



The view
from here

By ANDREW LE
Features editor

The decline and fall

It was not until February that Michelle Obama was, for the first time in her adult life, proud of America. On January 20th, we will have a first lady that does not even like the country all that much, but then again, neither do most people I know.

Like Michelle Obama, a lot of my peers are not fond of America. They were perpetually threatening to move to "Canada" or trying to convince me that Marxism would solve all the world's problems.

And I let my friends talk. They pretend to understand Marxist theory but they never read "Das Kapital." They never saw how communism decimated countries like Vietnam. They call my president a Fascist, but they don't even understand the iconic significance of a bundle of sticks. They just parrot like mindless zombies what they've heard on Chris Matthews.

What people do not understand is that the U.S. is exceptional and because of this we have a special place in world affairs. I hear revisionists accuse the U.S. as being an unprecedented evil. They cite the nuking of Japan as an example of our evil. But in making that difficult decision, we stopped a greater evil from happening. In Nanking, the Japanese Army forced fathers to rape their daughters and used children as bayonet practice. There were over 300,000 civilian deaths and it would have been 3,000,000 if Imperial Japan had their way. What kept these rape happy soldiers from doing to all of China what transpired in Nanking was America, the only country with the resolve to stop the worst of humanity from spreading like cancer.

So when someone calls the U.S. an imperialist empire, I get angry. If we desired, it could be the United World of America and every nation that disagreed would be swept underneath a mushroom cloud. But this is not the case, even though we have the power, we choose not to use it, because we have a moral restraint.

But the era of American supremacy is over. We are on the decline and Obamunism is not interested in re-asserting our authority. But people elect who they deserve. We desecrated the honor of our great nation by not respecting America. As a result, we now have a first lady who also does not respect America. People call the United States an evil empire but my generation does not understand true evil. So when China overtakes the US in power and influence, does anyone truly believe they will show the same moral and military restraint that we as a nation showed?

Only when people experience the re-education camps and gulags that come with real evil, will people truly understand, what a glorious thing we once had.

Sustainability draws thousands

By ANNA BIARITZ ROLDAN
Staff writer

Environmentalists educated thousands in the largest sustainability event in the world at the San Francisco Green Festival held over the weekend at the San Francisco Concourse Exhibition Center.

Ohlone students from various science classes took part in this festival that showcased talks on different ways to reduce, reuse and recycle various products, all made from organic ingredients and sustainable materials. For example, the all-organic company Earth Bound Farm, which sells salads, dried fruits, jam, cookies and more. They also sell cookbooks and they donate part of their profits to the food bank. In fact, according to company employee Janna Jo Williams, they were able to raise \$1,800 for the food bank at the last green festival in Washington, D.C. Their products are found in 75 percent of all major groceries nationwide and may also be ordered online. For two years now, Earth Bound Farms has been successful as a high-level sponsor of the green festival.

Now if you like milk, there's also some to be found at the green festival. I spoke with Dane Thompson who introduced me to Organic Valley, a milk farmer corporation that sells 100 percent organic dairy from cows' milk. Organic Valley is a regional brand whose products can be bought all over California at Rainbow Grocery, Mollie Stone's, Raley's, Lunardi's, Berkeley Bowl and Savemart super markets. The company has been with the green festival for four years now. They give out samples of their products and are able to promote drinking healthy by marketing their product.

Aside from Organic Valley and Earthbound Farms, there was also Big Tree Farms another all-organic company but one which sells honey

palm sugar and other cacao products from the flower of palm trees. They also sample their products and promote healthy eating - but food is not the only thing found in the festival. Organizations promoting all sorts of activity were also there. Some organizations there were Micro Place, Co-op America and The Rebuilding Alliance.

MicroPlace is an organization that welcomes anyone 18 years of age or older who wants to donate or invest \$20 or more to poor workers from certain countries in Africa, Eurasia, Latin America, Middle East, North America, South Asia or Southeast Asia. They work in such a way that whoever wants to invest money may sign up online and become a member. This works like a loan, where members donate a given amount of money above \$20 that directly goes to the worker chosen. That worker will be given a chance to put up his or her own business and once he or she starts earning the donor is paid back with interest. It's a way to help the impoverished, as in their mission statement found in their website, "MicroPlace's mission is to help alleviate global poverty by enabling everyday people to make investments in the world's working poor."

Co-op America, a major sponsor of the Green Festival is a nonprofit organization that helps "green" the market. According to Screening Director Rebeca Shaloff, Co-op America informs individuals and companies how to be sustainable and finds partners to work with it on this campaign.

Founded by Paul Freundlich in 1982, Co-op America makes sure they reach every part of society, in their homes, at work and at play. They have many types of programs, each with a different function, such as magazines that give out tips on how to live sustainably and

their Fair Trade program, which tries to ensure that the farmers get the right price for their labor and produce. According to Shaloff, Co-op America currently has 45 staff members, 35,000 businesses, 75 active individual members and 5 million publications printed on recycled paper and sent out to millions of people. Their numbers are continuously growing, especially when anyone at the green festival and anyone with access to Internet can join their organization by simply signing up.

Another unique organization I found while walking around the festival was The Rebuilding Alliance, which started in 2003. It's an organization whose main goal is to support communities from war zones.

One example of The Rebuilding Alliance in action was when they helped a family from Jerusalem to file a report to human rights of their 10-year-old little girl, Amir Aramin's death. They did this by putting up a playground in memory of her and accepting donations for the playground.

The Rebuilding Alliance tries to fight injustice and violence in the world today by helping people such as these rebuild their communities and live a normal life once more. One of their ways of funding for their products is also by selling olive oil from these places.

Moving on, not only were there vendors and organizations at the SF Green Festival, there were also lectures. I was able to attend one of them on Saturday at noon. The lecture/presentation was entitled "Ecological Architecture: For Maximum Kick with Minimum Impact," which mainly talked about the effectiveness of using sustainable materials for the construction of structures: buildings and homes. David Arkin, who has talked and lectured about ecological design for more than 12 years, presented the

lecture. He gave information on how creative and beautiful structures can be when eco-friendly materials are used.

The San Francisco Green Festival was popular among Ohlone students. With thousands of visitors and so many activities that went on, it represented an effective way of disseminating information on keeping the Earth healthy, according to Ohlone student Jonathan Varquez. Varquez admitted that he went to the event to get credits for his Human Ecology class, but more importantly, he wanted to learn what and how it is to be "green." He said, "I've always been interested in helping the environment. There are many alternative ways of living in respect to being more organic and "green."

"Everyone should be more aware of our environment and become more 'green' from buying organic food to using environment friendly energy sources." Varquez added that the food was expensive but the music along with the food being sold and given away was interesting and could be a reason for him to come again next year.

This truly is an event worth coming back to, several students agreed. "I went to the green festival with a handful of friends to further my knowledge in trying to find different ways to sustain the earth," said Ohlone student Patrick Rebusura.

He admits that extra credit for his Geography class with George Rodgers was another reason that pushed him to go, but he also said that "it opened my eyes to different methods and ways to reuse recyclable items in everyday life.

"For example, I never thought you could make a bag out of tetra pack material and sandals out of used rope. I actually enjoyed the festival a lot. It was very informative. I was also able to try many organic foods and for the first time and I liked them a lot."

Escape the Hill: study Down Under

By SUCHI GUPTA
Staff writer

Ohlone is organizing a study abroad program to Sydney, Australia in the fall of 2009. Mark Brosamer, associate professor of English, is in charge of the event. The trip to Sydney will leave next August and return in December.

The study abroad program is designed to provide a way for students to become exposed to Australian culture firsthand. This is accomplished by arranging it so that students stay with Australian families and take classes with Australian professors as well as Brosamer. Although the exact cost of the trip has yet to be determined, the estimated cost will be \$7,000 per student. The Australian families are expected to provide breakfasts and dinners for the students who they are hosting.

Brosamer said that this trip will give them an opportunity to experience a new culture and visit different places in and around Australia. Culturally Australia is a diverse, urban and a lively country with excellent weather. Its aqua blue ocean beaches, exotic inland loca-

tions, pubs, street-side cafes and good public transportation makes it a very attractive location.

The study group will leave in time to experience the spring season of Australia. Brosamer is no stranger to study abroad programs - he led a study group to Cambridge, England back in 2001. When talking about the trip, he said, "This will allow the students to live like adults, with absolute freedom of movement. They can choose their own activities, have freedom to stop in a pub and have a beer," the drinking age being only 18 years old. He also recommended these trips as providing valuable international experience to students, which is a plus when applying for colleges and jobs.

Even as students are soaking up the Aussie culture, though, they still won't miss out on studying. Five courses taught by Brosamer, Speech Professor Kay Harrison and Australian professors will be offered.

The study abroad group has already had three meetings in regard to the trip. For more information about the program and questions about financial aid, contact Brosamer at mbrosamer@ohlone.edu.



Photo by Eric Dorman

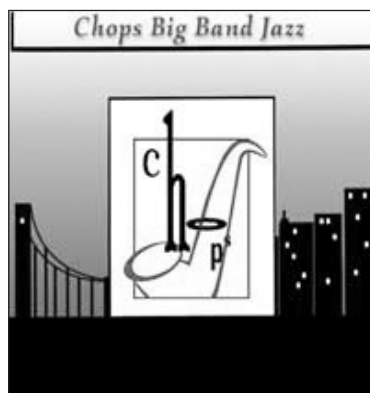
English Associate Professor Mark Brosamer shows off an Australian boomerang. Contact Brosamer to join the group of students traveling to Sydney, Australia next August.

Got needs for beads?



Photo by Kyle Stephens

Featured at this year's holiday boutique in the cafeteria Wednesday, fashion purse and pearl embroider Tai Loy Hong Co. has been designing and making bags for about three years now. The boutique featured a variety of vendors and wares.



Images courtesy of Chops Big Band

CDs by Chops are available at chopsjazz.com

Jazz Band aims to rock theater

By **ANDREW LE**
Features editor

An 18-piece Big Band will be performing jazz and swing classics that the audience can dance to at Ohlone's Nummi Theater this Friday.

Chops Big Band is directed by Ohlone Adjunct Instructor Ken Crowell. The band will be performing songs made famous by vocalists such as Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Natalie Cole, and Crowell's favorite, Harry Connick Jr.

For those who want to dance

with the music, organizers of the event have positioned the band and chairs against the wall, leaving a large space in the middle for dancing. People interested in attending are encouraged to arrive early, as Chops Big Band events have been known to sell out.

The cost of admission is \$15 for adults and \$10 for seniors, staff, and students. Children under the age of 12 get in for \$8. Tickets are available at the door or can be purchased in advance at the Smith Center box office.

The event starts at 8:30 p.m.



Weighing Anchor

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

Restoring the dream

"The American way of life is non-negotiable." No matter what your views or political affiliation, it's hard to disagree with George Bush Sr.'s 1992 statement. As Americans, we've come to see our way of life as an entitlement rather than a privilege, a right both unalienable and untouchable. As we watch one crisis after another unfold at home and abroad, though, it may be time to re-think that stance—or risk losing our way of life altogether.

If you think this sounds extreme, open a newspaper. In this year alone, the nation has shed 1.2 million jobs, our housing market has collapsed and the stock market has lost over a third of its value. We've seen venerable financial institutions come crawling to the government for massive bailouts. We've seen an industry pioneered by America teetering on the edge of financial ruin, as GM begs the government for a \$50 billion handout just to stay afloat. We live in a bankrupt state in a country with a budget deficit approaching \$10 trillion.

You and I didn't directly create these problems; they stem from bad decisions by lawmakers and executives, and as well as some bad luck. But if you take a look at the root issues behind these crises, you can't help but trace them back to an outdated but stubbornly-held ideology about the American way of life. From government to the private sector, we've become so transfixed with the American Dream that in many ways we've failed to wake up to the harsh realities of life. The American way of life has made us come to believe that we should be able to own a house at any age, regardless of whether we have the money to buy it. It's convinced us that mortgaging the future is okay, so long as our lives stay comfortable today. It's given us a taste of something so fine that we instantly crave more—but forget the sacrifice that made it possible.

It's here that the answer to our problems lies. Not in cutting taxes or welfare or education, not in giving up on the dream of a house and a piece of land and not in putting an end to borrowing. No, if we truly want to resurrect the American Dream, we need to remind ourselves of the qualities that built that dream into a reality: discipline, work and sacrifice. It's these qualities GM lacked in the 90's as it reached for the easy buck, and it's because of a loss of sight of these principles that our state chose to borrow against the future rather than make sacrifices for a balanced budget.

If we want real fixes for our problems, we need to make real changes to our thinking when it comes to the American way of life. If we want to preserve that for our children, it's time to re-negotiate.

FREMONT BANK

We're here to help you with your mortgage and checking needs.

AFFINITY Program

Presenting a mortgage solution exclusively for Ohlone College Faculty and Staff members.

For over 10 years, Fremont Bank has partnered with Ohlone College with all their financial needs. As an associate of Ohlone College, you can enjoy the benefits of this partnership with direct access to a dedicated Fremont Bank loan agent. We are available to answer any questions or concerns you may have. Fremont Bank is here to help you find a solution for all your mortgage needs.

We'd love to talk with you over the phone or face-to-face to go over your options or schedule an appointment. Please call:

Lorie Dunn
866-222-6146
lorie.dunn@fremontbank.com

MORTGAGE

Fremont Bank exclusive package includes...

- No Application fees³
- No Closing Costs³
- No Points
- Aggressive pricing
- A \$250 dollar Visa® gift Card⁴

CHECKING

Have freedom with a Fremont Bank Checking Account...

- ATM Surcharges rebated¹
- FREE Online Banking & Bill Pay
- FREE Visa® Check Card
- FREE initial small pack of checks
- FREE imaged checks
- No monthly service Fee with Automatic Loan Payment²



www.fremontbank.com