



SUNNY CYNICISM

By **SANDEEP ABRAHAM**
Features editor

Revolution ...maybe?

John Mayer has a song on his new album titled "Slow Dancing in a Burning Room." It's a fairly despondent song and the title implies that it would be the ironic theme song to a well-deserved shanking, sort of like Imogen Heap's "Hide and Seek" on Saturday Night Live's "Dear Sister" skit. Though the Mayer track is a more apt metaphor for something of which we are far more painfully aware: America.

Just a few weeks ago, Bush and America collectively groaned at the fifth anniversary of the Iraq war, a war 76 percent of the World believes we were wrong to enter. When Bush declared the global War on Terror, we were still nursing our wounds from September 11, so we were okay with it. When he declared war in Iraq, we were perplexed, but his Bushisms confused us enough that we went along with it. After all, he promised a quick war and we were optimistic when almost all of Iraq came under American control in just two weeks.

Then came the Patriot Act, and that pissed us off enough to make some noise, but we couldn't really say anything about it for fear of Gitmo. More media noise followed over the outrages at Abu Ghraib and the NSA's wiretapping scandal. A month later, we had moved on. Then Bush revoked the right of habeas corpus – the right to a trial by jury – from non-citizens, compromising a principle this country was founded on and we just made more noise about it. Again, we eventually moved on.

And now we find ourselves in an economic recession with gas prices at almost \$4 a gallon. The Bush administration protects the interests of the oil industry, which made over \$100 billion in revenue in the last fiscal quarter and is trying to justify the continuation of their tax benefits. Are we going to do anything about it? Probably not.

What we will do is what we've always done: whine about the news a bit, but generally live the American way - maxing out our credit cards, driving our SUVs, eating our cheeseburgers and popping Prozac. Sure, we could do as John Locke would do and rebel against a government that isn't serving our interests like we trust it to...you know, like the Founding Fathers did, but that'd probably be too much effort, right?

I'm not trying to stir up anarchy, but it just feels like we as a people are becoming increasingly helpless in our governance. We read the news, it pisses us off for a while and then we skulk back into our 9-to-5 routines because we feel we couldn't change anything anyway.

And in case you were wondering, yes, I do realize how hopelessly ironic my writing this is.

Jackson to host 700 thespians

By **INEZ BLACK**
Staff writer

Ohlone will host over 700 high school students ranging from sophomores to seniors coming from 32 schools. They will all compete in the 14th Annual High School Theatre Festival – Theatre and Dance. All performances are free and open to the public. Competition is 1:00 p.m. – 5 p.m. on Friday. On Saturday, it continues from 9 a.m.-11 a.m. and 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Primarily Bay Area schools will compete, including San Francisco's Lowell High School, one of the highest rated public high schools in the nation, as well as private schools such as Moreau Catholic High School, Hayward, adding a rich diversity to the festival.

The top three finalists in each performing category perform a third time between 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. in Jackson Theatre. Finals for Costume Design will be in the Louie Art Gallery, Jackson Theatre at 1 p.m. At 3 p.m. Ohlone's Theatre Arts Department will perform One-Act Plays while the votes are being tabulated.

Each category will be judged twice by different three-judge panels.

Blank stated that the judges are professional, "There are over 30 judges...some from San Francisco Opera and ACT, people from San Jose Repertory Theater, from Theatre Works, Pleasanton Play House, different community theatres, including Stage One, professors from other colleges, free-lancers who perform all over the Bay Area."

Students compete in 26 performing arts categories, such as dramatic/humorous one-act plays—featuring a cast maximum of 15, musical theatre, maxi and mini theatre, original student monologues, dramatic/humorous contemporary and classical ensembles—cast of two-to-three students, plus classical monologues, children's theatre

There are four dance categories: world dance, theatre dance, solo, duet and group. There are also eight design categories competing—including makeup design, costume design, set design, and graphic design, music video, short story video. They submit their make-up designs and then will bring their designs to fruition on Saturday after they are judged.

The Tech Olympics consist of events with time heats for painting flats, using computer lighting and



Photo by Pei Ju Chen

Charles Stewart plays his sax at practice

sound effects and building props. There are also Theatre Games, which consists of four classifications of improvisation.

The award presentation starts at 4 p.m. in the gym for the category competitions, plus the presentation of special awards. Tom Blank, Professor in the Drama Department,

co-coordinator who started the Theatre Festival competition fourteen years ago, explained, "The Tech Sweepstake Award is given to the school that got the most points in all the design and tech categories.

Then, the Judge's Sweepstake Award that goes to the school with the highest per capita points. Then, we have the Spirit Award, that is given to the school that has exhibited the best example of what this competition is about – working together, team work."

Blank, stated that 40 percent of the students who compete in the Theatre Festival return to Ohlone as a student as a part-time or full-time student. There are 30 performance venues on campus, in addition to Jackson and NUMMI Theaters. Campus maps and competition locations are available at the Festival Central, in the lobby of Smith Center. There will be a food court in the plaza of Smith Center.

For questions or comments, please contact Blank or the Festival Co-Coordinator, Michele Hartmandruber, an Ohlone alumna who has been involved in the Theatre Festival since she attended Ohlone, at ohlonetheatrefestival@comcast.net.

Guest Bepler to talk on suicide

By **CHEN LIN**
Staff Writer

Suicide prevention will be the topic of a workshop given by a representative from the Crisis Support Services of Alameda County next Wednesday, April 9. The talk, which will be held in room 4104-A between 2:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m., will describe ways of identifying and

helping people at risk for suicide. Bettina Bepler, the speaker and Community Education Coordinator at the Alameda County Crisis Support Center, gives similar presentations at many colleges in California, including Holy Names University. Among the topics included in her presentation will be how to identify and help people at risk for suicide. Time will be reserved for questions

from the audience. Although the talk is oriented towards faculty and psychology club members, it is open to all, and refreshments will be provided.

The Ohlone Psychology Club, which was also responsible for a lecture on learning disabilities earlier this semester and which is planning a similar talk at the end of April on pharmacology and the effects of

medicine, will host the talk. The Ohlone Counselling department is sponsoring the event.

Bepler was selected as a speaker because of student interest in her topic, according to Adele Mitchell, president of the Psychology Club.

"We thought that suicide prevention would be a really good topic for college students," said Mitchell.

Bilingual singers compete in Xuan Feng

By **TSETEN DOLKAR**
Staff writer

The International Student Club and the Chinese Student Association will be hosting the 2008 Sing Xuan Feng Singing Competition preliminary round. This is the first year that Ohlone College is taking part in the competition.

Although the application deadline of March 31 has passed, the

committee will accept applications on audition days, which are April 5 and 6 from 1-5 p.m. in the conference room at the Newark Center.

Application fees are \$10 for a single contestant, and will include a free ticket to the April 20 preliminary round, and \$12 for group contestants. Students, faculty, and non-Ohlone students are welcome to sing in English or Chinese and join the competition. The competition is

an effort to bring attention to these clubs and Ohlone's diversity.

The judging panel will consist of the presidents of the International Student Club and the Chinese Student Association. The Transfer Center's Francis Fon will choose three winners and they will go on to compete with winners from six other colleges in the final round at the Asian American Expo in October in San Mateo.

Prizes for the preliminary round at Ohlone are: \$200 for first place, \$150 for second place and \$100 for third place. At the final round the prizes are: \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second and \$300 for third place.

The preliminary round will be on April 20 at the Jackson Theater from 7-10 p.m. Entry fees are \$5 for Ohlone students and \$7 for non-Ohlone students.

Ohlone College SUMMERFEST
Announces
AUDITIONS
April 19
1:00pm

Bring sheet music, in your key. 32 bars up-tempo, 16 ballad. Accompanist will be provided. Wear comfortable clothes, and be prepared to move. All roles open. Plays first two weekends in July

**For more info call
Tom Blank @ 510.659.6209 or
email tblank@ohlone.edu**

Ohlone Smith Center Amphitheatre
43600 Mission Blvd. Fremont CA 94539

Scenes from March 20 Rock The Hill

