Howard DeWitt publishes his 20th book

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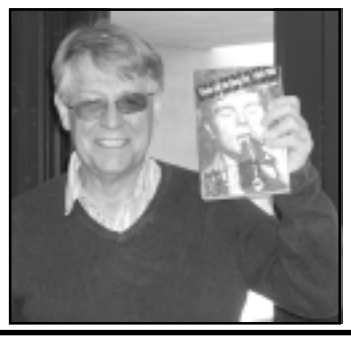

Mencher art on president's office walls

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Basketball team beats rival Chabot

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OHLONE COLLEGE MONITOR

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Egret remembered in statue

Photo by Daniel Kwan

This statue of an egret placed in the pond near the bus stop recalls the great egret which flew from the pond into a window of Building 1 last semester. The bird was taken to a wildlife rescue center, where it was treated and eventually died.

Deportation of instructor is delayed

By **TONY C. YANG**
Staff writer

Facing the real possibility of deportation, Ohlone instructional aide Gerry Dulalia was given a temporary reprieve on Tuesday morning in San Francisco Immigration Court.

"This is what we call in our business a 'miracle,'" said Marcia I. Perez, Dulalia's lawyer. She will be conducting informal discussions with the government to permanently ensure his American residency. "I think he's an asset to the United States, and he should definitely not be removed," she said. The 39-year-old Dulalia works in Ohlone's ASL lab, and interprets for deaf and deaf-blind students.

With family, friends, lawyer and even Dominican priests by his side, Dulalia had been ready for a court battle over his right to stay in the United States. Before his hearing , he was very nervous.

"I'm extremely tense," he said. "I don't know what will happen to me." Afterward, he said he felt better, but was still "worried."

Dulalia was rightfully worried, because of strict new U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) regulations that made him ineligible for U.S. Citizenship.

Dulalia did not receive a conclusive verdict in his request for asylum for humanitarian reasons. Instead, the government – under the auspices of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) ICE– opted for negotiations to settle the matter outside of court.

This is an "unexpected" development in the case, said Perez. "We fully expected to go to trial, but then this happened." Perez, Dulalia's family attorney, is a senior associate at Allen and Associates, which has been the family lawyer for over ten years.

The good news is, "Gerry won't be deported today," Perez said. She is adamant about getting Dulalia's case dropped, but circumstances are out of her control. She said, "Right now, the decision is in limbo until the government makes

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Plans advance to lease Ohlone surplus land for housing, retail

By **JESSICA LOSEE**
Staff writer

Last Wednesday, the Ohlone College Board of Trustees declared another 15 acres of land on campus as surplus to be sold or leased for various uses.

This brings to 34 acres declared as surplus by trustees. Included is a strip of land suitable for retail development along Mission Boulevard in front of the school, and some land the south side of the school cannot be of any possible use to the school, as decided by the Board of Trustees.

If the school was expanded in the frontage property, traffic would become even more of a hindrance and the southern plots of surplus property are under power lines and under various gas-lines and other utilities. Due to the power lines and other obstacles, the school could not possibly use the southern property, but contractors could for other uses.

The surplus property will either be leased out or sold to contractors for high-end developments, such as Andronico's and Whole Foods Market grocery stores, which could possibly be used as an anchor business, surrounded by other small businesses in a strip, said President Doug Treadway.

Some of the surplus property

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Biotechnology talk Friday

Laurie Issel-Tarver of Stanford University will speak on biotechnology and its effects on medicine, science and ethics in a Brown Bag Seminar Friday, Feb. 4, from 1 to 2 p.m. in Room 3201. Refreshments will be available.

Future seminars include:

- Chemistry Demonstrations by Jim Klent on March 4,
- "Polar Bears of Manitoba" by Juliette Hoffman on April 1
- "Insects as Vectors of Disease Transmission" by Jim Baxter on May 6.

Sponsors are the Math/Science Division and ASOC.

Astonomy teacher worked on Saturn mission

By **AMAN MEHRZAI**
News editor

Every week, astronomy instructor Eric Wegryn rides his motorcycle to Ohlone College to do what he loves best, teaching.

Wegryn also teaches at West Valley College in Saratoga and at the Exploratorium Science Museum in San Francisco. Did I also mention that he is a scientist for NASA who worked intimately on the former Mars Pathfinder Mission and on the more recent Cassini Mission to Saturn and it's moon Titan? The later project to Saturn actually landed a satellite a little over two weeks ago, called the Huygens Probe, onto Titan taking unexpected pictures from its surface. Wegryn's duties with NASA act as his full-time job. Teaching is an additional task he takes on in order to fulfill his passion.

Since early childhood Wegryn had his heart set in the stars. He witnessed his first launching of the Space Shuttle and other rocket take-off's with his parents at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

This inspired Wegryn to want to join the Air Force, but not having the eyesight to fly fighter jets, he did what was next best; he studied aerospace engineering at the University of Michigan. Graduating in 1989, Wegryn worked for several years for the Space Shuttle Program as a Guidance, Navigation and Control Engineer. Soon after, the excitement of his job wore off.

"After several years of launching space shuttles, which you might think it's really exciting, but it actually involved a lot of sitting in a cubicle, and staring at a computer," said Wegryn. He went back to school to make a switch from engineering to science, starting at the University of Indiana, then to the University of Arizona to get his Ph.D. in planetary sciences.

As a graduate student, Wegryn helped build the camera for NASA's Huygens Probe on a task that took two years (1995-96) of calibration and testing to complete. On October of 1997, Wegryn watched his work lift off into space aboard the Titan IV rocket from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, a launch that left him with a sense of accomplishment and awe. "I was fortunate to watch the pre-dawn launch," said Wegryn. "The Titan IV is a huge rocket, even from 10 kilometers away it shakes the ground!"

Following Cassini, Wegryn worked on the Mars Pathfinder Mission, using the data sent back from Mars in 1997 to complete his doctoral research for his thesis.

His thesis consisted of a detailed study of Mars' atmosphere using Pathfinder's camera. The research showed that there were dust particles so fine, as fine as cigarette smoke that may prove to be a head-

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Ohlone instructor worked on Saturn project

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ache for future satellite or astronaut missions to Mars according to Wegryn. The Pathfinder also took standard measurements of temperature, and wind speed and chemical composition of Martian rocks taken by Pathfinder's solar powered Rover. Later missions called Spirit and Opportunity took rock samples that conclusively proved for the first time that rocks on Mars were formed in the presence of water, this according to the Mars Exploration Rover Mission website. Finishing his graduate work, Wegryn received a PHD from the University of Arizona in 2000.

After receiving his doctorates, Wegryn moved to the Bay Area for his love of its beauty and diverse population. Here, Wegryn was offered a job to work for the SETI (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence) Institute in Mountain View, which in turn contracted him out to NASA's Ames Research Center, to work on the very project he helped build while working on his doctorates in Arizona; the Cassini-Huygens program. SETI is a non-profit organization dedicated to finding extra-terrestrial life in outer space. Although the Institute has looked for other intelligent life forms by scanning the sky for advanced civilization's radio signals, Wegryn is limited to looking for simple life form research as a Research Associate for the Cassini VIMS (Visual Infrared Mapping Spectrometer Instrument) Team. "That's the funny point. I am not looking for little green men," but "organic molecules or compounds that could be the starting point for life," said Wegryn.

Wegryn followed the Cassini satellite move towards Saturn from NASA's Bay Area location. On January 14, Wegryn watched the Huygens probe drop through the atmosphere of Saturn's moon Titan. To his and other NASA scientists' surprise, the probe, which was not designed to survive the landing, landed safely and took a picture with the very camera Wegryn help build. DISR scientist Charles See said, "I think the biggest surprise is that we survived the landing..." The probe's mission was to only take chemical samples and pictures of Titan's atmosphere, as it floated down, and to self- destruct upon the impact of its crash landing. "The consistency of the surface was similar to 'wet-sand,' which ensured the probes survival," said Wegryn. In addition to taking a snap shot from the surface, the probe also picked up chemical readings of methane, ethane, propane, and butane from Titan's atmosphere, which are the first steps in "finding the building blocks," of life.

Today, Wegryn continues to follow the Cassini Satellite, continually gather more valuable information as it passes by Saturn's other moons. Updates of this information is constantly updated on the

Exploratoruim's website. The Cassini satellite will heat up "as it descends into Saturn's atmosphere, and eventually melt and even vaporize; as did the Galileo probe and orbiter on Jupiter." It's final demise will gather atmospheric readings before vaporizing into destruction.

After four years of studying engineering, and seven additional years of his PHD research, Wegryn hopes to do more than just apply his knowledge to the field he is working in. "I made a conscious choice in my career not to go into strict research science 100 percent, and not to go into teaching 100 percent, but to try to balance the two," said Wegryn. Although this has proved challenging, Wegryn has reached a balance and hopes to pass on his knowledge to other students and teachers of Astronomy in an effort to achieve something greater than himself. "I learned in graduate school, that there wasn't any point in learning, unless I passed it on at some point. That's why I find teaching so rewarding, to help other people enlarge their understanding of their place in the universe, just like I've learned along the way." At the Exploratorium Museum, Wegryn involves himself with their Teacher Institute Program, which trains high school and middle school teachers from around California and the rest of country, to become better scientist. He also acts as the Museum's Public Broadcaster to update listeners of the Cassini-Huygens mission and other planetary exploration shows. In 2004, Scientific American awarded the museum for having the year's the Best Science Web-Cast display. For more information on the Cassini-Huygens program, or to contact Dr. Wegryn, go to www.exploratorium.edu.

New seats in amphitheater

Photo by Shari Wargo

Anyone who has attended a performance in the outdoor theater at the Smith Center and discovered dampness from the grass soaking through their pants will be interested in the new aluminum seats being installed in the amphitheater. The seating for 650 people will cost an estimated $20,000. The college got a $15,000 grant from the Mission San Jose Rotary Club to help pay for the project. The grass will be replanted.

Deaf instructor may not be deported after all

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a decision."

The bad news is that Dulalia may still be deported if the case is not dropped and goes into a full-blown trial. His case for asylum has merit, but with both his parents dead, the grounds for his petition is shaky at best.

Dulalia's father was a Filipino veteran of WWII, who was granted American citizenship in 1995, and his mother was made a legal resident. Unfortunately, Dulalia was an adult by then, and was not automatically made a citizen along with his family.

Since Dulalia's case is far from clear-cut, and the situation so dire, many public and political supporters have rallied to the cause. Congressman Pete Stark has issued a letter of interest, and local television reporters and newspapers have covered the controversy.

Lori Haley, spokeswoman for the U.S. ICE, said, "Obviously, there are very compelling factors which [we] are very carefully considering in deciding what the next steps will be." U.S. ICE has the ultimate discretion in the case.

Dulalia is also deaf. According to the National Association for the Deaf, "Deaf and hard of hearing people deserve to have qualified, skilled interpreters who know what they are doing." Dulalia has been interpreting since he arrived in the United States, in 1987.

Dulalia graduated from Ohlone in 1992 with a degree in Computer Science, and has worked as a staff interpreter for the college since then. Not only does he act as a go-between for students and instructors, he is also something of a rarity in interpreter circles.

Dulalia is one of only a handful of Northern Californian tactile interpreters, who are capable of hand signing to people who are both deaf and blind. His absence would leave a huge impact in the blind-deaf community.

"My students need me to be here, or they'd be upset and angry," Dulalia said through an interpreter. "If I weren't here, they would have a hard time in the classes."

Many of his students have stated that they learn a lot from him, and that he is a trusted member of the staff. Even the interpreter Stephanie Pintello, who assisted in the interview with Dulalia, said of him, "I've known Gerry for over 10 years, and it's truly an unfair situation. He's such a wonderful person."

"He's made a big impact on students and their success here," said Ann Fuller, supervisor of Interpreting and Support Services. "I'm very concerned about him." Having observed Dulalia for eight years, she said his performance at Ohlone has been "wonderful" and pointed out that his "students love him." It is also very rare to find an interpreter who can translate for blind-deaf students, she noted.

The delay in getting a definite outcome the to case is not necessarily a serious problem. "They're willing to negotiate," Perez said of the government.

While the informal discussions are not yet scheduled, they will definitely be subject to the ever-growing public attention to the case. Even with CNN knocking at her door, Perez is working with the government to close the case as diplomatically as possible.

Legally, only the government can terminate the deportation proceedings, and Perez hopes they will consider the extenuating circumstances and show some leniency. This the crux of the case, Perez said: "The government doesn't just give these things away."

To send comments or inquiries to Gerry Dulalia, you can contact his attorney at: marciaiperez @cs.com

To express your support or concern for the case, you can reach Congressman Pete Stark's office at: 39300 Civic Center Drive, Suite 220, Fremont, CA, 94538

Call: (510) 272-6973.

Or visit: http://www.house.gov/writerep/