

BRIEFS

As we head into a divisive election season, **Todd Estes** provides an insight into the process.

What is it about contemporary art that delights or upsets so many people? **Dick Goody** should know. He is a modern artist, curator, and teacher.

Were we always meant to have religion? Where does it come from? **Jim Dow** has put together contemporary thinking from an anthropological viewpoint

Jim Graham looks back to a turbulent era at Oakland and other institutions in the early '70s.

Almost in parallel with Dick Goody's analysis of contemporary art, is the question of student evaluations of teaching. Opinions are abundant, and vary widely. In our Forum on Student Evaluation of Teaching (SETs), **David Doane** is pro, **Larry Lilliston** has reservations, **Max Brill** provides some history, and **Sherm Folland** adds his personal account from the *Dismal Science* perspective.

It is always good to hear the views of an outside observer on Oakland such as **David McGuire**, a visiting Fulbright lecturer from Ireland, who spent a year at Oakland.

Geoff Brieger presents a satirical view of some of the foibles of a University in "Pierce the Pig". Satire is really the cheapest kind of writing. It is always done at someone else's expense.

Peter Bertocci, **Charles Mabee**, and **Brian Murphy** all viewed Mel Gibson's "Passion of Christ". Here is what they had to say about it.