also found that almost one-third of students reported having 0 sexual partners. Approximately half of students reported having 1 sexual partner and 14 percent of students reported having 2 or more sexual partners. National figures found that about one-fourth reported having 0 sexual partners. Almost half reported having 1 sexual partner, and about one-fourth (26.3 percent) reported having equal to or more than 2 sexual partners. Ohlone was shown to have a larger



Photo by Japneet Johar

There was a sex-based wheel of fortune containing trivia, the correct answer to which was rewarded with a prize.

number of students who reported having 0 sexual partners within a year of taking the survey.

Sexual activity of students within 30 days of taking the survey were broken down with oral sex constituting 37.3 percent, vaginal intercourse 50.5 percent and anal sex at 5 percent. National values differed at oral being 46.9, vaginal 54.6 and anal 7.2 percents.

The most popular form of birth control (these values here for which methods are used singularly, not necessarily in conjunction with others) at Ohlone was condoms, at 31.6 percent, followed by birth control pills, at 24.6 percent and the with-

drawal method, with 15.1 percent. Nationally, values were condoms at 30.1 percent, birth control pills at 32.9 percent and withdrawal method at 14.8 percent.

Emergency contraception was used by 10.1 percent of surveyed students last year and 2.3 percent reported unintentional pregnancies. National values were 16.3 percent using emergency contraception, and 4.8 percent having unintentional pregnancies.

Use of a condom for sexual activity of Ohlone students within 30 days of taking the survey was rated at 6.3 percent for oral, 39.1 percent for vaginal and 41.1 percent

for anal. National figures were 6.8, 40.6 and 26.5 percent, respectively. Use of a condom the last time Ohlone students surveyed engaged in sexual activity were 6.2 for oral, 44.5 for vaginal and 32.2 for anal percentages. National figures were 6 percent, 43.2 percent and 25.8 percent respectively.

The most reported sexually transmitted diseases at Ohlone were Chlamydia at 1.1, Gonorrhea 0.2, genital herpes 2.4 and genital warts at 1.3 percents. National values were not readily available, but were said to be comparatively much higher, according to Ohlone Health Center director Sally Bratton.

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Nicotine genocide this century

By **BARRY KEARNS**
Staff writer

A recent report from the World Health Organization to the United Nations claimed that the current "tobacco epidemic" could claim as many as 1 billion lives during the 21st century.

Sally Bratton, the director of the Ohlone College Student Health Center, is not surprised at all over these estimates.

Four years ago, Ohlone College became the first smoke-free campus in Northern California, beating out U.C. Berkeley and Las Pasitas

College, both of which were also attempting a similar resolution. The Newark Ohlone Campus does not allow smoking on its campus or even the parking lots; however, there are currently no signs stating such.

Smoking on the Ohlone campus has been restricted to the general use parking lots. While Bratton said that she saw more cigarette butts on campus last year, she also believes that this is more likely due to the fact that the smokers did not know about Ohlone's non-smoking status than in defiance of it.

Over the past four years, the percentage of smoking students on

the Fremont campus has shrunk from 13 to 7 percent. And while this initiative was a concern when it came to the enrollment of students, no effect has yet been seen.

The upcoming Ohlone Community College Executive Summary Surveys show that 65.8 percent of males and 72.7 percent of females on campus have never smoked cigarettes. And those who have smoked cigarettes, but not in the past 30 days of the survey, accounted for an additional 17.7 percent of students at Ohlone.

Bratton believes that the only way to have an impact on the num-

ber of smokers on a larger scale is through legislation. Big Tobacco, however, has firmly entrenched itself through lobbyists and also through a variety of organizations that benefit schools in the forms of grants, scholarships and, in some cases, the construction of buildings. Even Gov. Schwarzenegger has an outdoor tent for smoking cigars.

It's also estimated that governments around the world receive \$200 billion in tax revenue and that only one fifth of one percent is used to enforce any sort of tobacco control.



Devil's Advocate

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

ER = pain.

I've always hated the thought of the Emergency Room. If your brains are hanging out of one ear, that's one thing, although for many people that remains a happy and natural state of being.

Then I tripped over something in my backyard the other day. Oh bother, I think, am I going to have to go trekking for a band-aid? Apparently not. The half an inch gouge a little below my knee was a little beyond that. Someone had decided I would make a nice custard and gone at it with a sharpened spoon.

So I waded through the coughing, snorting, bleeding mess of humanity to the ER's counter. No, according to the nurse upon witnessing the glory of my wound, this was not a priority, I was only bleeding, for chrissakes, who did I think I was anyway and could I please take a seat now?

I sit. I briefly entertain the thought of my sewing kit back home, but reluctantly decide that if I can't even get a button on straight, my own flesh is probably not the best way to practice no matter how much vodka it'd give me an excuse for. I pull out my Gameboy. Pick up the copy of "The Story of O" I've been making my way through. Reflect a bit on the irony of the juxtaposition. When a friend comes to join me in my quest, I realize I've lost all track of time. As he points out, this is purgatory.

At some point, I get a nifty little bracelet and am shuttled backstage. Now and again, people wander in, shake their head at my pretty little laceration, threaten me with a tetanus shot and meander back out, never to be seen again. I'm convinced the only way I made it out with sanity intact was my company.

Eventually, they make good on the threats and enter local anesthesia. One, two, three and... everybody do the squirm dance!

Me: "Are you sure the numbing's taken?"

Bastard doctor: Slaps a gigantic wad of gauze soaked in something on my ravaged flesh.

Me: "Alrightie then."

What follows is in a way even worse than the pain; I can feel the pulling and tugging and piercing but I can't really FEEL them and apparently your body tends to go a little haywire about that. Vicodin, I croak. Bastard doctor has himself a nice laugh before advising Tylenol and exits stage left.

I peer down at his handiwork. It's actually quite handy. Looks like a lovebite from a baby shark.

Six months before I know what the scar'll look like. Shorts season. I'll tie a bandanna around my leg and be mistaken for a rival gang member and have to go back to this ER where I have been for five &#^ing hours and maybe then it'll take only three or so.

But hey, at least I'll know my tetanus shot's up to date.

Theater students will explore New York City



Photos courtesy of Mark Nelson

Theater Professor Mark Nelson will be hosting a New York City Theater Tour May 22. There will be an informational meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 20 to discuss the logistics of the tour and to give students a chance to decide whether or not they might be interested in a trip like this. The meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Smith Center Lobby. The class leaves May 22 and will spend seven nights in New York City, seeing Broadway shows, Ground Zero, shopping and much more in a city known for its theatrical achievements. The class will be worth three units of transferable credit and will be open to anyone. Nelson strongly encourages students to take advantage of this opportunity. For any questions or concerns, he will be available at his office in SC-221 or can be emailed at mnelson@ohlone.edu.