

From the  
basement

By BRIAN CHU  
Opinions editor

## Enviro- poseurs

In the wake of the economic crisis, it seems that a good number of greenwashed eco-zealots have finally snapped out of their crusader battle frenzy and have laid their arms down and retreated, at least temporarily. But why, you ask? Because they've come to same conclusion that I have. As much as I would love to preserve as much of nature as possible for my children, I would first like to be able to provide them and myself a comfortable life and a hopefully somewhat secure future.

The green movement is spearheaded by wealthy elite public figures looking for recognition and popular approval. The majority of its financial backers and market base are middle class professionals looking to soothe their guilty consciences. And most disturbing of all is that the most pious believers are college students and enviro hippies, people who don't have much money but truly believe in the cause and are exploited for their willingness to act and do labor without question or pay. The other two groups are too busy flying around in their private jets and being paid to give speeches, or patting themselves on the back and deluding each other that they're saving the environment to actually be useful.

My loyal readers, given the current market, when it comes down to saving money or saving the earth, the real green priority is the kind that is currently missing in your wallet. If you haven't already flipped out from looking at your portfolio or trust fund, I suggest you do so. The only reason you would shop at Whole Foods afterward would be out of caustic spite against me and your future down payment on a house. There are plenty of cheaper ways to convince your girlfriend that you are sexy, healthy and care about the environment.

As a former Boy Scout (albeit low-ranking) the mindset to respect and revere nature as a provider and living entity was passed onto me with the utmost serious tone. The credo was and still is "leave no trace," not "be a self-serving bandwagoning sackriding whiner." Do or do not, there is no try and there is certainly is no B.S. allowed. So take your overpriced overglorified underperforming pathetic excuse for a vehicle (which looks conspicuously like a giant whale's forehead by the way, yes Prius I'm talking about you) and drive it off a cliff. Slowly.

Because if you are truly hardcore then it's time to walk the talk and you know that means holding hands and singing kumbayah while freezing in an Alaskan snow desert, standing steadfast against giant bipedal robots with glowing eyes, laser cannons and drill hands. Giant drill hands.

# Prof. pioneered natural pesticide

By JAPNEET KAUR  
Staff writer

Mark Barnby - lean, covered in chalk dust and most frequently seen hurrying across campus in a great rush - is familiar to his students as the humorous and energetic professor of biology. What he is less known for is his endeavor into the Asiatic continent in the pursuit of finding natural alternatives to harmful pesticides.

He completed his undergraduate degree in zoology in his hometown, at the University of Louisville, and proceeded to get his Ph.D. at U.C. Berkeley in 1985. He was not quite ready to be independent and moved on to Salt Lake City for four years. There, he conducted post-doctoral research on native plants. He worked with natural-product chemists whose aim was to try and find new active molecules, and it was during this time that Professor Barnby traveled to India in hopes of discovering a natural insecticide.

The importance of a natural insecticide is especially apparent when pesticides like DDT are taken into consideration. Indiscriminate spraying of DDT in the U.S. was a threat to wildlife, and damaging to human health. It was seen to cause neuropsychological and psychiatric

symptoms, non-allergic asthma, diabetes, and even cancer. Barnby and others spent two months there, receiving samples through collectors with the National Institute of Health.

Their work paid off with the help of the neem tree, a species of tree that is principal to the Hindu culture and traditional Indian medicine. The significance of their discovery is that it made it possible to create a pesticide that produces no harmful effect on humans.

After his four-year stint in Salt Lake City, Barnby spent a year at the University of Georgia researching mosquito feeding, and worked with others in studying the neurological basis for blood feeding. He then went on to work for ISK, a Japanese company in Sunnyvale, where he was Research Laboratory Manager.

After this, he came to Ohlone and has been teaching here ever since. When asked if he missed research, he replied that he did, and might go back to it. He takes great interest in DNA sequencing and reading the genetic blueprint of unknown species.

He is turning 55 next month, though he doesn't look or act like it, and exhibits a great enthusiasm for the work that he does.

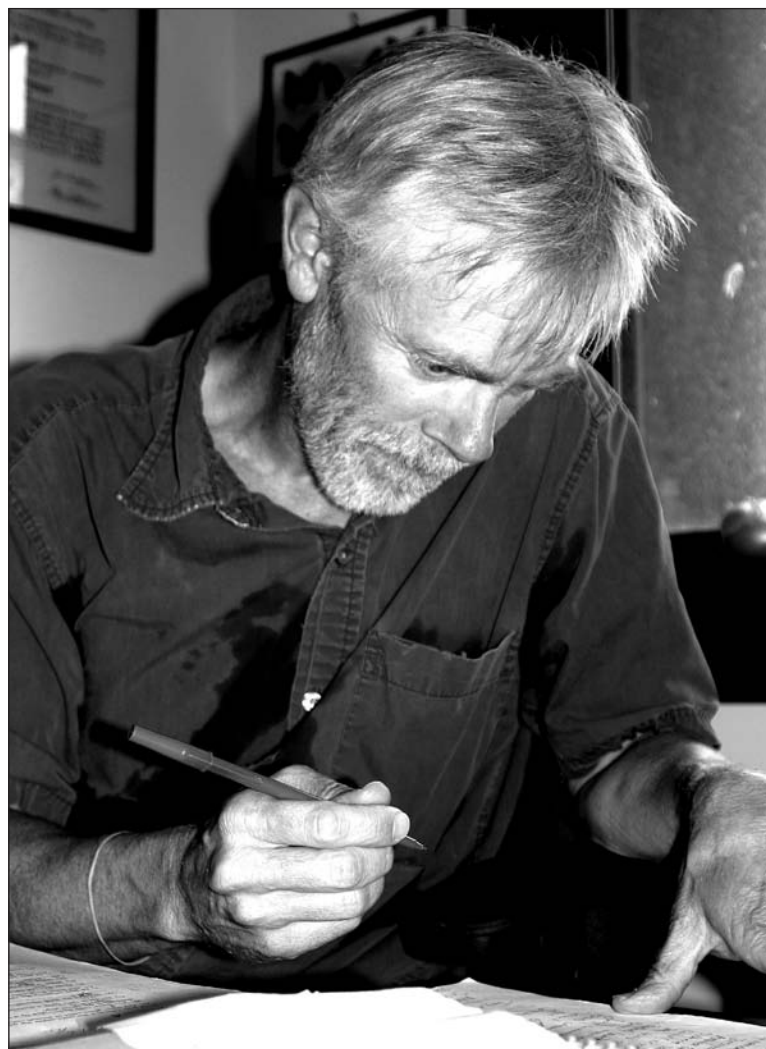


Photo by Japneet Kaur

Mark Barnby prepares a lecture.

## Peer mentors, here to help students

By NICOLE JOHNSON  
Staff writer

If you're looking for a friend, look no further. They're easy to find, have convenient office hours, and will help soothe out problems. If you're the quiet type of person and have a question, peer mentors will be there to answer it.

Unfortunately, the general student population is not aware of their existence. Peer mentors are not counselors; they are students on campus who reach out to other students.

Peer mentors have experienced what students are currently struggling with and can help ease the frustration that comes with being a

confused, fresh out of high school college student who doesn't know where to go and who to turn to. Peer mentors are located in a cubicle inside the Building 1 lobby on the coffee cart side. The peer mentors have been around for about six years and were formerly known as student ambassadors.

In order to become a peer mentor, you must take the peer mentors PD-180 class, be willing to help out other students and have attended Ohlone for at least one semester. Also, one must become a volunteer first - it's the same as training - for a couple of months.

No previous experience is necessary to become a peer mentor and applications are available online.

Aside from the regular cost of class, there is no need to pay to become a peer mentor. Peer mentors, do, however, get paid; it is an actual job. Peer mentors are made up of students only.

An improvement the peer mentors would like to see is when they reach out to students, they would like to get more responses. Their main concern is being the friend who points you in the right direction and assist students with transitions. Peer mentors are here to help students get the best out of Ohlone.

Peer mentors can help arrange for students to see a counselor, give campus tours, be available on orientation and welcome day; peer mentors will help with questions

students may have about WebAdvisor, the first week of school, and how to find your way around Ohlone.

Peer mentors range from students who have been at Ohlone for a couple of semesters to a couple of years. There are currently 12 peer mentors. No appointment is needed to see a peer mentor, but if you feel the need to set up a time, the best way to reach a peer mentor is [newstudent@ohlone.edu](mailto:newstudent@ohlone.edu). If you are interested in becoming a peer mentor, you should talk to the advisor, Allison Bly.

Peer mentors are available on Mondays from 1-3 p.m., Wednesdays from 1-3p.m. and Fridays from 10-3p.m. The peer mentors can also be reached at 510-979-7563.

## Mending the wounds of athletes

By BENJAMIN CHANG  
Staff writer

New Head Athletic Trainer Jeff Roberts has been working at Ohlone since Aug. 1. Roberts, said a athletic trainer is significantly different from a fitness trainer; instead of helping an individual lose weight or gain muscle mass, he helps injured students who participate in sports.

At Ohlone, Roberts helps injured athletes recover from their injuries and trains athletic trainers in training.

Roberts is a family man who has been married for 10 years. He has two sons that he "loves very much." Roberts also said that he is a "busy individual... [but] when I'm not working I spend time with my family."

Before working at Ohlone, Roberts worked for six years as a faculty member in kinesiology at San Jose State University.

Roberts has also worked at

schools as varied as Leland Stanford Junior University, Arizona University and Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

He received his bachelor's degree from the University of Iowa before earning a masters in athletic training at Arizona University, and has plenty of experience under his belt.

Roberts also participates in the Exam Development Committee for the Board of Certification, which certifies people to become athletic trainers. Roberts helps create the exam that certifies the trainers in training.

Roberts said he enjoys what he does and that is what makes him more qualified than most.

Although he has only been at Ohlone for two months, Roberts said, "it is a pleasure to be here and although I have only been here for two months, I [already] feel very comfortable and thoroughly enjoy Ohlone."



Photo by Andrew Le

Jeff Roberts is the new head athletic trainer.

## Ohlone Indians gather at Coyote Hills



The Ohlone peoples came together at Coyote Hills over the weekend for the annual gathering of Ohlone tribes. Clockwise from top: a young boy examines an authentic Ohlone-style house, a young Humaya dancer of the Costanoan-Rumsen Carmel Tribe looks on, a mask at the story-telling booth, a woman carving her own flute, kids playing the Ohlone game "hoop and pole," a sample of string made from dogbane.



Photos by Japneet Kaur



**Weighing Anchor**

By **ERIC DORMAN**  
Editor-in-chief

## Keep mud off ballot

They're down in the polls. Their attacks on their opponents' policy haven't worked. So it came as no surprise last weekend when the McCain-Palin campaign announced that it would be shifting its focus from attacking Obama's ideas to smearing his character.

Nobody mentioned the word "smear" in the pledge by campaign aides to "get tougher" on Obama over the coming month, but the intent has already become clear. They haven't outlined a specific strategy, but it isn't hard to guess the plot: Obama will be called a Muslim (indirectly) and un-American (directly). We've seen this script before, and There Will Be Mud.

Though professed to be a Washington outsider, Vice Presidential candidate Sarah Palin has caught on to Washington politics easily, hinting last Saturday that Obama might be a terrorist supporter by citing his ties to Bill Ayers, leader of a 1960s militant group. In fact, the allegations were simply untrue — while Obama at one time served in the same charity as Ayers, he did not have further contact with him and has denounced Ayers's actions. Palin and McCain both know it, but they'll keep digging up similar allegations and hurling them at Obama.

Why? The sad reason is, because spreading fear and doubt about a candidate works. No matter how much we profess to make our presidential choices based on their intelligence and leadership abilities, the simple fact remains that when the race comes down to the wire, we pick the candidate we're less afraid of. In 2000, we voted for Bush because we felt we understood him better than we did Gore. In 2004, we voted for Bush again because we felt twinges of doubt, implanted by the GOP through its "Swift boat" smear campaign, that Kerry wasn't really the hero he said he was. And now, the McCain campaign is betting that we'll make the same kind of decision on election day, choosing a "safe" conservative who will lead us down the same path we're already treading over a young, charismatic individual who holds a real chance at steering us off that downward path, but who looks and acts different from the presidents we're used to. And the McCain campaign knows that if it can take those differences in looks and actions and use them to label Obama as un-American, voters' fear will take over and tip the balance in their favor.

So let's buck the trend this election. It's time to make a decision based not on fears instilled by negative campaigning, but on who we really believe will make America a better and stronger country.

Don't let the mud stain your ballot.