



Art based on 'Rabbit Hole'

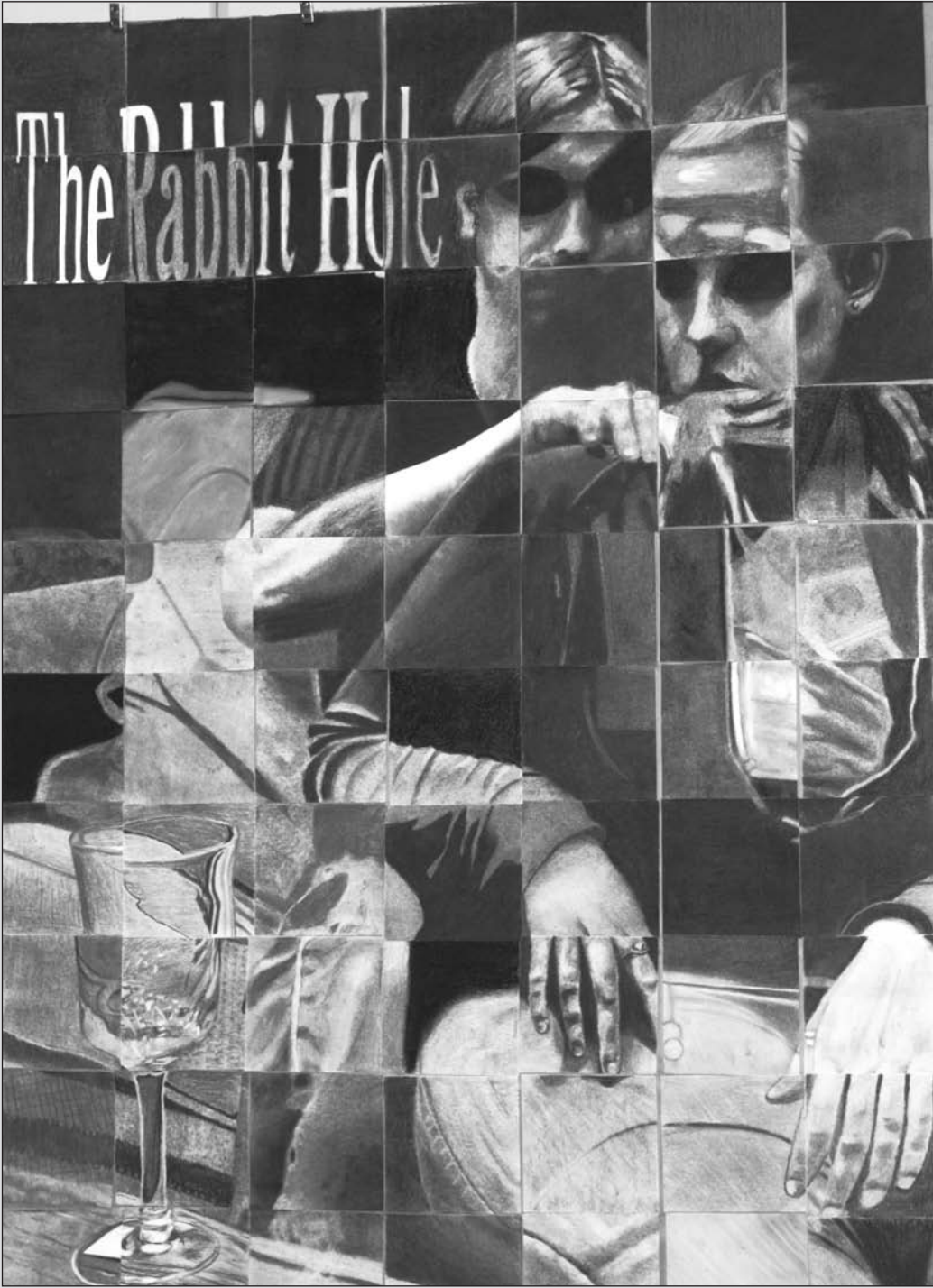


Photo by Manal Bejaoui

This collage created by students in Kenny Mencher's art class is one of several planned projects to complement the fall drama production of "The Rabbit Hole," scheduled to be presented next month. See story on Page 1.

Are you smarter than a 6th grader?

By MANIKA CASTERLINE
Opinions editor

Facebook is a staple among most college students and tech saavy faculty. It has become the unofficial go-to source for knowing whether your friend is "in a relationship" or not. And sometimes it is where you can make or break a reputation.

The science seminar "How Sixth Grade Math Keeps Your Facebook Password Safe: RSA Encryption: What Is It and How Does it Work?" will be presented on Oct. 16 in the Jackson Theatre from 1:15 to 2:05 p.m.

O'Connell said he will address the role that math plays in our society's password-secured lives. And the encoding that protects is based on long division. Like sixth grade math.

"There is a lot of math that is going on that you don't even realize that you are using," said Professor O'Connell.

"I think that when we are going to school and trying to be educated you



Jeff O'Connell

need to wonder about things. I want people to wonder about things."

O'Connell's previous science lectures have overflowed large lecture halls, so early arrival to the Jackson Theatre is recommended.

The next science seminar will held on Nov. 20 from 1:15 to 2:05 p.m. in Room 3201 and is entitled "Hang Gilding in the Real World."

Board discusses class cuts

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on the forefront of technology and facilities that Ohlone students are to be prepared for.

And interim solution, five to ten years, for the Fremont campus is the proposed use of modular, prefabricated buildings to serve as lab facilities. Director of Facilities

Lucky Lofton supported this idea as the best for the time being, until permanent facilities could be finished.

Trustee Bill McMillin, present via teleconference, said his his health was improving, and might even make the next meeting.

'Rain Man' to be shown

"Rain Man," the 1988 movie about a gifted savant with amazing skills in mathematics and memory, starring Dustin Hoffman, will be shown free today at 4:30 p.m. in the Jackson Theater.

Kim Peek, the real savant who

was the subject of "Rain Man," will speak on campus Friday, Oct. 30 at 7 p.m. in the Jackson Theatre. General admission will be \$10.

Both are sponsored by the Ohlone College Psychology Club, with help from the ASOC.

The curriculum process produces courses

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The committee can vote to put up a class for approval. Two students from Associated Students of Ohlone College are elected for a two-year term on the council and have a vote in the discussion.

"Students underestimate how powerful their voices are," said Ahnholz. She got involved in the committee several years ago as has been involved ever since. The meeting is open to anyone who wishes to take more interest in their school or even just get more experience in the workings of government.

ASOC also places students on other committees around the school, partly to meet "shared governance" requirements in the state education code. After the course is designed and voted on, the course outline is sent to the dean for approval.

The course is then put through a relatively new computer program called Curricunet. Started in 2002, Ohlone is the second community college to adopt the system. In the state of California, more and more community colleges are using the system. Ohlone is hosting a Curricunet fair this month for users in an attempt to streamline training for faculty.

"Some people find it cumbersome and difficult to use," said Sherman. "I find it a little cumbersome but definitely useful."

The online program saves a mountain of paperwork and combines the approval process and shows the state guidelines all in one. Another faculty member said the program is more complicated than it needs to be.

Sherman said, "I'd like to see it

become as easy to use as Amazon or Netflix."

After the new course has been run through Curricunet, it is then added to Web Advisor, the program that Ohlone students are familiar with. It is useful to students in that they can view all the courses and degrees offered without having an account or having to log in.

After all the paperwork and everything else, the class is up and running. Every six years the class comes up for reevaluation.

To make things a little more organized, each class is sorted into a category. Sometimes courses are reorganized into new departments. Then new degrees and certificates are offered. All this is subject to change, depending on new requirements from the chancellor's office, or revisions in transfer standards at

four-year schools.

Students do have a voice in the creation of new classes. For instance, if a student would like a class created, the place to start is within the department. Speaking to a teacher can possibly get the teacher interested enough to attempt to get the class going. The process is a long and arduous one, but it can worthwhile.

The difference in curriculum between the community colleges is very marginal as both are certified and must follow the set guidelines, according to Mike Bowman, dean of Institutional Research and Curriculum. The community colleges work much the same way, but the procedures may be slightly different. Community colleges work to create courses that are accepted for transfer by four-year schools, Bow-

man said. He works with the CSU and UC systems to create classes that can work for the both of them. Classes that are non-transferable can count toward elective credits. But some are just for fun or extra practice.

Online courses are becoming more popular, Bowman said. They are more convenient for students, and sometimes students think they sound easier. For many of the courses that is not the case.

Many online classes are more work because a written paper will take the place of a class discussion, and it is easier to procrastinate and not turn in homework. "Motivated students will do good with those courses," said Sherman. More online classes are being approved each year. "We look for good content," said Ahnholz, "and objectives that are measurable. The most important thing is to learn something that is useful to life."

This is just a simplified explanation of curriculum overview. To get more information, contact Rachel Sherman at rsherman@ohlone.edu or go to Room NC2116. You can also go to www.cccco.edu or asccc.org and look at the curriculum guidelines.

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