

# Unity Week coming to Ohlone

By **INEZ BLACK**  
Staff writer

Unity Week kicks off next Tuesday with music, food, cultural events and a fashion show planned. Party with Wild 94.9 and win prizes at the Palm Bosque Tuesday, May 6, from noon to 2 p.m. While enjoying the free BBQ, investigate the free cultural crafts presentation sponsored by student organizations. "This is an opportunity to recognize the diversity of the Ohlone Campus," said Renee Gonzales, student affairs advisor.

Wednesday, May 7, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., a panel discussion on "Beyond B\*TC\*\*S & H\*S: Women for Change!" - featuring female hip-hop industry performers, pioneers and activists, as well as hip-hop performances - is free at the Jackson Theatre of the Smith Center. There will be a Q & A session, followed by a meet and greet opportunity.

Panelists include Christina Villarreal, Crykit and Aiko Shirakawa exploring issues of the hip-hop industry/culture and its effect on women in relationship to self-image, media representation and generational impact.

"Sisterz of the Underground!" will perform hip-hop at the Jackson Theatre, sponsored by Hip-Hop Dance Instructor Sergio Suarez. Zuhah Bahaduri, ASOC representative at large, stated, "The theme this year is the hip-hop industry. They will be discussing the hip-hop industry, its music, its lyrics and the meaning it gives out to teenagers."

Unity Week festivities will conclude Thursday, May 8 from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Palm Bosque, with free ice cream, entertainment by cultural dance performances of the Kennedy High School Polynesian Club, an Indian dance performance by Khushboo Chabria's group, as well as students from the Ohlone College hip-hop dance class, M.E.Ch.A. Club hip-hop dancers and a Hip-Hop Dance Show.

Thursday's entertainment will include a cultural fashion show, featuring African, Mexican and Indian fashions.

Aiko Shirakawa is a pioneer of the international hip-hop community. Now with 5<sup>th</sup> Element and Collective 7, Shirakawa previously taught through SAGES (1993) and Zulu Nation (1992). 5<sup>th</sup> Element is the first all-female hip-hop organization. As a bi-racial single mother of Mexican and Japanese descent, she advocates hip-hop programming as an interventional force for underprivileged youth of color. In this regard, she has taught break-dancing at the Local

Community Center in San Jose since 1994 and currently also teaches at CORAL, an after-school program in San Jose.

Crykit, aka Bgirl Cryx, aka Michelle, grew up on a dairy and crop farm in Wisconsin; now in the Bay Area, she specializes in drum and bass and dancing to funk, break-dancing and 80's electro. Crykit teaches at several schools, using hip-hop to educate on non-violence, physical fitness, community appreciation and self-confidence. Her main inspiration comes from her crews, Extra Credit and Baysic Project.

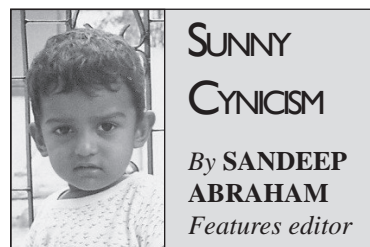
Christina Shiao-Mei Villarreal, teaches at a small middle school she co-founded in Oakland, CA. A graduate of U.C. Berkeley in Ethnic Studies, having studied under Ronald Takaki and Robert Allen, Villarreal then received her master's in Education from Harvard Graduate School of Education. Emphasizing the role of race and ethnicity in the realm of American public education, Villarreal's research focuses on racial identity development in adolescents.



Photo courtesy Renee Gonzalez

**Aiko Shirakawa will perform next week as part of Unity Week.**

Unity Week is sponsored by Campus Activities, ASOC, Inter-Club Council, All the Way Live, Asian Pacific American Student Association, M.E.Ch.A., Muslim Student Association, Polynesian Club, International Student Club, Gay Straight Alliance, Chinese Student Association and the Smith Center.



**SUNNY  
CYNICISM**

By **SANDEEP  
ABRAHAM**  
Features editor

## Appreciate Ohlone

While it's been a fun three and a half months, I must bid you all adieu as this will be the last dose of Sunny Cynicism I'll be giving to you to brighten up your day. In fact, this will likely be one of the last articles I will write for the Ohlone Monitor, since I am transferring come fall. But hell, I can't disappoint my fans, so consider this my closing address (assuming it matters, though I'm giving it even if it doesn't).

I realize most of you don't know much about me, this awkward wavy-haired brown baby writing to you with such snarky alacrity. Some introductions are in order - at the very end like they should be. I was born in India and lived there until I was 5 years old. I then moved to Kuwait (it's in the Middle East; look it up) and lived there until I was 8 years old. I landed in San Jose, California on August 31, 1997 and attended my first day of fourth grade on my birthday, making me a slight celebrity in that I was the second Indian student to attend Athenour Elementary School (splitting scapegoat and human punching bag duties with the other Indian kid). I moved to Fremont two years later, eventually attending Horner and Centerville junior high schools. I debuted at Washington High in 2002 and sort of skulked about until my graduation in 2006. Like other stereotypically Asian students, I had taken loads of honors and AP classes and had lofty ambitions of attending a prestigious college and making six figures - until Ohlone happened. With as much sincerity as I can muster, I will tell you that attending Ohlone was the best decision I have ever made.

Going to a community college can either be amazing or miserable, depending on what you make of it. Almost everyone initially feels that snobby sense of ill-deserved pride, insisting that they're better than this, that they only "ended up" at Ohlone through some ridiculous error. If anything, I'm thankful for the refreshing dose of humility Ohlone gave me, not to mention the healthy ambition. I've met some great people along the way - professors, students and employers - each of whom I'm indebted to. I've met musicians, artists, stoners, geniuses, politicians, journalists, a few idiots and a lot of human beings. Ohlone is where pomp and pretentiousness come to die, as God intended.

So heed my words: don't give up on Ohlone. Get over yourself and work hard. It's easy to get cynical, but rather than brooding on your U.C. and C.S.U. rejections, shut the hell up and make the best of what you have. If you don't, you'll have no one to blame but yourself. Thank you, and have a nice life.

## Banned books make English course

By **KATHY SUNG**  
Staff writer

A class with the eye-catching title of Censorship, Obscenity and Literature will be taught by English Professor Cynthia Katona this coming fall.

JOUR-106 (or ENGL-106) offers a unique reading list composed entirely of banned books.

The class is cross-referenced between the English and Journalism departments and can be used to fulfill major requirements for both the Ohlone English and Journalism AA degrees. The class is UC-transferable and fulfills the Arts and Humanities portion of the IGETC. Classes will be held Monday nights

in HH-208 from 6:30 to 9:40 p.m.

The controversial texts covered in the course contain various types of high quality literature such as "Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger. Katona said she tried to compose the reading list of books that were banned for different reasons in order to appeal to a broader audience. Books like "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee (banned for racial discrimination), "Slaughterhouse Five" by Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. (banned for sedition), and "Lady Chatterley's Lover" by D.H. Lawrence (banned for erotica). Other books gracing the reading list include Vladimir Nabokov's "Invitation of a Beheading," Bret Easton Ellis's "American Psycho" and Katona's favorite,

"Even Cowgirls Get the Blues" by Tom Robbins.

Katona developed the course 30 years ago and has taught it 15 times without having the course cancelled once. When she taught the class was originally, an *Argus* reporter sat in on the class every day waiting for her to slip up. Although the class has been around a long time, Katona has made some interesting changes.

The class now includes a three-day lecture on Censorship and the Internet.

Brian Chu, a student who's taken the class before, praised it as, "by far the most intellectually challenging and rewarding class that I have taken at this school. Katona will educate and expose your mind to

the hidden facets of literature." In her book, "Book Savvy," Katona provides a list of books that all people should read.

All the books included in the course are listed in her book. Katona's various philosophies, among them the opinion that "time's always been more important to me than money," are partly why she's considering retirement after this semester so she can travel and finish her next book, titled "Thinking Rules."

Although the class includes a fast-paced reading level, most of the books can be read over the summer. To obtain a copy of the syllabus and/or reading list, simply contact Katona at [ckatona@ohlone.edu](mailto:ckatona@ohlone.edu).

## Art student competition now more fair

By **KATHY SUNG**  
Staff writer

On Wednesday, April 23, the Reception and Awards Ceremony: Annual Fine Art & Design Student Show opened. The show will be on display until Wednesday, May 14 in the Smith Center. The final Reception and Awards Ceremony will be held Tuesday, May 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Every year, the Art Department puts on their biggest event of the year, the Annual Student Competition. This show usually features hundreds of hopeful student submissions from students taking art classes at Ohlone.

As Art and Art History Professor Kenney Mencher "felt [the previous methods] weren't very egalitarian," he worked to change the way the pieces were judged. Previously, there were 10 to 13 categories, with each participating teacher allotted three to four stickers per category.

The teachers applied the stickers to works they considered the best. The winners were based on the number of stickers their artwork received.

This year, there will be some changes in the way that the annual student competition will be judged. The part-time faculty has joined in to become part of the panel choosing

the winning pieces.

Although last year there were 245 pieces of art, this time there will be fewer pieces. This year's show includes 176 pieces of art. According to the show's web page, the show usually includes: "drawings, collages, painting, ceramic and glass arts, sculpture, graphics, computer works, interior design and photography."

Mencher said that "students walk away with the idea shows are deciders of quality" but he doesn't really think they are.

He mentioned that "judging art is a subjective process." So although there are first place, second place

and third place winners, the submissions to this year's art show all deserve a tremendous amount of applause for the hard work the students put into them.

According to Margaret Stainer, gallery director, the wonderful thing about the Reception and Awards ceremony is "it's real." The show becomes a real art show with winners and contestants. Lastly, she thinks it's wonderful that there is a broad range of ages of artists. The youngest artist is 11 years old and the eldest is 71.

There will be about \$4,000 in prize money for the lucky winners of the competition.

## Solar-powered art



Photo by Andrew Cavette

**Wire frames depicting faces in a variety of styles hang from the second floor of Building 4. The wires catch the light from the sun and cast shadows on the wall, adding depth to the perspective of the piece.**



### Devil's Advocate

By ANNA NEMCHUK  
Editor-in-chief

## I'll keep my past

They say everything happens for a reason. This phrase has always struck me as a bit too close to religion - too convenient an excuse.

But an excuse in retrospect is harmless; it's only when we let it affect our future actions that it becomes detrimental. The longer you live, the more life you have to look back on. How many turning points are there in your life? How many times have you looked back on events, yours and others' acts and reactions and realized that things could have been profoundly different?

My first huge turning point was leaving Russia. If we hadn't moved, the past decade and a half of my life would have looked like nothing I now recognize. I'd likely never have worked at a bookstore, been an editor, or even spoken English.

But would that be such a bad thing? I'd be home, where I was born. There'd be snow every winter, flowers that held a scent. I'd know the metro system like the back of my hand, worship American and Italian designer brands and do much more walking. My Mum, instead of Daddy, would be the software engineer; he'd be a university professor. I could drink younger, smoke younger, go to clubs and concerts every weekend. St. Petersburg is a huge city. I'd never be bored.

But I'd likely never want to be a translator without knowing two languages so thoroughly. I'd probably hate communism even more than I do now. I'd be censored. I'm Jewish - antisemitism is alive and healthy in Russia.

And sweeping all that aside, I wouldn't have met the people I have. My best friend would never know my name, my first real boss wouldn't have told me he'd want to meet me when I was 40, my first love would have kissed someone else. I wouldn't have my cats. I probably still wouldn't like history, as I wouldn't have met Prof. Kenney. I would never have read Barry Hughart, as I couldn't have taken the sci-fi and fantasy course with Prof. Tull. Bill Parks and I wouldn't get in our wonderful shouting matches every Wednesday. Harlan Ellison would be beyond my scope, as Ben Epler wouldn't have handed me his brilliance in a tattered paperback.

I could go on. But the point is, no matter how much I may reminisce about what was taken from me at the tender age of seven and a half, what was given in return is beyond any reproach.

I've thought about better choices I could've made but, if given the chance, there's nothing in my life I would undo. Because then I wouldn't be me.

And my tiny little ego couldn't handle that.

## Midnight to hit campus May 5

By BARRY KEARNS  
Features editor

*Midnight* magazine will be available on the Ohlone College campus this Monday, May 5 and will be distributed in the campus Quad area. This is the third issue of *Midnight* Magazine.

Despite repeated issues with funding the magazine, it was made possible by the Associated Students of Ohlone College through a money request, along with the help of the Ohlone Foundation.

Stories in the magazine include an interview with Mike Peaslee, now a sound designer for video games and a feature story on Ruptured, a punk, metal and funk fusion band that hails from Fremont.

Staff writer Taja McClinton wrote a story that features the San Jose skating rink and an interview with a music promoter Andrew Kutsenda.

There is also a profile of former student Mojghan Mohtashimi, who discussed her memories of living in Afghanistan and her exodus from the country, written by Kathy Sung. Mohtashimi shows her last visit to Afghanistan in the form of a photo essay.

Additionally, the magazine boasts an article about the local Fremont institution, Lloyd's Donuts, penned by Matthew Langseth. Lastly, Jacque Orvis tells the story of Niles' history and its role in film as the backdrop to some of Charlie Chaplin's films.



Photo by Japneet Kaur

**Editor-in-chief Noah Levin poses with a preview copy of *Midnight*.**

## Ohlone recycles old books by the ton

By TSETEN DOLKAR  
Staff writer

If you have ever wondered what happens to all the unwanted books in the bookstore, you are about to find out.

Each academic year, Ohlone

College recycles about 450 cartons of books. At 40 pounds per carton, that is 18,000 pounds of books total. Books that get recycled include what the bookstore considers "dead" and some donated books.

Usually, old edition books that are not of any class use or ones

that professors do not reorder get recycled.

Not only is the book recycling program environmentally sustainable, but it saves students money, said bookstore Manager Mona Farley. She also said that the book recycling opens up much needed

space in the bookstore, especially during book buyback seasons. Some books even end up back in the bookstore, through a reordering process.

In yesteryears, Ohlone donated books to a donation company for underprivileged children.

## 'Then and Now' looks back on 10 years

By KYLE STEPHENS  
Staff writer

This year's annual spring dance showcase, "Then and Now," may seem familiar to some people.

This is because three of the four suites of the show are made up of dance numbers from past shows, spanning from 1998 to the present.

A preview show was held Wednesday, April 30, and three more shows will happen May 1, 2 and 3 in the Smith Center's Jackson Theater, all at 8 p.m.

Artistic Director Janel Tomblin-Brown, who helped start the

showcase back in 1998, has coordinated joint efforts in the Theater Department again, bringing back alumni dancers wanting to take to Ohlone's stage again and creating opportunities for the current crop of performers to recreate some of the impressive routines of the past.

Four suites, "Stoking, Provoking and Evoking," "Funny Taps and Musical Comedy," "Nightmare Suite 2003," and this year's "For Now..." segment, featured deft footwork and dance moves from teams of new and veteran alumni dancers from past shows.

"Stoking, Provoking and Evoking" included music by Boys 2

Men, score from the Blues Brothers 2000 soundtrack. Dances were of the modern variety, with scores of dancers in themed costumes. Flat panel TVs at stage left and right, used throughout the show, provided an additional visual component to the action on stage.

"Funny Taps and Musical Comedy" featured a superhero-themed performance set to Prince's take on Batman. Heroes, villains and innocent bystanders alike hit the stage and the crowd with hip-hop moves and matriculations of the feet. Further beats were provided by a series of tap-dancing numbers, click and clacking along.

The "Nightmare Suite 2003" takes a page from *Thriller*, or perhaps the *Lost Boys* (from whence one number takes its music from, with the movie's theme "Cry Little Sister" by Gerard McMann). Screams and sways interplayed with green lights and red and black costumes - a terrifying treat.

This year's new addition, the "For Now..." suite kicked off with pulsating music from "Run Lola Run," as clockwork ticked away on the stage-adjacent flat panel TVs. Quite apart from the previous suites, the acts of "For Now..." pushed ahead to future ventures and new shows yet to come.