



Stone cold  
thinker

By NOAH  
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## Keepsakes found again

While flipping through a 40-year-old Webster's Dictionary I found a collection of wildflowers sloppily pressed in between the middle pages. I delicately removed the flowers. I could not help but wonder who had placed the flowers in the dictionary. I relish the discovery of the treasure of peoples past, placed and then forgotten on high bookshelves.

I once found a .22 caliber bullet beneath the carpet in my closet at my old apartment, left behind by a former occupant. I've had the privilege of looking through several boxes of glass photographic negatives from the 1906 earthquake in San Francisco and the flooding of Irvington that same year. Once while rooting through my parents' garage, I stumbled upon a box of old love letters and photos, and to my surprise learned that they were addressed to my father's first wife, previously unknown to me.

These little treasures are often of little or no monetary value, but possess sentimental value rivaling precious stones. Every family has some of these forgotten relics. Maybe they are your great-grandfather's baby pictures you once thought were lost in the move across the country. Perhaps your treasure is your mom's favorite Beatles album, or your Little League medal from fifth grade.

When cleaning the house, we can be tempted to toss some items whose nostalgic powers can seemingly be overcome. But it is only when you want to rush to your bookcase and find those old photos or that crappy medal and show it off that you remember you threw it out, and worse yet, you wish you had not done so.

I am not declaring that we should become consummate pack rats and hoard all objects with even a hint of meaning to us. What I am saying is these items — our high school rings, our embarrassing middle school yearbooks — are what we use to help tell our stories to friends and families. Not all of our memories can be contained on a hard drive, nor should they be collected solely in photo albums to collect dust in the garage.

Our precious little treasures can often hold value far beyond what we can imagine, and so it is important to be aware of what items from our lives truly stand out to us as objects that represent our personalities and where we come from. This is not an endorsement of blind consumerism, where we can proclaim vainly that the obnoxious Kanye glasses are an extension of our souls and personalities. Fashion is not who you are, but your family's heritage and keepsake can be a powerful force to remind us of where we come from, and where we might be going.

# Students donate to save Thumper

By DEVERY SHEFFER  
Staff writer

A fundraiser for an injured rabbit received an anonymous check for \$500 this past Tuesday. It is imperative for the survival of this animal that its infected eye be removed, a surgery costing approximately \$1,000. The Ohlone faculty have displayed their affection for this creature by donating a total of over \$800 so far.

Ohlone students Tseten Dolkar and Khushboo Chabria found the rabbit in the middle of the road Thursday night at 10 in Fremont's Warm Springs District near NUMMI. They said they came upon the rabbit by chance when they took a wrong turn on their way to get some food. They noticed that the white fur ball in the middle of the road did not move when they drove by it. Dolkar was hesitant but Chabria insisted that they check it out.

Upon finding the animal, they immediately noticed the damage and blood from the left eye. They called the non-emergency police line, which referred them to the Ohlone Wildlife Refuge, which was closed for the night. They attempted to find a vet that night but all the animal hospitals could offer was to euthanize the animal at that time.

The two girls choose to follow the



Photo courtesy of Tseten Dolkar

**Thumper, a rabbit found in the road bleeding from its left eye, needs students help to recover.**

instructions left on the Ohlone Wildlife Refuge answering machine; they put the rabbit in a box with no food or water and gave it a tee-shirt because it was shivering.

The following day, the rabbit, who they named Thumper after the Disney classic movie *Bambi*'s rabbit character, was taken to the American Animal Center on Fremont Boulevard after it was turned down by the Ohlone Wildlife Refuge because it

was a domestic animal.

"The veterinarian explained that because the eye was the only location of the injury, it was most likely due to human abuse," said Dolkar.

The vet also said that the animal had been starving for the past four weeks. When animals do not have food, their pancreas secretes a fluid causing bloating and indicating starvation.

The initial fees for medication

and X-rays cost about \$600. Friend and ASOC Vice President Kevin Feliciano charged this to his credit card.

In 2007 there were 1,880 reported animal cruelty cases; 25 percent of those were animals other than cats and dogs, according to the Humane Society of the United States website.

The Ohlone students put their heads together and came up with the idea of a fundraiser to provide the money for the surgery and to reimburse Feliciano. They sent out an e-mail to all Ohlone faculty members. "[Faculty support] has been overwhelming," said Dolkar.

Along with financial donations, people have offered homes for the rabbit and information on veterinarians who might remove the eye pro bono or at a discounted price.

Thumper is a white rabbit, and is currently on a diet of lettuce, alfalfa and timothy hay. He takes turns spending the night at the three rescuers' houses.

Dolkar said Thumper has been moving around a lot more in the past couple of days, and he is more active but still traumatized.

If you would like to make a donation, even a small one, in order to save Thumper, you can give your money to the Extended Opportunities Programs and Services (EOPS) window in Building One.

## No one bites the Chalkdust here

By ERIC DORMAN  
Editor-in-chief

"Everybody wants to be your friend/When you've got something you can give them." The Chalkdust band may be a little misunderstood, but between three guest performers, three bands and a tell-all Chalkdust documentary, they didn't fail to give their friends what they were asking for at last Friday's "Chalkdust and Friends" concert.

Some of the fare was mainstream and much of it was unusual, but all songs were popular with the packed house in NUMMI Theater. "You'll probably see more ukuleles in one place tonight than you ever had before," said English Professor and Chalkdust co-founder Mark Brosamer of the five ukuleles present at the show. "You're welcome."

After kicking off the night with Brosamer and the other half of Chalkdust, Math Professor Jeff O'Connell, delivering a rousing performance of Better Than Ezra's "A Little Misunderstood," the two band members, never lacking a sense of humor, screened an exclusive "documentary" chronicling Chalkdust's rise to the Ohlone spotlight. The film—which both claimed to never have seen, despite the fact that the narrator's vocal intonations bore a certain resemblance to O'Connell's timbre, revealed a dark side of the band that would have shamed Michael Moore.

As the film progressed, individual interviews with Brosamer and O'Connell revealed a less amicable relationship between the two than one might otherwise have believed. Brosamer, O'Connell explained, just really wasn't someone he got

along with; in fact, he disliked his fellow teacher's presence so much that he voiced the willingness to be "in any band that Mark isn't in. I mean, if the devil had a band and Hitler was the drummer, I'd join," said O'Connell. But not with Brosamer.

Not to be outdone, Brosamer, for his part, got in some digs of his own. "You know when you go to the dentist, and they floss you really hard?" he said. "That's what it's like working with Jeff."

Despite the personality conflicts between Brosamer and O'Connell, the film went on to explain, the immense talent of the two performers was soon attracting mammoth audiences, filling stadiums all over the country. Sadly, though, personal issues tore the band apart, reducing its performance itinerary to only one show per year, at Ohlone.

Even with their professed dislike of each other out in the open, however, O'Connell and Brosamer pushed on bravely with the show.

In an effort to connect with the student body, Brosamer chose a song featuring "hip-hops and things like that," which in this case turned out to be Katy Perry's "I Kissed A Girl." The song's subject matter and the fact that Brosamer was singing it turned out to be mildly problematic, and some of the lyrics required adjustments accordingly, such as omitting the chorus's "it felt so wrong" line.

Brosamer did well throughout the first half of the song, considering its intended vocal range, when he came to an abrupt halt. He objected to the fact that he didn't know the name of the girl in question, explaining, "I knew the names of both girls I

kissed. First and last."

From Brosamer's foray into hip-hop came from more traditional fare. After O'Connell and his father, Dan, played two traditional Irish guitar/accordion duets, Transfer Center Specialist Frances Fon delivered soaring vocal performances of Allison Krauss's "When You Say Nothing At All" and Jason Mraz's "Lucky."

From there, Ohlone student and YouTube celebrity Shawn Megofna took the stage. "He has a video that has 400,000 views," Brosamer explained by way of introduction. "We have a video that has 42."

"We're catching up," added O'Connell.

Megofna, whose YouTube videos include not only vocals, ukulele, guitar and piano renditions of popular music but also his own originals, played two such original pieces. The first, "Paper Girl," he explained, was only recently composed, meaning that the audience was the first to hear it. Accompanied on the guitar, he sang of a man who sees a girl in a magazine and falls in love: "Had to unsubscribe/Turn pages into real life." The song had a strong rhythm, but a melancholy air.

More upbeat was Megofna's next number, "Addicting," this time performed on ukulele. Megofna explained the song's title: "You can be addicted to a lot of things, including love. You know, that feeling you get when you first start a relationship."

Megofna left the stage after his performances, but the ukulele theme remained. Brosamer and his band, "Animal 54," provided a rousing round of ukulele, bass and keyboard music, with provocative

lyrics like "I got a ukulele, now I'm not afraid."

Not to be outdone, O'Connell brought his own band, "Volume Control," to the stage, banishing the ukuleles and bringing rock 'n roll back to the forefront with hits like Reba McEntire's "Why Haven't I Heard From You" and "Love Shack," by the B-52's.

It was then, with the house still warm from the vibes of "Love Shack," that O'Connell and Brosamer decided to officially reconcile their differences. "That stuff [in the film] was taken out of context," said Brosamer. "I like being flossed. It's healthy and cleansing." They sealed their newfound friendship with Pat Benatar's "We Belong," with both members of Chalkdust teaming up to play the chorus on one guitar.

There to close out the show were Ohlone's own Ukulele Renegades, joining forces with Brosamer (also on ukulele) to perform "Love Hurts" by Nazareth, a plaintive tune with somewhat depressing lyrics: "Some fools think of happiness/ Blissfulness, togetherness/ Some fools fool themselves I guess/ They're not foolin' me."

Following Chalkdust tradition, O'Connell and Brosamer concluded the show with a rousing rendition of Sonny and Cher's "I Got You Babe." O'Connell explained the choice: "This is a song that Mark and I didn't write, but we feel like we should have." O'Connell sang Sonny's lines masterfully, capturing the singer's nasal delivery precisely.

Brosamer brought the show to a close with an age-old question. "Why do I always have to be Cher?"



## They've got sole: dance with a purpose

By NAZIA MASTAN  
Staff writer

Have you ever wanted to watch Ohlone's dance classes perform what they've learned throughout the semester? Well, here is your chance. Director Janel Tomblin-Brown presents the 11th annual "Soul to Sole" in the Jackson Theater Thursday, April 30, at 8 p.m. through Saturday May 2.

Tomblin-Brown, a veteran dancer herself, presents the audience with a note in the show's program, "As dancers, our art is expressed through our body and we let our soul inspire our movement."

The dance students in the show, instructors and directors have com-

plied a performance that presents four sets of dances that represent the highs and lows of a soul's journey. The first is "The Soul Dances."

"We dance to satisfy our soul, usually in joy, sometimes not," said Tomblin-Brown.

This set includes upbeat dances to the crooning of Britney Spears in her song "Circus" as well as "Tengo Que Bailar" by Magalena and Sergio Mendes, in which the performers dance to the Latin duo's romantic beat.

The second set of dances are entitled "The Souls Progression."

The dances are about times of great despair, loss, or confusion, times that the soul uses to mature and progress to greater understand-

ing, peace and gratitude."

In this compilation of performances, John Mayer's "Slow Dancing in a Burning Room" is danced to with dramatic movements that are set in motion to inspire a deeper understanding of human emotion.

After a brief intermission, the third set of dances are the presentations of "The Lack of Soul." "You know these people, they have no remorse, no presence."

"Trapped" by Hemadja Amadra a feature of Cirque Du Soleil is adapted into the college's performers motions, as well as "Weird Science" portraying the revolt of android-like robots overpowering their lab coat-wearing creators.

The last set of dances that are

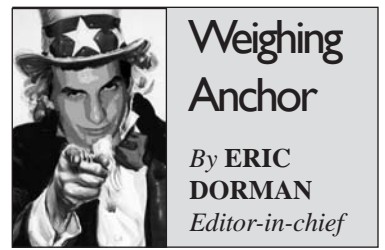
presented in "Soul to Sole" explicate "The Soul in Limbo;" "At the end of life's journey, the soul must make a choice to go to the light, but it's not always easy to use."

A compilation of rhythms and beats provide the backdrop for soul-searching dancers.

Music like Twilight's "Nomads and the Light" and "The Crossing" is presented in this final set of performances in the Spring Show.

"Soul to Sole" features Ohlone's finest dancers in their renditions of movements to ballads that induce some soul-searching of our own.

Tickets are on sale at the Box Office. Call (510) 659-6031 or go to [www.ohlone.edu/org/smithcenter/box.html](http://www.ohlone.edu/org/smithcenter/box.html) to purchase them.



## Spoon-fed democracy

It was Tuesday, and I had just stepped out of math class and onto the Quad. The sun was dazzling after the musty darkness of 6205, and my left brain facilities, atrophied by years of liberal arts, were reeling under the repeated blows of arithmetic adversaries like parametric equations and the polar coordinate plane. Halfway across the Quad, though, somewhere through the math-induced haze, my frontal lobe registered a lone stimulus.

Pizza.

It appeared to be free, so I made my way toward the source. Casting a ballot in the ASOC election appeared to be a prerequisite for gaining my allotment, so I dutifully filled out a ballot. It wasn't until I was halfway down the stairs, the chemical goodness of the pepperoni beginning to dispel my cranium's mathematical contaminants, that I began to wonder—why does it take a slice of pizza to get people like me to vote?

In Iraq, Afghanistan, Algeria and developing democracies all over the world, people risk their lives to cast a ballot. All over the world, people have all sorts of causes that drive them to vote—social equality, better education, a better future. And here on our City on the Hill, the burning desire that drives us all to cast that vote for change is...a slab of Pizza Hut's finest.

I don't mean to suggest that a vote in the ASOC election is going to change anyone's life. After all, none of the candidates were contested, rendering the verdict somewhat of a moot point. However, as much as I enjoyed my slice, I think bribing the vote with food simply doesn't make sense.

Don't get me wrong—I love free food, and were I a member of the ASOC, the entire year's operating budget would be devoted to complementary Palm Bosque barbecues (not including the \$25,000 allocated for a *Monitor* helipad installation). But for our student government—intended to allow us college students our first look at a personal democracy—to offer students incentives of any sort to cast a vote simply sends the wrong message. It tells us that voting is about the instant reward for participation, rather than the long-term rewards that smart voting choices bring. The fact that national voter turnout has been on the decline for the past 50 years is no accident—somehow, we've got into the mindset that unless we receive some sort of instant gratification, voting just isn't worth our time. That decline may not be the ASOC's fault, but the pizza isn't helping.

Here in America, voting is a right and a responsibility. It shouldn't have to be spoon-fed to us.

## Gallery sheds light on students' art

By ANNA BIARITZ ROLDAN  
Staff writer

The Ohlone College Student Fine Art and Design Show is now open for viewing. The gallery showcases all the winning entries from students of miscellaneous fine arts and design classes here at Ohlone. The contest was closed April 9 and numerous artworks were awarded.

According to Kenney Mencher, Director of the Louie Meager Art Gallery, it took two weeks to set up the show, which included hanging competition entries, judging, labeling artworks and putting together a catalog for the show.

It was a lot of work, and according to Mencher, "There were a bunch of really dedicated students who did most of the work."

The Ohlone College Student Fine Art and Design Show has been going on as long as Ohlone has been around. It was started by Dave McLaughlin and Tom Harland, both of whom are retired, along with Cindy Luckoski when they opened the art department in the 1960s.

Entries for the show were judged by the entire Faculty of the art department. According to Mencher, each instructor had five stickers that they placed next to the art they found outstanding based on the "strength" of each piece in terms of how it appeared as an image, two dimensional or three dimensional. He also said, "...there was the idea that we wanted to see how good the craft was, how well each [piece of art was] made, and was the overall quality consistent with what we are trying to teach in our classes."

This year there were 485 entries and 200 were chosen. Mencher said, "Anyone who gets in the show is a winner in my book." There were three top winners from each of the 10 categories: painting, drawing, interior design, photographic design, computer graphics, art historical references, sculpture and 3D design, ceramics, and glass. First place winners get an award certificate and a cash prize of \$150. First and second runner-ups receive \$75 and \$50. The curtains close on the show at the end of May.



Photo courtesy of Kenney Mencher

**Student Peng Xu's 'Self-Portrait,' on charcoal will be featured in the Student Art Show.**

## Comics to spread giggles across Ohlone

By ZUNERA SYED  
Staff writer

Comedians from all around the Bay Area will perform at comedy night on May 1. The performance will be put on by Ohlone's Forensics Team and will take place in Room 2133 at 7:30 p.m.

Comedy Night was started and will be hosted by Sammy Obeid, who is part of the Forensics Team. Obeid is an after dinner speaker who takes up an informative or persuasive topic and makes it humorous. Obeid is currently a professional stand-up comic and will emcee the event. Professional stand-up

comedians will be volunteering and helping with this fundraiser.

The cost to attend Comedy Night is \$5 and all proceeds will go to Ohlone's Forensics Team.

In addition to the Forensics Team putting on Comedy Night, they took second place at the California Community College Forensics As-

sociation state championships in March. The tournament featured 16 community colleges from across the state. The team won two gold medals, five silver medals, and three bronze medals. This accomplishment allowed five team members to attend the Phi Ro Pi national tournament in Illinois.

## Poetic voices fill not-so-silent library

By SEAN NERO  
Staff writer

Students, staff and faculty piled into the library for Ohlone's 8th annual poetry reading last Thursday.

The event, hosted by English Professor Robert Mitchell, featured both student-created poetry and video interpretations of poems, as well as poetry set to music.

Mitchell kept the pace by sharing poems between every few speakers.

Poems recited at the event ranged from funny to sad and everything in-between.

Some students presented their

own innovative poems while others chose to present someone else's poem in a different light.

Ohlone student Chris Rogers did the latter; he presented a video interpretation of Oison Fogarty's poem "Le Parkour."

Rogers said that "this was a project for English poetry class."

He also said that he chose this poem because he has been "doing Parkour for six months and finds it fun, relaxing and a stress reliever."

English major Annaliese Gomez wrote and presented an original piece titled "Decline."

Her poem focused on happenings

in the music industry throughout time.

Gomez said the idea for her poem, which she said took an hour to write, came from "listening to music and taking words and phrases from... songs and melding them into my own thing."

Another student who wrote an original piece was Business and Administration major Justin Hamady. Hamady wrote his poem titled "To Momma" in only 10 minutes.

Hamady said he was "inspired by his mother to write the poem," which had a very upbeat vocal pattern to it.

Poems weren't limited to only

students as Speech and Communications professor Kay Harrison also recited a speech.

Harrison also spoke on an upcoming opportunity for students to come recite speeches and poems in front of a larger audience through the "spring fling" event.

Harrison said the event is "through the Northern California Forensics Association and will feature students from 15 to 20 two and four year colleges and universities coming to Ohlone to try out for their schools speech teams."

The "spring fling" event will be held May 2.