



Stone cold  
thinker

By NOAH  
LEVIN  
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## Veins of the beast

The night was cool, dry and clear. My car hummed along Highway 237 east toward Highway 880, Del the Funky Homosapien thumping over the stereo. I was in the right state of mind to take in all around me, and as I slowed in preparation for the upcoming traffic jam, things got suddenly very real.

There, laid out before me like two sludgy rivers of light, was the junction of 237 with 880. The northbound side of the freeway glowed a deep red, with occasional orange lights flashing amongst the multitude of cars, and on the southbound side was the mirror image all in white and yellow.

I took my place in the line of steady traffic, and was struck by the enormity of such a thing. To view the Bay Area objectively, you could say compare the many cities and burbs of the San Francisco metropolitan area to a living organism, and the many highways and roads the veins for the great beast. The cars and trucks are then likened to be blood cells, and if the highways should become obstructed by accident or disaster, then they can be likened to artery blockage in a heart. The daily, horrific visage of rush-hour traffic on 880 is comparable to high cholesterol in a middle-aged man's arteries. These arterial highways and roads feed people, the essential element to making our cities function into the massive urban centers and factories, which are the organs of Mighty Beast. Daily, the Beast's veins pump people all around, from suburb to city, the mass of cars thumping and pushing. They amass in unknowable numbers, the roads at rush hour gleaming and pulsing the beat of a heart pumping blood and oxygen through the body.

And to make a rather bleak turn, when you get a paper cut, you lose a negligible amount of blood. Similarly, if there is an accident, and one or more drivers is killed or taken off the road, the Beast makes little pause for the occasional and unavoidable loss of life. Large metro areas like the Bay Area stop for almost nothing, much like when you suffer that small cut.

But unlike most creatures, the Beast never, ever sleeps. Even in the dead of night, the Beast must keep contact with the other monster metropolitan areas around the world. Hong Kong. New York. Paris. London. These mighty, breathing, ever-growing monsters are always in contact, and always transferring goods, people, and information. I see these mega-cities as not merely individual entities, but part of a community, of giant, hulking, feasting creatures that devour resources, people, and energy.

All hail the Mighty Beast, for we have no power to break, only to become a part of it.

# Student film goes to silver screen

By DEVERY SHEFFER  
Staff writer

A suspenseful and provocative film made by an Ohlone teacher and students is to be included in upcoming film festivals. The 22-minute film, called "One Way Ticket Please," is directed by Lawrence Iriarte, who teaches film and video production at Ohlone.

The crew consisted of five to eight of Iriarte's students in his class last semester.

The film follows its main character Maury Jackson, played by Ryan Renzi, in his quest to leave his mundane life behind in hopes of finding an unworldly paradise.

The film's eerie and spine-tingling ambiance feels similar to an old "Twilight Zone" episode or Alfred Hitchcock film. The film also costars Ohlone student Cyrus Soliman as the crafty travel agent whom Maury seeks out in his attempt to escape.

"One Way Ticket Please" is set to show in four film festivals including the Sacramento International Film Festival and Film Independent's Los Angeles Film Festival. After its premier showing at the festivals Iriarte hopes to show it on television.

Channels such as Sci-Fi fit the genre of the film well. The film, an adapted screenplay, written by Iriarte is based on the mystical utopia known as Shangri-La found in the 1933 novel *Lost Horizon*.

Iriarte originally wrote his own version of the story 20 years ago when he read it in junior high school. Since then it has been tweaked and adapted into the film it is today.

Iriarte said he made this film to give his students a learning experience. During last semester he told his students about his film and offered them the opportunity to be a part of creating it.

"I wanted to show them you can make things look high quality if you just know the technique," said Iriarte. Iriarte's goal is for his students to leave his class ready to go and work in the industry.

Several of his former students currently work at major networks



Photo courtesy of Lawrence Iriarte

## Students examine stills from their film, 'One Way Ticket Please.'

such as ESPN and MTV.

The entire film was shot in the Fremont and Newark area. The Ohlone campus, Coyote Hills and Old Niles all provided settings for the film. Although these areas may be familiar, the dark mood makes them almost unrecognizable.

The film took two days to shoot and is still undergoing some final editing. When you're extremely limited with time to shoot, you can do nothing but hope that everything goes well, he said.

One problem that occurred the weekend of the shoot that was unavoidable. It began raining, leaving the crew with nothing to do but chase the sunshine. Overall, the rain did nothing but enhance the film.

The cameras didn't capture the rainfall but the unique lighting added to the build-up of the climax scene and intensified the dreary

feel of the film. Inspiration for the film was pulled from both his own experience and also from a well known director. Iriarte was invited to his first experience working on a film by a teacher when he was still in school.

His bus ride to a large warehouse in the middle of nowhere in San Francisco made him feel uneasy.

However, he was thrilled when he rang the buzzer and found himself on the set of the newest Disney movie, "James and the Giant Peach."

This leap of faith that must be taken when pursuing your dreams is a major theme in the movie.

Iriarte's other inspiration was taken from filmmaker Christopher Nolan and his usage of light and the ability to tell a story in his movie "Memento."

The film is currently 28 minutes

long but the final version will be 22 minutes long, the length of a typical 30-minute television episode.

It is also awaiting its original soundtrack from a guitarist who formerly played for the band Primus. Altogether the film cost just under \$300 out of Iriarte's pocket, which mostly paid for feeding the crew and some extra equipment.

Iriarte has been teaching at Ohlone for more than seven years. He started by teaching film editing and special effects classes.

Iriarte's experience in film and video led him to creating the Film and Video Production class that he now teaches.

He worked on some well-known movies such as "Matrix" and "Be-dazzled."

Iriarte's latest project is a show, "Barbs Kids" that will premier on a major cable network next spring.

# Deaf students welcome Year of Ox

By ISAAC WEST  
Staff writer

The deaf community on campus came together to welcome the Year of the Ox last Thursday.

Nan Zhou of the Deaf Studies Department presented information about his culture and experiences at the event, held in Room 5301. Zhou brought Chinese foods, desserts and mini meals to the celebration, and also encouraged attendees to learn about China's most important traditional holiday and help them identify their animal zodiac to see if it fit their characteristics.

Though Americans only celebrate the New Year one day a year, the Chinese New Year celebration lasts for 15 days. Chinese New Year starts with the new moon on the first day of the new year and ends on the full moon 15 days later. Jan. 26 was the first day of the Chinese New Year and it ended Feb. 10.

The event, which is also called the Lunar New Year, is celebrated by

many nations, including mainland China, Taiwan, Macau, Vietnam, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand.

The Year of the Ox fell on 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997 and 2009. The 12-year span between the dates is indicative of the 12 animals that make up the Chinese zodiac: the pig, the rat, the ox, the tiger, the rabbit, the dragon, the snake, the horse, sheep, monkey, rooster and dog. This year is 4707 in the Chinese calendar.

"Every animal has its characters," said Zhou. "If you are Ox, you are reliable, patient, kind, determined, hardworking, preserving, authoritative, and skillful."

"What about the relationships for Oxen?" said Zhou. "People believe work comes first and romance comes second. They also have a long life [and a] faithful relationship. [The Ox is] a dependable, protective and kind partner. They are renowned for their stamina in relationships."



Photo by Isaac West

## Nan Zhou shows a Lunar New Year powerpoint.

Zhou was also able to outline some trivia concerning the year of the Ox. Barack Obama was born

in 1961, making him an Ox. He's come full circle, being sworn in as president this year.



Photo by Anna Alfara

**Paddy Moran stands before her painting 'The Sri Lankan.'**

## People: colorful in shades of blue

By **NAZIA MASTAN**  
Staff writer

The Louie-Meager Art Gallery at Ohlone's Smith Center showed a collection of artwork from an array of fine arts educators as well as student artists and presented their pieces at the "People" show.

"People" is a short explanation of the subjects of the artistic works by talented educators and students from several universities as well as Ohlone that includes paintings, sculptures and photographs.

There was a large crowd that came to the reception on Feb. 7, which was the same Saturday night that the Fremont Symphony Winter Concert of Wagner and Brahms

was being held in the Smith Center. The events that occurred together allowed guests of the symphony as well as visitors of the gallery to mingle with the artists and also with one another to delve deeper in their understanding of the artistic works.

When entering the gallery one could see that there was a table of food, but that didn't seem to phase many guests of the gallery because they were focused on talking to the creators of the art.

When conversing with Paddy Moran, a painter of 30 plus years and a fine arts teacher at Ohlone, she explained her personal connection to her art. Moran presented two paintings that were her reflections

of the tsunami that hit the Indian Ocean in December 2004.

One painting was her representation of a man and his boats, entitled "The Sri Lankan."

The other was her portrayal of the destruction left by the massive wave of water, which was entitled "Tsunami."

Both of Moran's paintings were painted in vibrant colors which juxtaposed the ravaging force of the tsunami that hit Sri Lanka.

Moran explained that the bright colors can also represent the spirit of the people affected by the tsunami and their ability to lift themselves from the destruction and create a community again, putting emphasis on the "people" of a community.

Another artist educator from Santa Clara University, David Pace, presented two black and white photographs of a tailor, entitled "Konate Lassina Tailor."

A photo entitled "Ganou the Barber" was from a remote west African village by the name of Berbba in the country of Burkina Faso.

Pace's inspiration for his photography was his desire to represent the struggles that they faced in the remote regions without electricity, again with a focus on the "people" of the area.

This event was coordinated by Kenney Mencher, art professor at Ohlone and director/curator.

Mencher put on an excellent show of human talent.

## Smoking trends drifting upward

By **ZUNERA SYED**  
Staff writer

The college is seeing an increase in student smoking, said Health Center Head Sally Bratton, based on personal observations.

In the beginning of this semester, Bratton started noticing groups of students smoking near the old security building.

In most of her time at Ohlone, she hasn't seen a nominal number of smokers. What caused this increase of on-campus smoking? And what can we do to fix this problem? The

enrollment increase at Ohlone College certainly has an affect on the increase of smoking on campus. According to Ohlone rules, students aren't allowed to smoke near classrooms. However, they are allowed to smoke in the parking lots.

The main reasons that people start smoking include stress due to the loss of a job or financial trouble.

In order to fix the problem, the Health Center has enlisted people on campus to mention to students to not smoke if not in the designated area. Before this policy was enacted the

smoking rate was 13 percent. After enforcing the policy, the Health Center took another survey which showed the smoking rate decreasing to 7 percent, which is lower than the national average.

Bratton believes that the problem can be fixed by educating the students on what the smoking policies are. Another solution is to offer the students help to quit smoking. However it is possible people will start quitting on their own because of the rise of the tax on cigarettes.

The tax rose higher to 62 cents per pack. Fortunately, California has the

second lowest adult smoking rate in the nation. Adult smoking rates dropped from 22.7 percent to 13.3 percent in 2006. For men, smoking decreased from 25.6 percent to 17.5 percent in 2006.

Among women, smoking lessened from 19.9 percent in 1988 to 9.1 percent. Despite these achievements the cost of smoking in California is nearly \$16 billion annually or \$3,331 per smoker every year.

For more information on the latest facts and statistics on tobacco, you can visit [www.tobaccofreeca.org/index.html](http://www.tobaccofreeca.org/index.html).



**Weighing Anchor**

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

## One if by land...

In the water, he's the greatest Olympian the world has ever known. On land, his judgment isn't that much better than Paris Hilton's. The facts are simple, so why can't we reconcile them?

You've all seen the photo—you know, the one of a certain 14-gold-medal swimmer inhaling a substance that was decidedly not chlorine. And yes, now that the apology is out and the three-month suspension is in and the public fervor has died down somewhat, the whole story seems like old news. But the plot of this little drama—the public's casting of an athlete or celebrity into a golden idol, only to be outraged upon discovering that the gold is not pure, but riddled with humanity—has been played out so many times that it suggests that topic is worth examining.

Whenever Phelps is caught inhaling, or new evidence turns up that suggests that maybe A-Rod had been sharing Barry Bonds' flaxseed oil, or Christian Bale succumbs to a turrets outbreak when someone walks in front of the camera during filming, something inside us balks at the news. In our minds, we want to remember Phelps as the man who made America proud with his incredible feats in the water. We want A-Rod to be the greatest player of our time, and nothing less. We want Bale to be the strong and quiet hero Gotham deserves, and we want him to act like the hero we deserve.

But they're not, and we're disappointed. We call them irresponsible for setting a bad example for the kids; we call them thoughtless for failing to take into account their status as role models. And they apologize, then do it all again.

The apologies are not the real issue, though, for the real blame lies with us. Who decided that people with immense talents in some areas—athletes, actors and entertainers—but just as flawed as the rest of us elsewhere, were supposed to function as the role models in our society? How do we justify modeling every aspect of our life around the life of someone who's only really accomplished at one thing?

Sure, Phelps can swim faster than some of us can run and Bale cuts an amazing Batman, but does that mean we should shape the entirety of our lives with the mold of these figures? These men have much to teach us in the world of swimming and acting, certainly, but unless we want to continue to be disappointed every time one of these individuals reveals their flaws, we must segregate the immortal achievements from the mortal humans.

Put another way: give to sports what is sports', and understand that giving any more is giving too much.