



The view
from here

By ANDREW LE
Features editor

Zeig heil hospital

The system is broken. I had a friend who was going pretty well for himself. The rest of us, we were always talking about what we were going to do, all the great things we were going to become and how we were going to change the world. But my friends talk a lot it's what happens when you smoke a lot of herb. Not ragging on my friends of course, they are good people and they will probably do some amazing things in the future, but right now, we are still in transit.

I had a friend though, who was not in transit, he had already made it. After graduating high school, he had a full scholarship to Stanford.

He had a luxury apartment across the street from SJSU, was engaged and living with the girl he had been madly in love with for the last seven years and working at a Catholic charity to burn some time before finishing law school. He actually would have graduated earlier if he had not gotten a real estate license halfway through college and sold some houses "for kicks."

That was the kind of guy Richard was, he was accomplished at everything but never lost his predisposition for the random fun. He went to the hospital on Friday because of chest pains, but they refused to do a sonogram. His fiancée submitted a complaint form by Saturday but by Tuesday he was dead. He was on his balcony smoking a cigarette when it happened, studying for his BAR exam; I think he was supposed to take it this year. I know for a fact he would have passed. That is the kind of guy he was, he never did anything half-assed and he always succeeded at everything he tried to do.

I saw him two days before he died, he was talking about how he was going to surprise his fiancée with a wedding date soon. But that never happened, he never finished law school, he never got married, he never got what he deserved to get.

He could have lived, his family and fiancée know that much. The autopsy found a congenital heart condition; I think it was a hole. If they had just performed that sonogram they would have seen it and been able to save him. But the hospital did not want to spend the extra .00001 percent of their expected revenue on performing a test on a 28-year-old man.

To the hospital, Richard was just a statistic. If this many people die out of this many people because we do not perform the tests, we still save X amount of dollars if we only get sued by X victims' families.

But Richard was not a statistic, he was the best of us and now he is dead. It could have been prevented but it was not, and there is nothing left to say.



Photo by Kyle Stephens

Yoko's Dance and Performing Arts Academy will be presenting 'The Nutcracker' this weekend.

Smith Center unveils holiday lineup

By JAPNEET KAUR
Staff writer

The Smith Center is kicking off the holiday season with a flourish, hosting Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker* and the Winter Dance Showcase over this weekend and next.

Yoko's Dance and Performing Arts Academy and the Fremont Symphony Orchestra will be com-

ing together to perform the ballet, choreographed by Yoko Young. It will be performed this weekend, Dec. 5-7, in the Jackson Theatre.

Shows will be at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are \$48 for adult section A; \$43 for adult section B; \$20 for full-time students with ID and youths under 12; and \$6 for the Sugar Plum Party.

Children are invited to attend the Sugar Plum Party – after matinees only – for special holiday treats and to have their pictures taken with the costumed dancers.

The Sugar Plum Party is presented by the Fremont Symphony Guild.

The Winter Dance showcase is presented by Ohlone College's Dance Department, and includes

performances by more than 80 dance students who will be showcasing the work they've done over the semester. The showcase started last night, and will continue through Saturday, Dec. 6, with 8 p.m. performances at the NUMMI Theatre. Tickets are \$10.

Visit the Smith Center Box Office to buy tickets, call (510) 659-6031, or e-mail boxoffice@ohlone.edu.

Chops Big Band features swing, jazz

By ANNA BIARITZ ROLDAN
Staff writer

The audience was serenaded with classic pieces— some re-arranged, some not – like Shining star, Blue Moon, Beethoven's Fur Elise, Shake Your Bones and intro

of Count Bubba's Revenge by the Chops Big Band last Friday.

Led by band director and lead alto sax player Ken Crowell, the performance was a blast and breathtakingly relaxing at the same time. The crowd of about 30 tapped its feet and was swept by the music when

the band played up-tempo tunes. On the other hand, we all watched and listened in silence when they played heartwarming mellow melodies with a slow dance feel. As the music played, a couple danced affectionally on the sidelines, which gave the evening a more elegant, yet

personal, feel to it.

The band has a wide degree of specializations and plays everything from 60's and 70's rock hits, dance tunes from the 30's and 40's, music from the swing and jump genres and the works of artists such as Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald.



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Chamber Orchestra entertains

By NICOLE JOHNSON
Opinion editor

The Ohlone Chamber Orchestra performed a variety of classical pieces before an appreciative crowd Sunday, Nov. 23 in the Smith Center.

The Jackson Theatre was just over half-full and the audience appeared to thoroughly enjoy the concert.

The Orchestra kicked off the night with a performance of Carnival Overture, Op. 92, an original piece by Czech composer Antonin Dvorak. Their next song was Concerto a Cinque, Op. 7 for Oboes and Strings, played in three parts: Allegro, Adagio and Allegro composed by Tomaso Albinoni, a Venetian Baroque composer. Following that, they played Symphony No. 104 in D major ("London" Symphony), played in four parts: Adagio/Allegro, Andante, Minuet, and concluded with their finale

Allegro spiritoso by Franz Joseph Hayden, an Austrian composer.

The Carnival Overture, Op. 92 is the second overture of the cycle "Nature, Life and Love," entitled "Carnival." According to the program, Carnival Overture was "filled with the elevated feeling of solitude, man finds himself, all at once, caught up in the gay whirligig of life - and is happy! Willing he yields to the carnival mood of merriment and, throwing reserve to the winds, he enters into the spirit of youthful revelry with care-free abandon, grateful for all its joys and beauties."

Haydn "was probably one of the most prolific composers who has ever lived and certainly one of the greatest." Many of his works were lost, destroyed by a fire, or simply mislaid, but there are still 104 symphonies, 83 string quartets, 52 piano sonatas, concertos for many different instruments, a vast number of songs, opera, choral, chamber

music, four oratorios, 14 masses, and many other works.

While the music incorporated sounds of violins, viola, cello, bass, flute, clarinet, bassoon, trumpet, French horn, trombone, percussion, timpani, it also included oboes. The oboes were played by Althea Raman and Rich Goodman.

Raman recently earned her degree in music with an emphasis on oboe performance from California State University East Bay, where she delivered a solo performance last May. This is Raman's third year as an oboist with the Ohlone Chamber Orchestra.

Raman was a soloist for the Orchestra's Mozart Sinfonia Concertante in December 2006, and she is currently working on a music teaching credential.

Goodman first picked up the oboe three months ago, and he's been playing it nonstop since then. The Ohlone College Orchestra concert was his only first public perfor-

mance, as well as the first time he has played on stage anywhere.

The concert, which started at 2 p.m. and lasted just over an hour, was conducted by Larry Osborne, who has conducted the orchestra since the Fall of 2003. Osborne has multiple degrees in music performance and music education.

He taught music at all levels from elementary school through college. He plays French horn with the Opera San Jose, and was a member of the San Jose Ballet and Symphony, American Wind Symphony, San Francisco Opera Orchestra, and the San Francisco Theatre Orchestra. Osborne is currently teaching instrumental and string music in the Hayward Unified School District.

The Smith Center's next music event will be the Jazz/Rock Combo fall concert on Dec. 12 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$10 for students, staff and seniors and \$8 for students under 12, and may be purchased at the box office.



Weighing
Anchor

By ERIC
DORMAN
Editor-in-chief

Tied with a ribbon

It's that time of year again. Time for us to put aside our petty disagreements, our inconsequential differences, our personal agendas and our selfish instincts and come together to pursue one greater, far more noble goal that will truly separate the caring from the stone-hearted, the enlightened from the unholy.

I'm talking about shopping, of course. It's a national pastime that puts football to shame year-round, but it's during the holiday season that Americans show what they can do with a vision and a credit card. And ripe as the juxtaposition of a value-based holiday dominated by consumerism may be for condemnation, I can't find it in myself to take up the familiar position and decry America for its petty material fixation. Because despite our apparent disregard for the True Meaning of Christmas in boxes and dollars and cents, I think that we in our American, consumerist fashion, aren't as far off the mark as it seems.

Sure, there seemed to be little support for this position on Black Friday, as we saw a Wal-Mart employee trampled to death beneath a pre-dawn crowd of shoppers with a bloodlust for bargains. It was hard to see it as two rival gangs took the opportunity to settle their differences in a Toys "R" Us, leaving two dead. But if you look past this extremism, there's evidence that consumerism and Christmas can co-exist.

Christmas, at its heart, is a holiday about giving. As a holiday, it commemorates the giving of a gift, and as such, it requires us to make some changes in the way we think. It's about getting outside ourselves long enough to think about others. It's about making a dedicated effort to make those around us a little happier.

As consumers, we've taken this simple message and we've complicated it. We narrowed the message, choosing to obtain gifts for others in specific ways in specific places. But regardless of what they are or how we got them, our gift-giving represents an awareness of those around us, a moment of thought about who they are and a genuine effort toward increasing their happiness.

The Grinch was partly right when he mused that "maybe Christmas doesn't come from a store./ Maybe Christmas, perhaps, means a little bit more." The True Meaning of Christmas doesn't start or end with what's under the tree. It's a story written in good intentions, mindfulness of others and, for better or for worse, department store shelves and credit cards and receipts. As long as we go through this holiday season in the spirit of true giving, no one can accuse the shopping mall or the boxed gift as being in opposition to what Christmas is really about.

Ohlone to tour Broadway in NYC trip

By SUCHI GUPTA
Staff writer

As part of a versatile educational experience, Theater Arts Professor Mark Nelson is organizing a 10-day trip to New York City next May.

The trip, which Nelson has led several times in the past, is part of the spring's three-unit Theater Appreciation class.

The trip leaves from SFO on the night of May 21 and arrives at one of the most vibrant cities of United States, New York, on May 22. New York offers unique experiences for tourists in general, and for theater enthusiasts in particular: the Big Apple is home to the country's most infamous performing arts center, Broadway.

When talking about his past trips traveling with students to the city, Nelson emphasized the experience as being one-of-a-kind. "The students are exposed to big city life which is so lively and exciting, a total change from the suburban life," said Nelson. "The students have the luxury of going around the city on their own, finding fun and cheap eating places, going to places like President Clinton's office at Harlem. This will give them an insight on the true New York life."

As part of the trip, the group will attend four Broadway shows and two other shows. Apart from these opportunities, students can gain first-hand experience of living in a big city all by themselves. The group will take trips to the Empire State Building, Statue of Liberty, The Museum of Modern Arts and many other historical and theatrical places.

Nelson also added that this trip will provide students with a thoroughly personal insight into the life of Broadway actors. Students will actually go to the shows, get a chance to meet the actors afterwards and even get autographs.

One of the hidden beauties of New York City is that the place is loaded with famous television, movie and Broadway stars and one can be caught by surprise as to who one might find around every corner.

The total cost of the trip is around

\$1,162 for quad lodging (four to a room), \$1,329 for triple (three to a room), \$1,663 for double (two to a room), \$2,664 for single (one to a room).

The amount covers air fare, transportation to and from NYC

airport to the hotel and cost of lodging. The group might take some walking tours and could have to purchase fast passes for about \$65, and the show tickets will cost approximately \$375.

There will be an informational

meeting for those interested in going on the trip on Wednesday, Feb. 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the Smith Center Lobby. To sign up for the trip or for more information, contact Mark Nelson at (510) 659-6298 or e-mail at mnelson@ohlone.edu.



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