



**Jessica
Losee**

Court plays game of 'Texas Hold'em'

An article from the Associated Press reported on Jan. 6 that a Texas man was sentenced to a mere four months in prison for killing his wife.

Yet, the real bugger is that he received 15 years for wounding her lover.

According to the article, Jimmy Dean Watkins from Fort Worth, shot and killed his estranged wife, Nancy, in 1998 and also shot at her boyfriend, Keith Fontenot. Watkins was found guilty of killing his wife, but the jury felt that he had acted with "sudden passion" when he discovered that she had been with Fontenot and thus should not be sentenced heavily. The jury decided to give Watkins 10 months of probation, which allowed the judge to give a maximum of six months in jail, yet he sentenced Watkins to only four.

The article stated that Texas defines "sudden passion" as "being so overcome by rage, resentment or fear that the defendant is 'incapable of cool reflection.'"

The Court of Criminal Appeals ex parte report states that on Dec. 21, 1998 Nancy Watkins made her husband move out of the house. That same day Fontenot moved in with her and her two children. "Through various telephone calls, [the] appellant discovered that Keith and Nancy had made love that night on the living room floor with the children upstairs."

The next day, Watkins called his wife and told her that he was going to kill her, Fontenot, and himself. Moments later he walked into the house, with the phone at his ear and a gun in his hand. He passed Fontenot in the living room, went to the kitchen and shot Mrs. Watkins twice, injuring her, and then shot Fontenot who had followed him into the kitchen. Watkins then fled the scene, pursued by Fontenot who collapsed while chasing him.

In something I would not describe as a "sudden passion" Watkins returned to the house and then shot his wife again several times, finally killing her.

It baffles me that when a man murders his wife, some people will find a way to diminish his culpability. The jury reasoned that exacting revenge on a man presumably sleeping with your wife is far worse than killing a wandering spouse.

Sometimes the world seems to be filled with little common sense, as in this case. Hopefully Jimmy Dean Watkins will understand the seriousness of his crimes while he serves his sentences, despite the questionable reasoning of the Texan jury.



Photos by Shari Wargo

Michelle Adler screams in a class exercise for acting class.

Ex-student talks about careers in the entertainment business

By **FRANKIE ADDIEGO**
Staff writer

Ohlone College is well known for its performing arts department, and many of its alumni go on to successful careers in entertainment and art. One such former student is Wendy Holt, who, after leaving Ohlone, went on to work in casting. She has worked with some of Hollywood's best-known casting directors, such as Rick Millikan and Mary Jo Slater.

Holt's many credits include the TV pilot *Dark Shadows* as well as the hit *"Star Trek VI."* On the latter, she worked with Leonard Nimoy and William Shatner. They were both wonderful, she said. Holt is also the cousin of Taylor Hackford, director of the Oscar-nominated *Ray*.

Holt says that she got into acting to, "find out how actors were cast." While there are a number of different factors leading up to landing a particular role, one of the main factors is the connections a given actor or actress may have.

"Networking is primary," said Holt, "it's who you know." She also said that auditioning for a part when you don't quite fit the part is sometimes worth a shot, but it makes the chances slimmer.

On Wednesday, Holt spoke to Mark Nelson's Introduction to Acting class. The session started out with a speech by the casting director. She covered the casting process, as well as auditioning and the difference between stage acting and film acting. "I thought it was a very good presentation," said student Charles Olson, "she was very down to Earth."

After her talk, the class did vocal exercises and mock auditions. The auditions ranged from dialogue to a frightened scream. Student Dan Shively said, "I have no acting experience whatsoever, so anything she had to say was of great use to me."

Holt may return for the 10th anniversary of Ohlone's Smith Center complex next year. Having worked in the field of casting, she leaves the acting students with these



Photo by Shari Wargo

Casting expert Wendy Holt gives advice to would-be stars.

words of advice: "Never turn down an opportunity."



Photo by Shari Wargo

Kamran Arabi screams for the camera in an audition exercise.

Russian novel picked for Book Club

By **MEENU KAUSHAL**
Staff writer

This March, the Ohlone Book Club will read and discuss a Russian novel that remains almost as controversial today as it was when it was published in 1862.

The generational conflict portrayed in Ivan Turgenev's novel "Fathers and Sons" involves a story about two graduate students who return home with a disdain for the establishment and clash with family members over intellectual ideals.

Turgenev was considered one of Russia's foremost novelists. He was also a dramatist and short story writer who demonstrated an ability to masterfully depict complex psychosocial relationships between everyday people.

Dr. Paul Belasky, geology instructor, who will lead the dis-

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Photo by Neeraj Gupta

ussion, chose this novel because it portrays the universal and eternal generation gap between fathers and sons so poignantly.

Belasky, a native of Russia, said he feels that this is Turgenev's finest novel and a mirror of Russian culture.

For more information, students can visit www.ohlone.edu/org/misc/bookclub, or contact librarian K.G. Greenstein at (510) 659-6000 ext. 5272 or email kgreenstein@ohlone.edu.

Paperback versions of the Oxford edition translated by Richard Freeborn are available for purchase in the library.

Those interested in joining the book club may ask for the book at the Reference/Information Desk.

The discussion is free and open to all students, staff, and faculty. The price of the book is \$6.50, cash only.

"Students should come for a different experience of learning interesting facts by listening to different opinions about the book," said Greenstein.

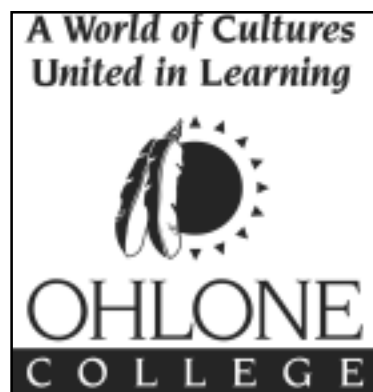
New logo debuts for Ohlone

By **JESSICA LOSEE**
Staff writer

The Ohlone College logo has been freshly redesigned to better reflect the campus heritage of the Ohlone Indians, who inhabited the Bay Area prior to the arrival of the Spanish in mid 1500s, and act as a symbol of various cultures within the college.

Ohlone College President Douglas Treadway felt that the older logo, a green rectangle with "Ohlone College" written in bold print, did nothing to show what the school is about.

Dr. Treadway and Public Information Officer of College Relations, Patrice Birkedahl, worked together with designer Steve Allen of Allen Graphics in Fremont to find the perfect emblem for the school.



The new logo, a sun with two feathers was exactly what Treadway was looking for. "I wanted something to reflect the heritage of the college, the Ohlone people," said Treadway.

Originally, the idea was Treadway's. But it took several months of relaying designs and changing certain aspects of it before the logo was finally complete.

He feels it is a symbol of the heightened environmental awareness within the college, among other things, and a pictorial representation of the diversity both students and staff aim for.

The sun with two feathers is meaningful; the rays of the sun represent the universal symbol of a compass.

"I think it will also help us to tell [the school's] story and it is our identity," said Treadway. "It is important to me to express ourselves."

Firebird Youth Orchestra to play at Ohlone

The Fremont Symphony Orchestra will honor the Bay Area's Chinese community with a musical celebration at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 6 at the Smith Center.

The guest orchestra invited to perform at this event is the Firebird Youth Chinese Orchestra, directed by Gordon Lee. This performance is part of the Fremont Symphony's "Family Concert Series," which promotes World music and dance.

Tickets are \$6-12. For more information, please visit them at: www.fremontsymphony.org or call (510) 794-1659.



Photo by Inez Black

Tom Blank and Vicki Curtis will represent Ohlone College at the conference.

Teachers going to New York conference on innovation

By **TASHIN KAHN**
Staff writer

Two Ohlone instructors will attend the League for Innovations Convention in New York City to participate in a worldwide conference aimed at improving organizational learning through innovations, experiments and institutional transformations.

Tom Blank and Vicki Curtis combined ESL students and a Survey of Acting Techniques class a (TD118), with the idea of video taping the class from beginning to end to demonstrate the progress made by the students for presentation at the conference March 6 through 9.

"I am very excited, and it's a very new experience for non-English speaking students," said Blank. His class is specifically designed to help students who do not speak English as a first language, by giving simple linguistic exercises such as "toy boat" and "red leather, yellow leather."

Curtis has been teaching for 26 years, with a career that spans from elementary school to college. "Ohlone is a great place to work, I have worked in many different places, and this is a great place," said Curtis.

"The ESL students are facing, the steps they have to take, like the steps we have to use everyday to get towards our classes, are greater for ESL students to accomplish for their goal," said Blank.

Doing ceramics is like working with the earth

By **FRANKIE ADDIEGO**
Staff writer

For centuries, mankind has taken lumps of earth and molded it to suit his purposes, both artistic and utilitarian.

Over the years, this process has evolved into an art form known as ceramics. At Ohlone, courses in ceramics allow students to experience the thrill of creating their own works of art from clay.

One of Ohlone's rising stars is ceramics instructor Bryan Higgins, who teaches students to do just that. "He's a good teacher," said student Chai Ng.

Higgins teaches what is more-or-less a "survey course" in ceramics. "Students can go in a more functional direction or in a more sculptural direction," said Higgins.

Higgins' class is conducted along with the other ceramics courses in Room 4204, which was custom built to teach ceramics. There are tables for students to work on and sinks for them to wash up in. Right outside the room is an area that has kilns, both gas and electric, which turn the clay into ceramic material.

Higgins, who has been teaching at Ohlone for over three years, also operates his own studio in Berkeley with two other artists. He moved to his current studio about two years ago, after three years at another studio, also in Berkeley. The studio is located in a complex known as "The Dome," which was founded by Peter Voukos many years ago and is the workplace of many artists.

"We can never escape," he said jokingly, "until we make great works of art." Higgins' influences

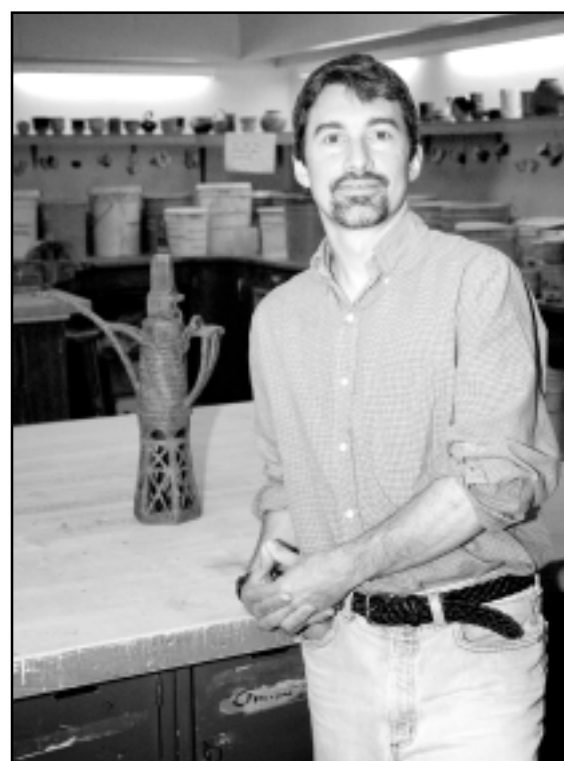


Photo by Daniel Kwan

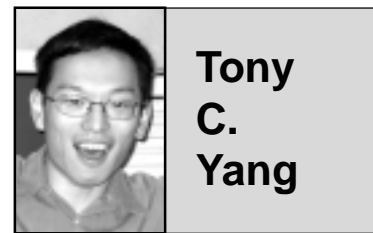
Ceramic Arts instructor Bryan Higgins stands with one of his pieces.

include; industrial architecture, religious architecture, historical pots, successful pots and bowls and Chinese bronzes.

A graduate of Syracuse University, Higgins also expressed an admiration for glass sculpture. He insists that he likes to think "outside the box," for ideas.

His next show will be in Baltimore, and he will participate in the annual East Bay Open Studios which will feature several different local artists in Oakland's Jack London Square from April 28 to June 12.

"I think one of the exciting things about sculpting and working with clay is that I'm working with the earth, so it's very satisfying for me," said Higgins. "A lot of the people who take ceramics share the same experience."



Tony C. Yang

San Francisco: City of Picasso and protest

I was walking around San Francisco last weekend, and the sound of angry women and men hit me like a 2x4. I had just emerged from the Powell Street BART station, and was on my way to catch a free hip-hop exhibition at the SF MOMA, when I came across a couple thousand protesters in the streets. Chants of "Ban Bush," echoed in the chilly air.

Immediately, I noticed that several of the signs were duplicates of the ones held up just two days before along President Bush's inauguration route in Washington D.C. "Worst President Ever," read one particularly bombastic placard, along with a primate-like picture of him in stark black and white. Someone with a voice reminiscent of Fran Drescher (from "The Nanny") shouted into a loudspeaker "My body, my choice!" whipping the crowd into a frenzy.

Cops in riot gear encircled the slow-moving congregation, looking bored. The cold Pacific wind seemed to force the crowd closer together, as if solidarity was as simple as staying warm.

A crew of protest organizers were busy blowing up helium balloons emblazoned with pro-choice slogans, handing them out to babies in strollers and gay couples alike- but not to rubber-necking passersby. Apparently, I was not privy to their little counterculture event because they never offered me one, even though I waited in line.

I spotted the typical protest accouterments: buttons, signs and bullhorns, but the brass band and surrounding legion of SFPD were novelties. Leading the decidedly left-leaning anti-war/NARAL masses were a dozen San Francisco police officers on BMX-style motorbikes.

If their uniforms were made of raggedy biker-leather and Market Street was a landmine-filled desert, it would've been a scene out of "Mad Max." Sadly, it wasn't, and as I passed the final block of protesters, I glimpsed four paddy wagons crawling behind the throngs, prepared for any possible outbursts of violence.

After that unexpected but pleasant mob encounter, I made my way down Third Street and sought refuge in art. The SF MOMA charges \$6 for college students with ID, and though that may seem like a lot, considering the typical Ohlone student's financial straits, I say it is still well worth a visit.

Next to the Picassos, you can get a latté, a gourmet sandwich and crème brûlée at the Café adjacent to the museum for around \$10. First-rate food and fine art, even with a protest thrown in; it was a masterpiece of a daytrip.

For more info please check out their website at: sfmoma.org