



## Weighing Anchor

By ERIC DORMAN  
News editor

## War hits your wallet

"It's the economy, stupid." It was Bill Clinton's promise to address the economy in 1992, and four elections later, it's worth bringing up again in relation to the Iraq War.

As this year's candidates go about making promises and announcing plans, they have consistently devoted more time to the economy than to the war. And why not? Polls have repeatedly indicated that Americans think a tanking market deserves more attention than a far-off desert struggle.

It might be time to think again. The economy and the war aren't as far removed from each other as they might seem, according to a recent *Washington Post* editorial by Columbia Economist Joseph Stiglitz, who calculated that the Iraq War will end up costing the U.S. \$3 trillion.

\$3 trillion. It's a respectable number, one that has the power to serve as a reality check to those who believe the war has no effect on their lives. It's a dollar amount that begs another look at the reasons behind our presence in Iraq and the human, as well as financial, cost of that presence.

Whether or not our Iraq presence is justified is a murky issue, but the figures involved paint a picture that could hardly be more clear. Yesterday marked the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, and Stiglitz calculates that every month in those five years costs the U.S. \$12 billion (\$16 billion if you include Afghanistan) in upfront costs. When you add hidden defense budget costs, benefits for future veterans, equipment upkeep costs and the societal costs that accompany loss of life, the figure climbs steeply.

As a student, it's easy to think that by the time you start your career, the tax burden of financing the war will have already been shouldered. Again, it's time to think twice. Bush's slashed taxes and increased expenditures have resulted in the war being financed largely by borrowed dollars. That money has to come from somewhere, and that somewhere is your pocket.

Think about what those trillions of dollars could be doing for our country, and the world, if they weren't flowing into the Middle Eastern sands. We could have achieved universal health care for all Americans, at an annual price tag considerably less than the amount we spend in Iraq every year. We could have even cut taxes in a meaningful, sustainable manner.

Sometimes it takes a dollar amount to bring home the incredible human costs of a war. If nothing else can, let's hope this number drives home the fact that whoever and wherever we are, the war is our problem.

# Forensics: Ohlone vs. California

By CHEN LIN  
Staff writer

The Ohlone Forensics team took second place at the California Community College Forensics Association state championships last

weekend, making it their best performance this semester and earning five competitors the right to compete at Nationals. Altogether, the team won two gold medals, five silver medals and three bronze medals. The most successful competitor

was Emily Burkett, who earned a gold in Extemporaneous Speaking and broke into finals for four other events.

Her debate partner, David Taube, won a gold in Lincoln Douglas and shared silver with Emily in Parlia-

mentary Debate.

The other prize-winners were Sammy Obeid, who won silver in Speech-to-Entertain, Athena Bringham, who won bronze in Parli, and Mike Sagun, who won bronze in Programmed Oral Interpretation. Their performance last week was one of the best in the team's history.

"This is better than we've ever done," said Kay Harrison, a forensics coach and speech instructor at Ohlone.

The tournament, which began Wednesday and lasted until Sunday, featured 16 community colleges from across California and was held in Concord, at the Crown Plaza Hotel.

The prize-winners from this tournament are qualified to compete in the Phi Rho Pi national tournament, which will be held April in St. Charles, Illinois, just outside of Chicago. About 80 two-year schools regularly attend that tournament. Last year, Ohlone took 6<sup>th</sup> in the sweepstakes for their division and first place in both Parliamentary Debate and After Dinner Speaking.

To help fund the trip, the Forensics team is sponsoring a Comedy Night on April 11. One of the performers will be Sammy Obeid, a professional comedian and second place finisher in Speech-to-Entertain at last weekend's tournament. More information will be available on the Ohlone website.

## New glass art in Treadway's office

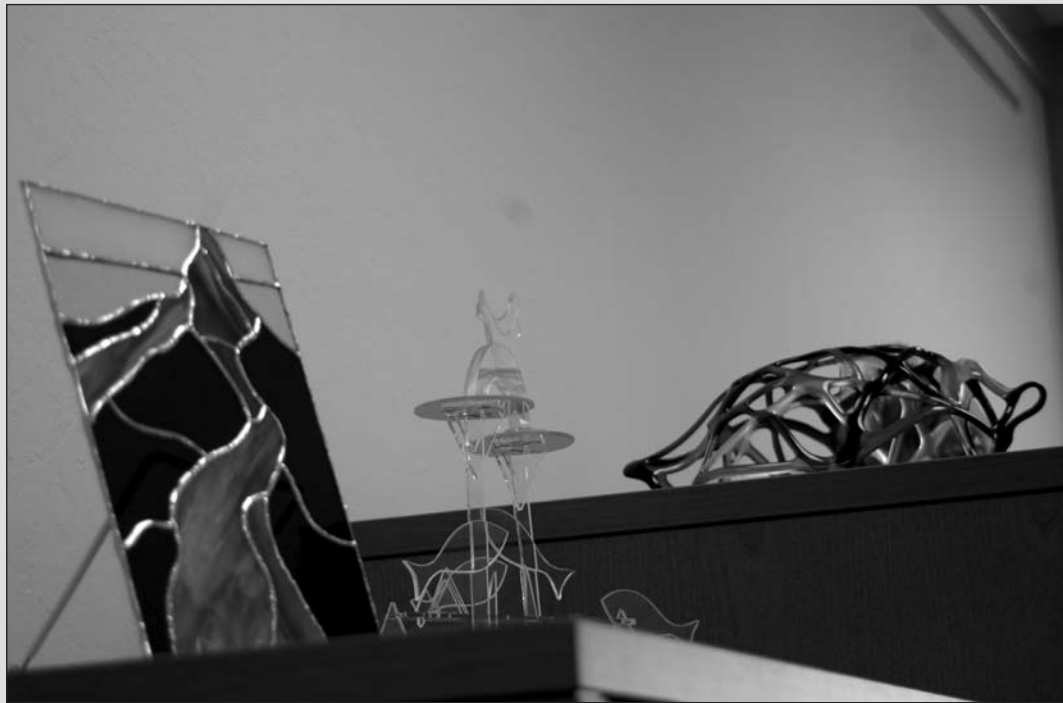


Photo by Japneet Kaur

President Treadway's office now features Carol Lawton's Glass Art and Design class's latest pieces of crystalline sculpture.

# Fresh blood in nursing program

By TSETEN DOLKAR  
Staff writer

When asked about her job, Sharon Briggs said she is living her "life-long dream to teach." Briggs, a Geriatric Content Expert certified by the California Board of Nursing, is an instructor for the second year nursing program.

Having been raised in Berney Falls, in the foothills of Yosemite, Briggs describes herself as a "mountain girl" who enjoys the outdoors and the wide variety of activities it provided. Among other things, she fly-fishes, kayaks and, in 1989, placed 15<sup>th</sup> in Women's Amateur Windsurfing in the nation.

After graduating from Highland Hospital School with a diploma, Briggs went onto Mills College



Nurse Sharon Briggs

for a nursing certificate. Following her nursing license from the State, Briggs worked for 10 years as a nurse in pediatrics, surgical and critical care. She then began in-service education in the emergency

rooms, and so marked the beginning of her career as a teacher.

In 1975, Briggs started the Health Occupation program at Lassen Community College in Susanville. It was after seven years that her husband was transferred to Redding, she began teaching at Shasta College and became a LVN Specialist.

Briggs then enrolled at Chico State to pursue a master's degree, but she became sick last year with different illnesses and was bed-ridden. Only after consulting with a specialist was her condition identified as Lyme disease. Determined to make up for lost time, she finished her master's and graduated in 2005.

Briggs' students Laura Salinaro, Jill Ingraham and Kathryn Miranda

all described Briggs as a teacher with "no ego, and someone who cares about her students." Briggs said she is "destined to help people in whatever way [she] could." Briggs is passionate about what she does, which, in healthcare, she said requires "a calling." With 43 years of experience behind her, she could be earning more at hospitals, but chooses instead to prepare future nurses at Ohlone. As she toured the Newark Center's nursing labs, she enthusiastically spoke in-depth about Ohlone's new Simulation Center, one of only a handful in the Bay Area.

Briggs is a mother of three and has three grandchildren. Briggs' webpage, which was the thesis project for her master's, can be reached at: mycoplasmasupport.org.

# Student website empowers girls

By TSETEN DOLKAR  
Staff writer

Former Ohlone College student Tanesha Ferguson launched ChattyCathie.com on March 6. The website covers a wide variety of topics, ranging from fashion to health to world issues.

Ferguson said that girls "need a place to share ideas, voice opinions, thrive and inspire and be inspired by female peers - free of judgment, sexism, ridicule and competition." The website's goal is to "provide a dynamically thriving and safe community for girls of all ages, to exchange thoughts and ideas on all things relevant to being female, and most importantly, replace female

exploitation with self-respect and empowerment."

Ferguson grew up the oldest of six children. Consequently, she said she feels responsible for helping and setting a positive example as a strong, independent woman to students faced with similar life pressures.

She was the first in her family to graduate high school on time and go on to college. Ferguson graduated from Ohlone in 2004, and went on to UC Berkeley to acquire a BA in English. Upon graduation, her idea of forming a magazine-like website took shape after much encouragement from her father.

She credits him "as the one who really encouraged [her] to pursue

the site and focus on empowering women, and not to give up when [she] ran into the many forks in the road."

In addition to her academic qualifications, and her esthetician license, she hopes to effectively use her experiences as a make-up artist, a former model and a former employee for Johnson and Johnson to contribute to the content.

Ferguson hired a web design team for the building of the actual website. The site, which was seven months in the making, received 1,200+ hits pre-launch. Part of dual sites, a separate Little Miss Chatty Cathie website is designated for girls ages 8 - 12. Users can read both in Spanish.

Ferguson sees the website growing globally into a venue where peer mentorship can be created, and awareness of events concerning women regarding self-esteem and violence against women can be raised and educated on. She eventually hopes to start a non-profit with her sister for battered women and under-privileged children.

She sees a major feminine movement happen through Chatty Cathie and alone fills the multiple positions of writer, editor and photographer but is looking to hire a full staff of volunteers to add on to the current help from family and close friends. Those who are interested in modeling, writing, and photography may contact her through the website.



Photos by Japneet Kaur

**“Midnight at the End of the World,” left, with Jessica Stanley, Wes Walters, Jonny Scott and Drew Raboy; “Crime and Punishment,” right, with Drew Raboy and Jonny Scott.**

## One: put your one-acts in a box, two...

By **KATHY SUNG**  
Staff writer

Opening night for the Student Repertory Theatre brought comedy and entertainment to Ohlone on Tuesday, March 18, at 8 p.m. with the most acts ever in one show. The Theatre and Dance department came together with 14 of the most entertaining acts picked by various students. “One Acts in a Box,” the combination of 14 acts in one show was delighted the crowd.

The night started off with humor presented by Hannah Thrasher, Emily Stoner and Stacey Lynn Bell in “Ladies Alone”. An entertaining play about three ladies making a pact

on spending a ladies’ night together, the play is filled with great lines like “Not the Bible, it’s kind of too frivolous for that” when the ladies are swearing to spend one Saturday night together every month.

The lights and backdrops were fitting to the scene, allowing the audience to laugh along as the cars outside honked and dresses with holes showed up.

The night continued with acts like “Conversation 2045” showing how according to the program “a time when courtship is completely computerized and a get-acquainted chat is more like a formal interview”. The act starred Sora Baek, Melanie Kay O’Connor and Jeremy Laurencio.

“Crime and Punishment” came on with an amusing scene of a headmaster trying to punish a student. The dialogue between the actors was well-performed, bringing about shrieks of laughter from the audience.

Other acts included “Midnight at the World’s End,” “End of the World,” “Check Please,” “Faith” and “It’s not YOU!!!”

Cyrus Soliman, an actor in “Faith” and “Check Please,” said “there’s so many things happening” during the plays. He’s spent over ten hours this week at the theater. Some actors will change the words of the writers, but Soliman said, “I don’t agree with that. I like to respect the writer’s work.” He believes

writers write the lines that are in a screenplay for a reason.

There is a directing class offered in the Fall for students so that they can create this show. Interested students get a chance to direct a short play, and the show is completely student produced. These students pass the vision to the set designers who work together to produce the show.

Joe Nichols, an actor in “Check Please” and the assistant set designer for all the plays, believes that people should take these classes because “It’s really fun [and] it’s a lot of work.” Interested students should begin by taking classes like Tom Blank’s Acting Styles-Classical class, TD-112.

## Ohlone’s blind: more than meets the eye

By **INEZ BLACK**  
Staff writer

The swearing-in ceremony of David Paterson as the governor of New York made history Monday, March 17, as the second legally blind governor in the United States. (In 1975, Arkansas Governor Rob Cowley Riley was the first legally blind governor of Arkansas for 11 days.)

Robbie Barnes, who plans to major in music/entertainment, Isabel Vasquez, who plans to major in interpreting and Angela Vasquez are all blind students attending Ohlone.

They qualified for the Apartment Program at the School of the Blind, learning independent living skills while in college.

The students take regular classes, except they’re provided with Disabled Students Program Services.

Kathleen Schoenecker, adjunct instructor and instructional assistant

in DSPS, stated that blind students have to be high-functioning with excellent memories to attend college.

The blind have hidden skills, according to Stephen Kuusisto, an op-ed contributor for the *New York Times*, who was born prematurely and had his retinas damaged during incubation. He now teaches creative non-fiction at the University of Iowa.

Kuusisto was interviewed on National Public Radio regarding Gov. Paterson and issues regarding blindness and the visually impaired. He said, “I think that blind people who tend to be successful and professional...tend to be able to carry large amounts of information and compartmentalize it, and call upon it with remarkable dexterity” and indicated that Gov. Paterson demonstrated these skills and was inspiring.

Being main-streamed in grade school, middle school or high school

had its disadvantages for Barnes and the Vasquez sisters. Barnes, who transferred in high school, stated, “Everything was old-fashioned when I was in public school. They had the BrailleWriter, a typewriter where a student would have to laboriously load paper and type everything by hand.

“With the BrailleNote, students don’t have to roll in a bunch of paper. You set up document files and type.”

Class notes can be printed out in Braille on a BrailleWriter. Students can also read their files in Braille on the 32-key BrailleNote display.

The Vasquez sisters were merely provided with tape recorders and someone to read to them as much as needed before transferring to the School for the Blind.

They had to learn Braille when they transferred from their local school district in the ninth grade.

The BrailleNote computer enables students to take class notes,

including those for math classes. Assignments are typed in Braille; then, using Bluetooth technology, the assignment is easily sent to certain printers using MSWord to print out for sighted instructors.

Isabel Vasquez stated that the earlier blind students are transferred to the School for the Blind, the more likely they are to be at proper grade level by age 18.

Students can transfer to the School as early as age five, but the primary issue would be that the students live at the School in Fremont in small dormitory style.

On a typical day, each student easily navigates the Ohlone Campus.

Following mathematics class in Hyman Hall, Angela Vasquez, who was immaculately, stylishly groomed and wearing heels, easily navigated with her cane through the building up the winding, uneven paths to board a regular AC Transit bus.

## Super Smashers brawl in Hyman Hall

By **KYLE STEPHENS**  
Staff writer

Get ready for eight great hours of smashing brawls, combo melee attacks and plenty of awesome gameplay at the Spring Break Brawl. Organized by the Game Development Club (GDC), the competition will be held in Hyman Hall on Friday, March 21. The event starts at 1 p.m. and will run until 9, with tournaments starting after 3.

Featured games will include the much-anticipated Super Smash Brothers: Brawl, as well as the now

classic Super Smash Brothers: Melee and Halo 3. If console games are not your flavor, Star Craft, Counter Strike: Source, as well as HalfLife 2: Death Match will be there as well.

At the last event, the tournament winner received a \$15 gift card for GameStop; this time, the prize should be bigger, said club officers.

In addition there will be a raffle for thumb drives, games and wireless routers.

The GDC is advertising for the event in front of Hyman Hall, where they are also showing off Super

Smash Brothers: Brawl on a Wii with four controllers and taking registrations for the tournaments.

The Gaming Development Club has been around for about a year and is running events like “Brawl” to raise awareness of the club and raise money for the club.

More money means the club can compete with other, more established clubs. The money raised for the club will be used to put on more events and to buy software for game development.

Currently, the club has two projects in the works: action adventure

games with titles “Elder Orb” and “Tooth and Claw.” These games are being developed by the club because they were unable to do so in the video game design class.

The club is backed by the Multimedia Department and supported by the Video Game Certificate; it is looking for programmers, artists, the musically talented and aspiring developers.

Outsourcing their projects is “not always the best,” said Ryan Coggins, treasurer of the GDC. Visit [www.ohlonegdc.com](http://www.ohlonegdc.com) for more information.



**Devil's Advocate**

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

## Leaving home

Fleeing the nest is usually discussed from the parents’ point of view. But are they really the ones that suffer?

Sure, there’s the loneliness, the heartache, the sleepless nights worrying about drugs, pimps and unpaid parking tickets your child may be involved with.

But there’s also a newly-vacated room, a much-decreased laundry load, a house that finally smells like something other than feet and pizza and, best of all, the regained ability to function as normal human beings, i.e. no longer full-time parents.

But the poor kid. Thrust out on its own for the second time in its life, (the first involved an unpleasant amount of squishing and a completely uncalled for ass-spanking) it must find its way through the maze of the “real world” school, society and MTV have hardly prepared it for.

Bills, it turns out, do not pay themselves.

Alarm clocks must be set - no one will wake you up for class, unless it’s your roommate, five hours early, courtesy of his PlayStation skills. Groceries fail to magically toddle from the supermarket to your fridge and, once there, seem to quickly develop an appearance more in line with what you’re used to seeing safely behind glass in chem class than on a dinner plate.

No one cries over your boo-boos, unless you’ve managed to snag a significant other, which in and of itself brings a whole new interesting set of problems. Apparently, people who haven’t birthed you really don’t have to take your shit. And you thought this was just your parents talking crazy.

And for the final blow, when you - tired of all the insanity, exhausted beyond measure by the tedium of work, school, shopping, rinse, repeat - escape to your hometown, arriving dusty and bedraggled at your front door and dropping three months of dirty clothes on the stoop, stuff your key in the door and, tumbling inside, prepare to be greeted as a returning hero with hugs, tears and hot chocolate, what do you find?

That your sweet, devoted, caring parents AREN’T HOME!

They’ve gone to gallivant somewhere. To have fun. To the museum or a party or a restaurant, or even skiing. Without you.

Cold. Cruel. How could they?

So you collapse on the couch to wait, your old room having been scraped clean and turned into a workout room. With a treadmill! Like your parents even know how to use one...

And when they come home, turn on the light and find you lurking in the dark, there’ll be only one thing you can say.

“Where have you been?!”