



SUNNY  
CYNICISM

By SANDEEP  
ABRAHAM  
Features editor

## Greening of the faith

It's been a long time since I've gone to church.

It isn't because the messages get too repetitive or because my fellow churchgoers get annoying in their optimism and single-mindedness. No, it's none of that, not anymore.

The only reason I haven't gone to church in so long is simply because...I sleep through my alarm.

Though I'm glad I went last Sunday. The message was about something I had never expected I'd hear preached about in an American church: the environment.

Well, it was actually about materialism and how even in a war, the almighty dollar holds sway in our hearts and minds. But the environment figured somewhere in there and since it was the part that held my attention longer than anything else, it became to me the focus of the sermon.

I'll be honest. Being environmentally unfriendly is just much easier, much more satisfying. At least it feels that way when I'm speeding across town to get to class, with an non-recyclable plastic water bottle in my hand and a 12-page paper (4 pages of pictures) in my backpack. Oh, and I love meat.

Yeah, I know all about the sasquatch-sized environmental footprint I'm leaving and I know I could be living a lot more environmentally consciously, but it's just so hard. It's just so antithetical to the typical college student's lifestyle, given a huge workload and a dose of ambition enough to induce insanity. Silly things like the environment tend to fall by the wayside in light of that.

But, believe it or not, my faith is important to me and now it seems even God has gotten on the environmental bandwagon. Ok, I kid. I'm sure He's the one driving the bandwagon. And the sermon wasn't what got me all hot and bothered over the environment. It was a video my pastor showed to accompany it.

It was a clip from the website [www.storyofstuff.com](http://www.storyofstuff.com) and that's precisely what it was: a story of stuff. The stuff we use, the stuff we import, the stuff we buy, the stuff we dispose of, the stuff over which our nation wages war. Annie Leonard (Some environmental celebrity? Not sure.) narrated it and did for me in 20 minutes what a Social Problems professor did in a semester.

It's a brilliantly organized website and while I usually am vehemently against what I consider the mindless laziness of "awareness," this brand of awareness bore no hint of either mindlessness or laziness.

So now with God and country both in cahoots with the EPA, I just might be tempted to change my evil ways.

Hell, dare to dream, right?

# Competing through calculation

By ANDREW LE  
Staff writer

Prodigal minds and gifted math wizards unite again this Friday, March 7, for the Student Math League national competitive examination. It will take place in HH-218 from 5:20 to 6:20 p.m. Ohlone College hopes for a large turnout of the most confident mathematicians on campus, for the top five scorers of this examination will determine Ohlone's team score.

The top six scorers will have the opportunity to represent the college at the upcoming calculus-level Mathletics competition in April, where they will seek greater fame and prizes. Though the final reward of the competition in April is unknown, the top five scorers of the examination will receive \$50 each for their participation and achievement. The ASOC will also award cash prizes to the sixth and seventh runners up.

Those who are interested in taking the examination may be aware of a large Math League support group that exists on campus to help those who aspire to succeed in the examination as well as with further competitions. The support group meets regularly, and Math League advisor Geoff Hirsch describes it as "...what we're all about: enthusiasm for mathematics, teamwork, having a good time [and] taking leadership roles." Ohlone College continues to place among the highest in the national competitions, hoisting David

Pan, who tied for 30th place in all of the United States in the November exam, on its shoulders.

Hirsch added that David Pan formerly scored a 10.0 on the examination, and has since improved his score to 30.0, out of the "perfect and rarely achieved 40.0."

Hirsch welcomes bright, interested students to attend the Math Club's final preparation, on Friday, Feb. 29, from 5:20 to 6:20 p.m. in HH-218.

Additional preparation can be found at [www.amatyc.org/SML/old-competition-questions.htm](http://www.amatyc.org/SML/old-competition-questions.htm),

where one will find old SML exams to practice with. Hirsch suggests preparing by starting with the most recent exams first. General information for prospective participants can be found at the official Math Leagues website, [www.mathleague.com](http://www.mathleague.com).



Photo courtesy of Geoff Hirsch

**Mark Abubekarov, Terrance Lee, Sharon Chi Wing Li, Novy Tjokro, Thomas Hamilton, Jonathan Hirschberg, Viet Nguyen Jonathan Zimmerman, Jakk Wong and JinYi Sun watch as David Pan writes out a math problem.**

## Ohlone to attend Spring Convergence

By SANDEEP ABRAHAM  
Features editor

Come Friday, 25 Ohlone students will be representing the college at Spring Convergence 2008, hosted by the California Student Sustainability Coalition (CSSC). An event independent of any official Ohlone administrative endorsement, Spring Convergence 2008 will take place at UC Santa Barbara and will feature workshops on a variety of heated topics concerning the environment.

The CSSC began in 2003 as an organization dedicated to encouraging students in California's colleges

in environmental and ecological activism. Spring Convergence 2008 is one of two convergences CSSC holds each year.

Anticipated workshop titles for this year include "The Next Salt Marches - Action for Climate Justice," "End the War, Build the Alternative," "Localize: Running a Successful Green Campaign at Your Campus," " and "Power Analysis and Strategy for Sustainability Policies in the Community College System." The Convergence, over a period of 3 days, will bring together 248 students from 8 Universities of California (Berkeley, Los Angeles, San Diego, Davis, Riverside, Irvine,

Santa Cruz), 10 California State Universities (San Francisco State, San Diego State, Chico, Fresno, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly Pomona, Sacramento State, San Jose State, Sonoma State), 10 California Community Colleges (Ohlone, Santa Barbara City, Los Angeles City, Pasadena City, De Anza, Columbia, Orange Coast, Community College of San Francisco, Cabrillo, El Camino) and 4 private universities (St. Mary's College, Santa Clara University, Chapman University, Whitman College).

Spring Convergence 2008 was organized and put together by Suzanne McNulty, a graduate student

at San Francisco State University.

The event is entirely free to students provided each student brings his or her own sleeping bag, eating utensils, pillow and toiletries. Students will be provided free housing, either in the form of UCSB campus dorms and rooms in the student center or through voluntary outdoor "camping." Ohlone students have opted to stay indoors.

The primary objective of the Convergence will, however, be the unification and collaboration of California's college students in hopes for means by which California, at least at the collegiate level, will strive for sustainability.

## Kitka to perform in Smith Center

By ELISE LEON  
Staff writer

Kitka will be performing at Ohlone College on Saturday, March 1 at the Smith Center.

They recently released a new CD called Sanctuary, a mixture of a cappella and folk music.

Kitka means "bouquet" in Bulgarian and Macedonian.

The group was founded in 1979 in Oakland.

The group currently includes Zlatka Baneva, Leslie Bonnett, Bridget Boyle, Shira Cion, Catherine Rose Crowther, Juliana Graffagna, Phoebe Jevtovic, Janet Kutulas and Natalia Ukrainska.

The group has performed at the Ohlone Smith Center a few times in the past.

Three of Kitka's members were

at Ohlone this past week for a workshop at the Smith Center. Approximately 40 students attended the event. The vocalists shared with the participants their techniques and history with Kitka.

"It's an experience!" stated Christopher J. Booras, director of theatre operations at Ohlone. He described the group as harmonic chanting while an associate mentioned similarity to yodeling.

Kitka's music can be heard at [www.kitka.org](http://www.kitka.org), which also has information and updates on their future performances in the area. Donations to Kitka can also be made on their website. They even have a MySpace page.

The Smith Center is offering a special deal for those who are interested in attending the performance this Saturday; if you mention this



Photo courtesy of Rebecca Kohlmoos

**Kitka and their music are world-renowned.**

article to the box office cashier, you will get a \$5 discount at the door.

The Kitka performance will begin at 8 p.m.

## Daffodil Days for cancer funds

By **TSETEN DOLKAR**  
Staff writer

Daffodil Days is the American Cancer Society's (ACS) annual campaign that brings hope to the fight against cancer, which affects one in two American men's and one in three American women's lives.

Daffodils, one of the first flowers of spring, symbolize renewed hope that one day we will live in a world

free of cancer. This spring marks the campaign's 35th anniversary and over the past 13 years alone, it has raised more than \$200 million to fund much-needed research, cancer awareness and education programs, and enable advocacy for health policies that benefit the community.

Ohlone College's Social Ohlone And Recognition (SOAR) committee has raised \$1,290 as of Feb. 27

for the ACS, far exceeding its goal of \$1,000.

Beginning January, SOAR members have been taking in requests for daffodils that donors reserve online.

There is a variety of donation packages, ranging from \$10 to \$100 and donors can choose to send daffodils to friends and family, or anonymously have them sent to cancer patients. The committee

will be sponsoring a daffodils sales event in Building 1 and in front of the cafeteria on March 17. The daffodils' delivery will also take place during the same week.

Please reserve your daffodils and make your donations before Mar. 5 on the Daffodil Days webpage at [http://main.acevents.org/site/TR?px=1905586&fr\\_id=10468&pg=personal&JServSessionIdr004=3nly01ks01.app311a](http://main.acevents.org/site/TR?px=1905586&fr_id=10468&pg=personal&JServSessionIdr004=3nly01ks01.app311a).



**Devil's Advocate**

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

## Customers always wrong

Why is it most people seem to lose IQ points upon entering a store?

Different people, different dumb. But in most people's defense, we bear our crosses privately; in fact, any encroaching sale staff are generally snarled at. Browsing is a holy thing.

This is not, I've come to believe, a widely held attitude.

There are the harmless idiots. "Do you carry DVDs?" can be answered by a wordless pointing above the person's head at the DVD sign.

There are the persistent idiots. Customer: "But I just saw it here last year!" Clerk: "Nevertheless, madam, in the interim it seems to have vacated the premises."

There are the "Are you sure you CAN read?" idiots. Customer: "Where's the nonfiction section?" Clerk: "You see where it says fiction? That's where it's not. The rest of the store, however..."

There are the rude idiots. "Well, I walked in a minute before closing so I can browse as long as I want. You people are so unfriendly." That's right, lady 'cause we're actually a restaurant.

There are the hopeful idiots. "Ma'am, for the seventh time, we do not have a catalogue of our merchandise. If I were to stand on my head, wiggle sideways and whistle the national anthem through my ears, I STILL couldn't tell you whether we have that book."

There are the lecherous idiots. Customer, after providing his phone number for a return: "And you can call anytime, sweetheart."

There are the shameless idiots. "Lady, this book is a dollar. One. Dollar. No, you cannot get a further discount on that."

There are the parental idiots. "Oh, look, little Timmy's throwing books on the floor. Isn't that just precious?" Words fail.

I have a new motto. The customer is always dumb.

## Chinese New Year in with a bang



Photos by Kyle Stephens

San Francisco celebrated the year of the Rat Saturday with a traditional parade despite torrential rain and wind captured by Monitor staff writer Kyle Stephens.



## Rocking the hill

By **BARRY KEARNS**  
Staff writer

Three bands will be performing at the Ohlone College "Rock the Hill" event at the amphitheater for the chance to win their own music video or other prizes. The event, which is the first of six planned for the rest of the semester, is the brainchild of the Live Music committee which has just received funding for the rest of the semester to make these shows possible. The PA system rented for the event boasts a 5,000 to 6,000 watt capability, making sure that no one will complain about the lack of volume. The three bands set to perform are "Jokes for Feelings," "Drunken Public" and "Anthem."

The show will be from 1 to 4 p.m. and food should be available for attendees. "Jokes for Feelings" is a punk/rock band from Oakland, "Drunken Public" is an alternative/rock band from San Francisco and "Anthem" is an alternative/rock, also native Californian. The band judges will consist of three Ohlone instructors. The first prize is a music video done by the broadcasting department of Ohlone College valued at \$1,500, the second prize is a \$300 gift card to Guitar Center and the third prize is a \$200 gift card to Guitar Center. Throughout the semester, the six events will showcase three bands as they compete for the prizes; there may also be a seventh event where the winning bands will perform once again.

Ken Steadman, who has spearheaded this event, also encourages anyone who is interested in performing or helping out to contact him or the Live Music Committee of Ohlone College.

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