



Stone cold
thinker

By NOAH
LEVIN
Opinion editor

Flavors of summer

It was about a month ago, when the weather was just beginning to warm and the sharp cold of the winter was starting to recede. I was driving home from school, avoiding the sludge like traffic on the freeway by taking Hesperian Boulevard north towards my house in Hayward, when I saw some eye catching graffiti on a red fence. Written in an innocent, perfect cursive with white paint on a Douglas Fir-red fence read the words, "I can't wait till summer..."

This piece of simple, understated art seemed to encapsulate my exact mood at the moment, and continues to embody my energy these past weeks. I do not pine for summer like a high school student longing to be rid of the bondage of fifth period, but I look forward to summer for its promise of merriment and adventure. It is in the summer time, more than any other season, when I take to the road, embarking on road trips taking me up and down the Northern California coast. It is during the summer that I sojourn to little-known beaches in Half Moon Bay in the dead of night to drink strong whiskey and burn massive bonfires with friends.

The warm California summers, with their bright blue skies scarred by massive Pacific coast clouds, are iconic in both imagery and what they symbolize. For me, summer here in the Bay Area means hot, hazy days and long, party filled nights. Summers mean cruising the streets in the twilight hours, heading to the bar to drink pints of heavy, sharp tasting beer from area microbrews. At the bar, my friends and I congregate on the well-lit patio instead of huddling around a table inside. From the outside of the bar, we can still hear the thumping of a Grateful Dead cover-band, and the music makes us shout and holler.

The music, good lord the music! It's in the summertime that music permeates much of my life. From late morning jam sessions, playing with my band during liquor drenched house parties to blasting Led Zeppelin at top volume while sitting in my backyard smoking a fine cigar, summertime provides the backdrop to often times surreal moments. In those moments, music, be it live or recorded, can determine the entire course and mood of any gathering at my home.

This particular summer should prove to be an interesting one. My house has recently bid farewell to one roommate, and welcomed three in their place. This abundance of like-minded, amicable friends should provide hours of laughs, musical harmony, and all sorts of good times. Because of the scholastic tradition of free summers, I can enjoy myself and find peace in my surroundings, and being in California certainly will not hinder me.

Can you hear me now? Nope...

By NAZIA MASTAN
Staff writer

Ohlone's hillside location has plenty of benefits: from its airy ambiance, to unparalleled views of the bay, to providing a cardiovascular workout to die for, Ohlone's hillside location carries with it plenty of benefits.

Adequate cell phone coverage, however, is not one of them.

"[Coverage] is horrible on campus, sometimes I'll have full bars and won't be able to make a call," said student Rachael Warmack, an AT&T customer. "Sometimes I have no bars and think that I can't make the call, but when I do, the call goes through."

Even though most major service providers, AT&T included, list

Ohlone as a "best coverage" area, coverage with most is spotty at best. Verizon Wireless and Metro PCS, however, stood out as offering the best coverage in an informal survey of several students.

Verizon's superior service is no surprise—Ohlone has a Verizon cell phone tower affixed to the roof of the Smith Center. Other service providers do not have cell phone towers in as close of a proximity as Verizon does, which is one reason Ohlone community members are not as satisfied with their cell phone service as Verizon customers.

English Professor Cynthia-Lee Katona, a Verizon customer, said she gets service everywhere on the Fremont campus.

Despite its status as a smaller network, another service provider, Metro PCS, was named as a front-runner by students. Freshman Najia Quadir said Metro PCS customers are getting the most bang for their unlimited calling buck here at Ohlone. "I didn't expect to get any service at all because of Ohlone's elevation, but I guess I was wrong," said Quadir. "There is barely anywhere that I don't get service."

Sprint customer Naveen Khan said she has trouble making calls on the main stairway leading up to Building One. "I make my calls near the Palm Bosque so they don't get dropped while I walk up the stairs."

Although T-Mobile boasts the best pricing for their service, they fall short

when it comes to covering students at Ohlone. Economics student Bilal Masood said his T-Mobile Sidekick only receives service directly outside of Hyman Hall.

AT&T, though explicitly listing Ohlone as being a "best coverage" area, student Ashley Cunha also agreed with Warmack when it came to AT&T's service at Ohlone. Overall, she said, AT&T's service is poor on campus, but the Smith Center and the Quad are the best places for good reception on campus.

Two years ago, Niles approved the request of one service provider, T-Mobile, to erect a cell phone tower to provide better coverage to Ohlone and the rest of the Mission District.

In order to more fully examine the intricacies of Ohlone's cell phone coverage, the Monitor staff gathered four randomly selected phones (which coincidentally happened to be four of the phones owned by Monitor staff members) and compared coverage around campus. Take a look:



Verizon



Metro PCS



Sprint



AT&T

Quad	Verizon	Metro PCS	Sprint	AT&T
Full service	Full service	3-4 bars	2 bars	
Hyman Hall	2-4 bars	Full service	4-5 bars	4 bars
Library	3-4 bars	No service	3-4 bars	No service
Gym	2-4 bars	1 bar	3-4 bars	2 bars
Parking Lot B	Full service	Full service	Full service	2 bars
Soccer Field	3 bars	Full service	Full service	4 bars
Cafeteria	3-4 bars	Fair service	No service	No service
Monitor	3-4 bars	3-4 bars	No service	3 bars

Health not ensured for college students

By INEZ BLACK
Staff writer

Sally Bratton, the Director of the Ohlone Student Health Center, said "The American College Health Association (ACHA) Surveys report that about 20 percent of the students do not have health insurance [based on the Government Accounting Office report]. If they have an illness, it can be a catastrophic expense." The study covered students age 18-23 for 2006.

Young adults represent 17 percent of the under-65 U.S. population. However, this age group (19-29), also represents 30 percent of the uninsured population under age 65, according to Sara Collins of the Commonwealth Fund. The lack of access to health insurance is urgent as this is the fastest growing age group.

After age 18 the federal government terminates eligibility for its

public health program for young adults previously enrolled in Medicaid (Medi-Cal) or

State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP). Also, private insurers are not required to provide dependent health insurance after age 18 under federal law, and many insurers terminate coverage for young adults, based on the Commonwealth Fund report, "Rite of Passage? Why Young Adults Become Uninsured and How New Policies Can Help, 2008 Update," by Jennifer Kriss, Sara Collins, et al.

The Commonwealth Fund is a private foundation which conducts independent research on health policy and health systems.

Further complicating the problem, statistically young adults have the riskiest lifestyle, specifically for recreational athletic activities and unwise health behaviors of heavy drinking, cigarette smoking, drugs and unprotected sex, further com-

plicating the problem.

Today 31 percent of society smokes, however, 46 percent of college students reported using tobacco products within the last year, based on studies by the Journal of American Medical Association, Massachusetts General Hospital, and the Harvard School of Public Health. They also reported an increase in cigar smoking for California's collegians.

Seven percent of young adults engaged in specific high-risk behaviors – more than twice the percentage of all other age groups. Ninety-three percent (93%) of young adults are sexually active. This includes having sex without a condom in the past year, contracting STD's (sexually transmitted diseases), giving or receiving money or drugs in exchange for sex, according Community Health Data Base's 2004. Without insurance, they are less likely to receive

tests for STDs, pregnancy, and for HIV/AIDS, or receive timely and appropriate medical treatment.

As many as 40 percent of Ohlone students in the health sciences programs, i.e., nursing, physical therapy, and respiratory therapy, are uninsured primarily due to their age -- typically over 25 years old, Bratton stated.

It is a myth that the young consider themselves invincible, according to Anthony Wright, Executive Director of Health-Access California, a statewide health care consumer advocacy coalition.

He said, "They are likely to be low income and work at jobs that don't provide health insurance. We should not blame the "Young Invincibles." We need to reform the health system so that they can get the insurance they need."

Liz Frantz, a 26-year old journalism major at Ohlone College, working for a solar panel installation



DJ perseveres despite handicap

By ANNA BIARITZ ROLDAN
Staff writer

Radio personality Henry James “Hank” Ochs is a proud part of Ohlone’s radio station, 89.3 KOHL. Ochs is a 41 year old autistic who dreams of becoming an all-around professional. He has been in Ohlone since Sept. 2007 and has taken quite a number of broadcasting classes. Ochs has already received an On Air Talent Certificate and a Radio Studio Operator Certificate. He is currently taking the Radio Operations class with Tom Briseno and a Radio Broadcasting class with Steve Taylor. According to Ochs, despite passing with an A Taylor’s class, he is retaking it to improve his enunciation.

Ochs said, “[Ohlone classes] teach me well. I like it better here because when I was at Chabot they had term pots and carts [as opposed to the] wonderful computers they have here in Ohlone.”

Ochs is truly passionate about his dream and works hard at it. Briseno said, “There has never been anyone as dedicated, enthusiastic and focused as Hank. Radio is his life. He’s unique and he’s a good guy. We like him around here.” Ochs is so passionate about radio that he listed it as one of his top hobbies and interests along with music and baseball.

Ochs has a lot of experience in radio. He did everything he could to achieve his goals. Ochs was a promotion intern for 14 years in KYLD WiLD 94.9. He was also a part of known disc jockey, JV’s former morning show. The show was entitled The Dog House where Hank interviewed people, made some prank calls, and stunts. The show was terminated in April 2005 but Ochs continued on with his pursuit to become a radio personality.

He had the Lounging with Hammerin’ Hank Show where he did production pieces. Bob Dochterman said, “I think it’s appropriate to call him a novelty contributor [in that show.] but we think he can take on regular mainstream radio.” Dochterman added that “[Hank] represents another unique set of challenges [and] radio is probably the most severe environment for an autistic person.”

Ochs responded, “I’m kind of comfortable with it but sometimes it’s hard.”



Photo by Inez Black

Radio personality ‘Hammerin’ Hank’s’ motto: ‘Never give up.’

To keep up with his health issues, Ochs sees a doctor and is currently on a diet. He explained that being off the air for WiLD in Aug. 2008 made him depressed and he went on an eating spree.

Even Ochs was proud to say that he still went to KOHL and attended class regularly. He was happy, though, when JV brought him back on-air where listeners from all over San Francisco know him as The Worlds Most Lovable Autistic.

Ochs’s dream started when he was a young boy, even before he went to school. According to Briseno, “[Ochs] sister once told me that Hank used to pretend he was on-air on the radio while holding up a hair brush as his microphone.” Now Ochs is also the co-producer and host of the Hammerin’ Hank Music Video Show which shows Mondays at 9:30 p.m. on Comcast cable

channel 29 for Fremont, channel 27 for Newark, and soon to come in Hayward on channel 28.

Ochs admires many people; JV for inspiring him to do radio the correct way, Christie James and Jon Manuel for being so intelligent and Briseno who taught him all he knows on how to run boards on KOHL.

Ochs has already come a long way and will stop at nothing. He will continue to achieve his goals and will be on KOHL until someone officially hires him which he hopes will be soon.

He is hoping to be put on payroll from his current intern position at WiLD as soon as the economy stabilizes.

Ochs’s advice to everyone including those who have disabilities is “Never give up! Always work on your goals even if you’re autistic.”



Weighing Anchor

By ERIC DORMAN
Editor-in-chief

Don’t touch that tweet

We have seen the enemy. And he is 140 characters long.

Perhaps I should back up a bit. This column was never intended to be about text-messaging, or Twitter, or any permutation thereof. It was originally intended merely to be a carefully nuanced, brilliantly devised and painstakingly crafted masterpiece exploring the vestigial genesis of the crippling lack of productivity that humans in general, and students in particular, suffer from today.

Of course, it’s tough to get started on a tour de force like that right off the bat, so I figured I’d take a quick YouTube break first. And darned if after three hours of “fail” clips, old “Seinfeld” episodes and a really good “Charlie the Unicorn” remake, I still couldn’t figure out the answer.

So who knows? If there’s no answer, maybe the premise was wrong. If you think about it, we’re really very productive people. After all, the average American watches five hours of TV a day and 87 online videos per month; 200 million people worldwide have a Facebook, spending a combined 6,500 years on the site each day; YouTube, for its part, receives over 1 billion hits per day. And don’t count out Twitter: about 270,000 people send or receive tweets every month, an average of 80 per user.

At least we’re good at multi-tasking.

Perhaps you were under the impression that Facebook, MySpace, AIM and YouTube constituted the perfect storm of time-wasting accoutrements. If so, allow me to introduce FEMA. Twitter may not be the most ravenous of today’s time-devouring devices, but the ludicrousness of its governing concept is one that begs for ridicule. Why one would wish to receive continual text-message updates concerning the mundane details of the day-to-day lives of others, with a 140-character limit to eradicate any hope of a continuous narrative, is a concept so foreign to me that I was sure there had to be some hidden gem, some redeeming quality, about the service. In the name of research, I signed up for it, hoping that there was some magical quality about Twitter that transformed the boring, random day-to-day thoughts that (thankfully) remain unsaid in most of our daily lives into concise, profound truths that are worth reading and living by. Put simply: there isn’t.

I’m not here to indict our generation for being inherently lazy or possessing an inborn lack of focus; I think that even the most productive generation, faced with these conditions, would fall victim as well. Think Da Vinci. How would he act under the constraints of a 140 character limit? I can see the Tweet now: “at Mona’s smile. Can’t decide. :-) or :-(?”

Jazz act soothing the campus Friday

By DEVERY SHEFFER
Staff writer

Accomplished jazz guitarist, Jay Soto, will be performing at the Ohlone Smith Center this Friday at 8 p.m.

Soto was a finalist in one of the most well known and respected guitar competitions, Guitar Center’s “Guitarmageddon” competition. Since then he has released two albums with a third (having written all the 11 songs) on the way. His tunes

were featured on Sex and the City and the Weather Channel. He is well known in the Christian community as the former lead guitarist for the band Vessel. As a musician he brings more to the table than just his skills on the guitar. He grew up playing the

piano and drums; in 2004 he sang the Star Spangled Banner at a presidential rally at Memorial Coliseum in Phoenix, Arizona. Tickets can be purchased at the Box Office, tickets are 20\$ for students, 25\$ for adults and 15\$ for kids under 12.

Students deemed too risky for insurance

company, said, “At the company I worked for, there were a bunch of us in our 20’s... I worked with people who went snowboarding off the top of the mountain and other crazy stuff... People were getting hurt all the time, when they weren’t on the job... We all knew that we were not invincible, that insurance was important to everyone.”

Cara Buckley’s feature in The New York Times on uninsured young adults, published Feb 17, wrote, “They borrow leftover prescription drugs from friends, attempt to self-diagnose ailments online, stretch their diabetes and asthma medicines for as long as possible and set their own broken bones.”

Frantz added, “I had a friend still on probationary period [waiting to be eligible for insurance], and was windsurfing... he fell on something sharp, I guess, and really [injured] his ankle. It wouldn’t stop bleeding.

After a couple hours of rewrapping it and rewrapping it, it stopped; eventually I guess he was okay.”

Most jobs in the U.S. are created by small businesses; however, of the firms employing less than 25 employees, 41% of the young adults were uninsured, whether they worked full-time or part-time.

In addition, nationally, almost 60 percent of employers, who provided insurance, did not insure dependent children over age 18 or 19, if they do not attend college, based on the Commonwealth Fund report.

Frantz stated, “I’ve been without insurance plenty of times – whenever my husband or I, or both of us would lose our jobs, or not covered by the other’s.

While uninsured, if Frantz got sick, she said, “I’ve gone online and ordered a continuing prescription from Canada that I couldn’t get here as my health insurance had lapse.” She did without when a doctor

would not renew her prescription without an office visit.

“My new insurance will not kick-in for 90 days,” Frantz added. “Now I’m specifically only taking certain medicines that I need when I absolutely think I have to take them because I can’t afford to buy them without health insurance.”

Currently there is no federal legislation to stop the poor from “aging out” of the public health programs like Medicaid and SCHIP, by extending the age limit, as discussed by Kriss in the Commonwealth Fund Report. Colleges generally offer limited services or required health insurance for enrollment.

Over twenty states have passed legislation requiring health insurers to provide dependent status health insurance up to age 24 or 25, according to the Commonwealth Fund report.

Currently California does not require health insurers to continue

to offer dependent status to young adults after graduation from high school or age 18 or 19.

Although Wright believes that more needs to be done to help young adults, he feels that Representative Price’s bill, AB 29 “Health Care Coverage,” which passed the California Assembly on April 14, is a start.

It prohibits limiting the age for dependents for health insurance from being less than 27 years of age, and allows employees to continue coverage for dependents if they contribute the premium for the coverage. This is the first hurdle, as it still requires Senate passage, and the Governor’s signature.

The Commonwealth Fund report revealed that 66 percent of the young adults without insurance coverage during the last year, went without needed health care due to cost. Fifty percent reported difficulty paying bills or medical debt.