



The view  
from here

By ANDREW  
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Features editor

## A life less ordinary

They made this girl wear a sign that read Daddy's Whore because her dad molested her, part of our therapy involved us telling her that she liked it. We were supposed to help her get better by helping her come to terms with that she wanted it to happen. It was a program run by Mormons from Utah. I spent 15 months there. It did not matter where we were from, or what we had done, by the time we left, everyone was more or less the same.

Two guys came into my room at 1 a.m. They told me I was leaving and that I could do it the easy way or the hard way. They said they had leather handcuffs so I told them that I would go easy.

Why would you get into a car at 1 a.m. because two big white guys told you to? What were they even doing in your room? You were 14, you were not a child, you should have known better. You should have ran, you should have fought, you had a knife in your nightstand drawer. You probably could have stabbed both of them and walked away with a sentence lighter than the 15 months you wound up spending in Mexico. But instead you let them grab you by the arms and walk you out.

I do not know why, I do not think I will ever know.

I woke up in Ensenada, Mexico. They started by cutting our hair, we all had buzz cuts. We also all had the same uniform. It helped us conform. I was not allowed to talk to anyone for the first two weeks except for the upper level that was assigned to me. A few weeks later I reached level two and was allowed to speak to people if there was a third person present that was level 3. Snitching and brutality was how you gained levels. It proved that you were cooperating.

When I came in, the program did terrible things to me; by the time I left, I was doing terrible things to others as an upper level that worked with the program.

I thought I had values and morals, I never thought I would wind up doing what I did. But it happened to everyone around me.

There were a few that did not break at first. There was a guy who spent 20 months in room restriction. He had to assume the position, laying face down on the floor with his nose holding a sheet of paper against the wall with his legs elevated slightly above the ground. People like him got it the worst, not from the staff, but from people like me. We saw that he did not break, we saw that he was better than us, so we beat him relentlessly for it. He eventually started cooperating.

Even though Casa by the Sea was shut down by the Mexican government for abuse in 2004, I will never forget, what people were capable of becoming.

## Stars in the making



Photo Japneet Kaur

**Dance students show off their moves at the Winter Dance Showcase Friday. The show played last Thursday through Saturday in the NUMMI Theater.**

## Showcase features variety of dances

By JAPNEET KAUR  
Staff writer

Over 80 dance students displayed the results of a semester of hard work at Ohlone's 4<sup>th</sup> annual Winter Dance Showcase last weekend. Ranging from tap to tango to break dance, students of many different ages came together to showcase their growing talents.

The NUMMI Theater was packed with the families and friends of the dancers, leaving no elbow room. The show was sold out, and a few people who hadn't realized how popular the show would be had to be turned away. Despite the size of the audience, silence descended almost immediately every time the lights dimmed between performances, and the spectators waited with an air of anticipation, some for their children or friends to appear onstage.

The set was simple, with a small number of large retro-style flowers

adorning the curtains, the effect of which was not to distract anyone from, or clash with, any of the performances. Some of the dances were form-based, such as the tango in which several couples performed; the two tap dance performances; and the hip-hop style/break dance performances. Other dances were metaphorical, and some were stories, which unfolded before the audience as the pieces progressed. Many of the dances were accompanied by well-known music, or numbers by popular artists. Some of these artists were Jordin Sparks and Chris Brown, Good Charlotte, Maroon 5, Cirque Du Soleil, Mandy Moore, and Imogen Heap. One of the pieces was performed to two numbers from the Across the Universe soundtrack.

The great amount of effort that went into the dances was quite apparent. Throughout the performances, it could be seen from the expressions on the dancers' faces how

much effort it was taking to hold a certain position for an extended period of time. Though sometimes shaking or wobbling a little, the dancers exhibited their strength and no one ever fell or even so much as stumbled. The pieces were all performed with much enthusiasm, and most dancers' faces wore wide grins as they moved across the stage. In some emotive pieces, the dancers were consistent in expressing seriousness or sorrow, all while performing complicated steps.

Some of the more memorable performers are as follows. In the larger tap number entitled "Too Hard to Handle," an extremely young dancer tapped along with much older students and kept up beautifully. Thunderous applause sounded as the piece ended with the young girl, who must have been around 10, and another student did the splits.

In the piece called "Suite Girl," Kevin Calderon-Lopez let out an

extremely dramatic and emotional cry, and was drenched in sweat and panting by the end of his performance, which had consisted of several leaps and bounds and much moving back and forth across the whole stage.

In the "Accapella Tap," Guili Munoz danced with such force and zest that he lost a tap (the small metal plate on the bottom of the shoe that makes the tapping sound) from one of his shoes halfway through his performance.

The evening ended with all of the performers making their way onstage and bowing to the audience – which filled up the entire stage. Director of Dance Janel Tomblin-Brown, thanked everyone and expressed her pride in the students. The audience was invited to step out onto the floor and ballroom dance, though this time was mostly taken advantage of by loved ones of the dancers rushing out to congratulate and praise them.

## Student bikes through South America

By ANDREW LE  
Features editor

It started with a map.

In October of 2007, Ohlone student Kevin Kuei was feeling the burnout from a series of dead-end jobs and two underwhelming years at Ohlone. While looking at a map with kindred spirit in restlessness and former Ohlone student Mattan Shragger, they decided that they should take their motorcycles on a road trip.

The original idea began as a cross-country excursion from the west to east coast. But then they got a bigger map. Alaska transmuted into Mexico and Mexico expanded to Central America. But why stop at Central America? Shragger brought up that "there's an impassable 300-mile jungle separating Central and South America." Kevin responded, "We could take a boat."

Three months later Kuei and Shragger left the United States

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Photo courtesy of Kevin Kuei

**Over seven months and almost 8,000 miles, Ohlone student Kevin Kuei traveled from the Bay Area to Chile on his motorcycle.**