

## SUNNY CYNICISM

By SANDEEP  
ABRAHAM  
Features editor

## Why your SUV sucks

It's a trite and almost cliché topic, but I think it's worth whining about at least once a year in the depressing Thomas-the-tank-engine hope that people will actually listen.

So here it goes: stop driving your damned SUVs. Almost every accident I've been in (3 total) has involved an SUV and every time, the SUV came away having caused far more damage than it took. Now that might say something about my driving, but for the sake of this argument, I'm going to say that SUVs are bulky, useless behemoths more trouble than they're worth.

In fact, this is a great time to bring this up because now I've got the environmentalist movement to back me up. So not only can I whine about how annoying it is being constantly surrounded by metallic mammoths and their fumes (think Flintstones meets bad bean burritos), but now I have some moral justification to back it up. Apparently, the fact that SUVs make you look either insecure or snobby and that they tend to kill people more easily in accidents isn't enough of a moral imperative for some people.

As long as it's the American way, right? It's all good as long as we stick to an outdated 1950s mindset that tells us the bigger our cars, the more patriotic we are. We still have to show those commies that we can build anything bigger, better and faster than they. Oh wait, that's right, we don't. And if not for patriotism, we buy SUVs to feed our all-American competitive drive and show everyone else that we're bigger and better than they are even if we're only a few feet higher above the ground.

Or maybe you're one of those corn-fed suburbanites who's watched one too many rap videos and think you need to show how hood you are by driving a pimped out Escalade/Yukon/H2 (sittin' on dubs, of course) that most people in real hoods and ghettos could never afford. I'll save you years of self-delusion right now and tell you that to the rest of us slightly more well-adjusted people, you look like clowns. Then the soccer moms will whine and say they drive SUVs for the safety of their families and for long camping trips. All sedans made in the last decade come equipped with airbags and there's a certain irony in using a toxic gas factory to navigate the great outdoors.

And as much as I'd love to pay \$4 per gallon of gas just so you can get 12 miles to each of your gallons to satisfy your delusions of greatness, I'd really rather not.

If this feels like a guilt trip, it is. Go green, save the world, save America, spend less, and stop being an idiot. It's nothing personal. I'm just a fan of common sense.

## New display case adds illumination to photos



By ELISE LEON  
Staff writer

The Lightbox gallery in Building 2 is showcased in a new display case, made possible through a grant.

Currently, photographs make up the display in the cases. The exhibition began a couple weeks ago.



Photos by Pei Ju Chen

The gallery is run by Ohlone Art Instructor Paul Mueller. Some of the more eye-catching works displayed were by students Sarah Wery, Daniel Harnish and Kady Quintana, all of whom are enrolled in black and white photography classes with either Mueller or Art Instructor Lisa Gould.

The Lightbox gallery will continue throughout the year. "I encourage students and faculty to take a look," stated Mueller.

## Rodgers to lead study abroad program

By INEZ BLACK  
Staff writer

Want to pet a kangaroo? Who doesn't?

Ohlone students can now experience the Australian culture for a semester while taking Ohlone courses from Anthropology Instructor George Rodgers and an Aussie Professor at Billy Blue University of Sydney from Sept. 6 to Nov. 30. The exchange program is run by the Center for Academic Programs Abroad (CAPA) based in Boston, Massachusetts.

Rodgers said, "I have 15 years of experience of taking students to different parts of the world including China, Egypt, Europe [and] South America (Peru, El Salvador, Costa Rica). Last year, we took 13 students to Scandinavia and Russia."

According to Rodgers, Billy Blue

University is an urban campus with numerous programs, including a culinary academy with great food. Public transportation is excellent and extends beyond the city, making this a valuable resource for traveling students.

Rodgers continued, "It is truly an opportunity to explore another culture. The only thing that we have in common with Australia is the language."

There are specific excursions planned, including a boat tour of Sydney Harbor, a tour to an Aboriginal cultural center and the Blue Mountains tour. In addition, Rodgers has planned numerous excursions to explore Australia.

Spring break at Billy Blue is Oct. 18-26.

Professor Kay Harrison added, "Professor Rodgers will organize activities for the students who want

to do something together, and then other students will go off on their own."

Harrison explained that the fees for the trip cover room and board with an Australian family, including two meals daily, and basic amenities of living in a home with a place to study for three months.

For students, it's an opportunity to integrate their academic coursework with their personal intercultural experience. Typically, two students are housed in each house.

To date, 22 students have expressed interest in the program.

The Ohlone application for the trip, along with a \$400 deposit, is due by April 25, and is to be submitted to Rodgers.

The first payment is due May 16, with the total due by June 13.

Students still need to register at Ohlone and pay Ohlone tuition.

Students may qualify for grant or loan assistance through Ohlone Financial Aid Office.

Students abroad typically carry 12 units. As Ohlone courses, they are transferable to UCs and CSUs.

Rodgers, who teaches geology, geography and anthropology, encourages students not to take more so that they can experience the culture without overloading themselves.

Brochures with complete details are available from Harrison.

The application for Ohlone students can be downloaded from [www.ohlone.edu/org/studyabroad/docs/2008fallsydneyapplication.pdf](http://www.ohlone.edu/org/studyabroad/docs/2008fallsydneyapplication.pdf).

The due dates on the web sites are being updated to reflect the information above.

Visit [BillyBlue.com.au](http://BillyBlue.com.au) for additional information.

## Rock the Hill will brave weather

By BARRY KEARNS  
Features editor

Three bands will perform during today's Rock the Hill event, the second of six planned for the semester.

Despite earlier concerns that the event would be rained out, the ASOC (Associated Students of Ohlone College) Committee for Live Music decided to go ahead with the March date at the Smith Center Amphitheater between 1 and 4 p.m.

Performing at the event will be local groups L.O.C. Ness, Kalizay and Weslester. Refreshments in the form of pizza, sandwiches and smoothies will be made available. Vegetarian options should also be available.

ASOC President Tatyana Hamady is scheduled to sing at 2:45 p.m. Additional music will be provided by Big Rich Records.

Weslester, performing at 1 p.m., has a sound described as hyphy, progressive and rock. More information about Weslester can be found at [myspace.com/weslester](http://myspace.com/weslester).

Performing at 1:30 p.m. is L.O.C. Ness, a hip-hop group local to the Bay Area. Further information on the band and songs are available at [myspace.com/locness4life](http://myspace.com/locness4life).

Kalizay is set to perform at 2 p.m. and features a wide range of music from Bossanova to Reggae to House in three languages: French, Spanish and English. Ohlone student Lila Salinas, who sings for the group said, "If you want to see variety, see me."

The artists will be competing for prizes, which include a \$1,500 music video for the band, a \$500 gift card for Guitar Center or a \$300 gift card for Guitar Center.

Chair of the Live Music Committee Ken Steadman encourages students and faculty alike to "Come out and rock the hill."

The next Rock the Hill event will be on April 10 and will have more of a hip-hop presence with breakdancing performances.

Rock the Hill is a battle of the bands-like series planned by the ASOC for the express purpose of fostering a sense of community and creating a greater campus culture.



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# Newark may have better bites

By KATHY SUNG  
Staff writer

Food at the Newark Campus may be better than the food at the Fremont Campus. Ohlone students are paying more money for food at the Newark campus, but may be receiving better quality food and more of it.

Both cafeterias are working with Fresh and Natural to bring in their food. The Fremont and Newark campuses offer a variety of different food for many different people. However, a Chicken Caesar salad will cost \$5.95 at the Newark Campus and only \$5.25 on the Fremont Campus. This discrepancy in price is visible in many of the other items on the menu as well. A Chef's Salad will cost a student \$5.95 at the Newark Campus and only \$4.95 at the Fremont Campus.

Leta Stagnaro, the associate vice president of the Newark Center, praised the food at the Newark Campus as having a "healthier selection." Although they don't have a grill, she said that she sees

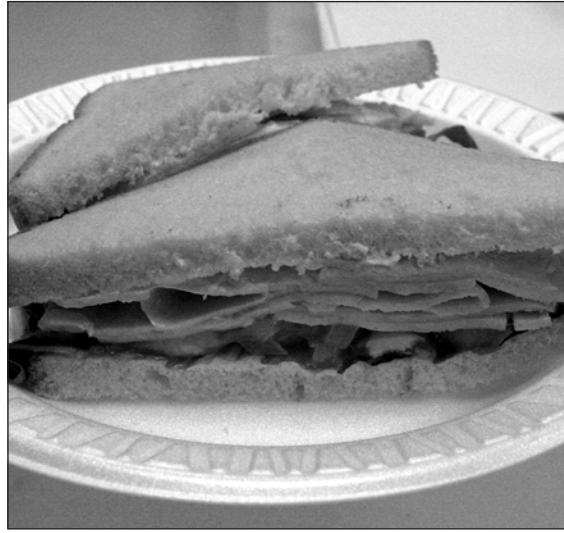


Photo by Pei Ju Chen

**Sandwiches purchased from the Newark Campus, left, are noticeably larger compared to a sandwich purchased on the main campus, right.**

the chef, Sarah Lee, "constantly preparing food."

Kevin Feliciano, ASOC treasurer, commented, "I am allergic to avocado, and every time I order sushi, the chef Sarah Lee makes it without avocado for me."

The Newark campus offers a variety of Grab n' Go Sandwiches

ranging from the classic peanut butter and jelly sandwich (\$2.95) to the chicken salad sandwiches (\$4.50). They also offer "Eco Meal of the Day" with an addition of chips.

Feliciano also mentioned that the ASOC, has "not heard any complaints about the prices, food or staff at the Newark Center. I

wish we could say the same for the Fremont Campus." There have been complaints about the Fremont campus recently regarding the prices and staff.

Students are invited to share their opinions, stories, and experiences with the ASOC at [asoc+cafeteria@ohlone.edu](mailto:asoc+cafeteria@ohlone.edu).



Devil's Advocate

By ANNA NEMCHUK  
Editor-in-chief

## Privacy or safety?

I remember the good old days when men were men, women were women, privacy was valued and all teenage SWFs online were actually 40-year-old obese men trying for their child molestation degrees. In those days, you knew where you stood. If you agreed to meet anyone you'd gotten to know online, you pretty much deserved what you got, which was a whole bucketful of disturbing.

Those days are gone. While I'm sure child molesters remain in as plentiful a supply as always, the proliferation of online romances and friendships has reached such lofty heights as to raise the internet to the level of a legitimate social forum, to the detriment of seedy bars everywhere.

And now, cops. Enter Rate-MyCop.com. And Copwatch.org. Both sites seek to police the police, providing searchable databases of law enforcement officers across the nation with users' feedback. The logic goes: we pay taxes, taxes pay the police's salaries, therefore they work for us and performance-based work reviews are a good thing. Cops across the nation are crying foul, worried about personal information leakage and danger to loved ones.

But, hey, it's America. The bad guys get their comeuppance, too. Felonspy.com gives you a searchable database with a Google Maps interface that identifies by age and name the ex-cons residing near the address of your choice. With claims like "Safety starts with good information, even if it ends with a loaded .44 caliber pistol," how can you resist?

In other words, whether you're one of the guys wearing a white hat or the dude with the hostage, the Internet is here to make sure your privacy is violated to an equal degree.

It's easy to be ambivalent about this when you're the anonymous user behind the screen but when I found myself served hot on a website with a side of ridicule, suddenly the social arena of the net became more akin to a lynch mob than a peaceful town square gathering.

The funny thing is - the point is moot. Information, as well as disinformation, is here to stay. It's just going to get worse as more and more records become digitized.

So, privacy vs. safety? Black or white? Can you choose? 'Cause I can't.

School teaches you to write with a conclusion in mind. But in that quirky, disobedient real world, life is made up more of introductions and body paragraphs, with a smattering of theses tossed in.

I don't have a conclusion or solution to this. I just think it sucks.

## Theater group to tour Paris, London

By ELISE LEON  
Staff writer

Theatre Appreciation 102 with Professor Tom Blank and about 16 students will be taking a trip to London and Paris from July 25 to Aug. 4.

The course, worth 3 units, will be CSU and UC transferable. There will be four class meetings before the tour to prepare students for the cultural shock.

Students will view Windsor Castle, the Tower of London and Stonehenge in England, plus the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

The group will also visit the Globe Theater, the National Theater and the Royal Shakespeare Company.

The trip will cost \$3,300 for anyone interested in going and all participants must be registered



Photo courtesy of Tom Blank

**Sabrina Houschmand, Barry Dodson, Tom Blank, Romeo Marguez, Cari Goodrich and Spencer Blank at The London Dungeon.**

by April 15.

Requirements for the course include 10 theatre reviews, four reviews written prior to leaving and four reviews of shows the group

will see in London. Papers written during and concerning the experience will be turned in two weeks after the students return and after a barbeque get-together with Tom

Blank in San Mateo.

For questions about the course and/or trip, contact Tom Blank at [tblank@ohlone.edu](mailto:tblank@ohlone.edu) or call 510-659-6209.

## Board

Continued from Page 2

Oftentimes, Board members run unchallenged in an election or voters simply return them to office based on their incumbency. If Board members continue to be dysfunctional term after term, perhaps more stringent measures are necessary to ensure that fresh ideas come into Ohlone. The public elects Board members and perhaps now it is time for that public to call for a cap on the number of times someone can be re-elected.

Ohlone is an exemplary, forward-moving community college with many positive assets. If the current Board is not willing to change and cannot accurately reflect the progressive nature of the district, perhaps we should set them aside and allow new, more responsible members of the community to take over.

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