

This is life ONTV: creative chaos, deadline dementia

By **BRITNEY BINDEL**
Staff writer

This is the office where ingenuity, creativity, and discipleship breed. Although no one is occupying the room with their presence, there is never a still moment. The counter lining the back wall and window is littered with open notebooks, appearing as though someone has frantically been searching in them for the missing crucial news lead. Finding a needle in a haystack would be just as easy in this mayhem. Three TV screens silently blare their visual late-breaking news. Yet, all is not at a disorganized loss.

In walks Gary Kauf, director of television and broadcasting. He is tall, has dark hair and a broad, warm smile. His trim person is without an ounce of fat. Generally speaking, he fits the typical role of the pleasant, informative anchorman. Most importantly, however, his clear presence brings balance to his domain. Every mastermind is allowed their idiosyncrasy, and a scattered back shelf is simply reflective of Kauf's frenzied passion for his field.

"I like to be in the middle of things; I'm nosey," Kauf explains the passion that supported his 11-year itch for news reporting. After writing in New York for Tom Brokaw's "NBC Nightly News," reporting for Oakland's KTVU, and teaching at UC Berkeley, Kauf found his passion at Ohlone. At first, he was hesitant to apply, as he had no master's degree, only enough credentials to get him through the Pearly Gates. Then, thanks to the encouragement of his good friend, Bill Parks, Chief of Staff of the Monitor, Kauf applied and was of course, hired as director of TV operations. Now, he works with top-notch professionals amidst state of the art equipment, teaching his passion to Ohlone students.

"What I'm really proud of are the adjuncts we have here," Kauf boasts. Dominic Bonavolonta was the director of the syndicated TV show, "Extra!" and teaches along-

side another instructor who did work on the movie, "The Matrix." The instructors strive to teach students how it will be "in the real world," said Kauf.

In order to do this, the instructors teach an array of classes on different levels including news production, music video, sitcom, non-linear editing programs including Avid and Final Cut, and a special projects class open to amateur film students. Wednesday nights are open to the public to observe an actual news broadcast being filmed. The news can be watched on channel 28.

A news student can expect to spend around two to three hours a week practicing, and an editing student will spend about the same time shooting any footage he can get his hands on. Kauf only applies restrictions to pornographic material.

The students are encouraged to take home the cameras, sleep with the cameras, and eat with the cameras. The cameras are sturdy and expected to be handled in a not-so-delicate manner. As part of the state of the art television equipment at the Smith Center facility, the news cameras are only a fraction of the goodness that abounds.

James Schaak is an Ohlone student who is already making his break as a result of Ohlone's TV and broadcasting program. Schaak is a TV news photographer and editor for channel 30 in Pleasanton and at 19 years old, is the youngest person on staff. He raves that; "The equipment here is unheard of when it comes to junior colleges."

As the modern national television world is moving to high definition digital usage, Ohlone is not being left behind. According to Arnie Loleng, technical operator at the TV center, the equipment began undergoing a process of being replaced by digital equipment about four years ago. Sony enabled the department to run a million dollar facility. In fact, Loleng said that the equipment at Ohlone is better than most state schools and even most news stations.



Photo by Alisha Francisco

The news anchors for Wednesday night's news, from left, Dan Harrington, Manuel Farias, Betty Yu and Kasey Petritsch do a run-through before they go live on air. Cameraman Nick Nillo also prepares for the news by focusing the camera.



Photo by Lawrence Guerrero

Kasey Petritsch and Edwin Cervantes review their stories before the show.

Kauf pushes writing as the basis of any media based industry. He sees his responsibility as teaching kids how to tell a true tale. When asked how much influence Ohlone exerted over the delivery of the news, Kauf replied that the students were in charge of what was reported. The board may request that the broadcasting department keep their nose out of certain areas, and to an extent, the department complies.

However, news is news, raw and true. The general rule of thumb, according to Kauf, is, "If it's true, you can do it." The integrity of the deliverance of news is vital to Kauf. The oxymoron of delivering true news by biased stations and glamorized anchors is not unnoticed by Kauf. He agrees that the cosmetic aspect of news delivery has been focused on and not the writing. Because of this, Kauf sees that students are trained to deliver their messages in a professional, visually appealing, yet uncompromising manner.

Success stories from Ohlone's TV and broadcasting department include a student Kauf had who began at the same time he did. She came from the wrong side of the

tracks and was looking for an outlet from bartending. She joined the broadcasting department and her knack for writing was noticed by Kauf. She began producing the newscast for the Ohlone news and then went on to study at San Francisco State. Now, she produces the newscast for channel 30.

The success of future students will be even greater than those presently enrolled. Kauf's visions to add upper-level classes and obtain more students in these classes will carry their success. With the expertise of the staff and cutting edge equipment, this vision is sure to be a reality.



Photo by Lawrence Guerrero

Broadcasting Instructor and Director of Television Services, Gary Kauf.



Photo by Lawrence Guerrero

Justin Chikin, crew member on ONTV.



Mark McCord

She's back, she's richer

I've never to been to prison, thank God, and hopefully I never will. However, the first thing I'd do if I were released from prison is to take a long hot shower - alone.

So, I'm sitting here watching CNN, and what is the hot breaking news tonight? Osama Bin Laden has been caught? Nope. Brad and Jenn are back together? Nope. There's peace in the Middle East? Nope.

Get this; Martha Stewart is being released from prison. That's breaking news? Yes, for 30 minutes I have been listening to anchors pontificate on what the first thing Martha was going to do when she got out of jail. Pop champagne perhaps? Bake cookies maybe?

The Women's Prison in Alderson, West Virginia has been home for five months to the Ice Queen of Homemaking, I can hear her in some board room meeting now, "Come on buddy, I'm more man than you are let's fight!"

Over the last five months I have been entertained by hearing updates of Martha's "sojourn behind bars". Hearing her daughter read letters from Martha on Larry King made me think of Che Guevara's message to the people, "To my dear brothers and sisters in the struggle, the system has not beaten me yet. I stand tall knowing that I have been falsely accused, and gain strength from your passion for our movement. Viva Le Revolution."

Well, she didn't say all of that, but she might as well have. Martha Stewart, a person who had a terrible reputation - pre-incarceration; is emerging from this "ordeal" as a heroine. She went from being the most hated to the most wanted in five months.

Let's take a look at this, she has a spot on a TV show awaiting her with that other Cold Capitalist, the one with the bad comb-over (Hey Donald, be a man and cut it all off, or get a toupee), she has her own reality TV show coming up, she has a book in the works that will supposedly chronicle her rise and fall and redemption behind bars. Wow, sounds like the stuff of a really reflective, life-affirming, piece of work about triumphs and struggles; classic American "How I did it" nonsense.

Usually when an inmate is freed from prison they are given: \$200 (no more new suits, the States can't afford those anymore) and a stern lecture about not re-offending, then, after the handshake, they are sent out into the world to start their lives over again. However, what a lot of former prisoners encounter are closed doors and seemingly unattainable opportunities.

The stigma of being a former prisoner follows them for the rest of their lives. There is no fanfare or ticker tape parade for the thousands of prisoners who are released every week in America.

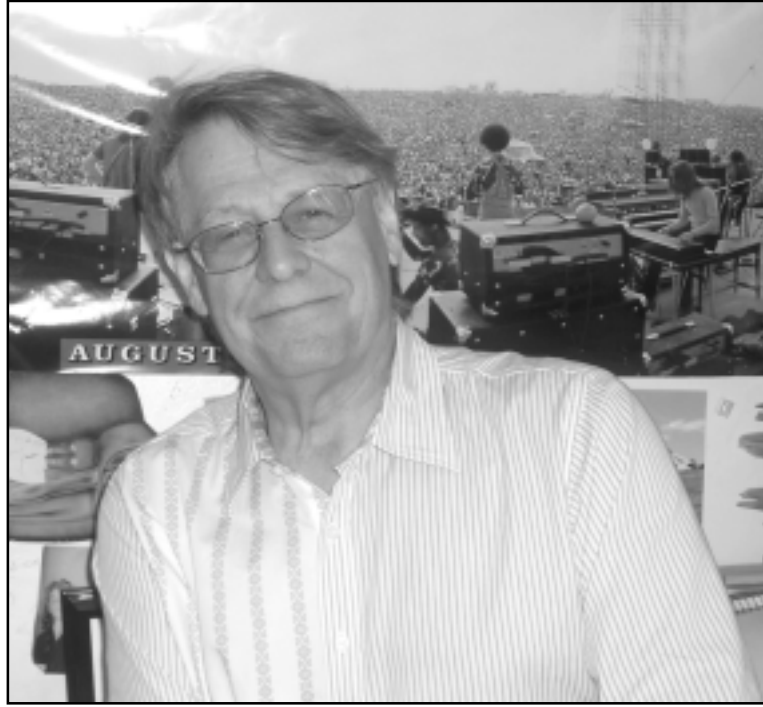


Photo by Charlie Hebisan

Dr. Howard DeWitt will be speaking about the Philippines in London.

Dewitt going to London for Youth Lives Project

By **CLIFTON M. DER BING**
Staff writer

Ohlone Instructor of History, Dr. Howard DeWitt, will be traveling to London as a featured speaker to talk about the Philippines on behalf of the Young Lives Project.

An international organization that studies childhood poverty, the Young Lives Project, is a project that aims to identify the links between international and national policies and children's day-to-day lives.

The data collected will assist policy-makers to plan and improve the quality of life for underprivileged youths. Currently, the research is taking place in Ethiopia, India, Peru and Vietnam; and the Young Lives are thinking about extending their studies to include the Philippines.

DeWitt was selected due to his advanced knowledge about the Philippines and ethnic diversity. An author of 19 books with four of them being about the Philippines, DeWitt will be speaking at South Bank University, the leading cul-

tural university in England, to help the Young Lives Project become more aware of the need to study the Philippines and the Filipino culture.

In 1996, Dr. DeWitt was a featured speaker at Manila for the International Celebration of Filipino Independence, where he was honored for his work on José Rizal.

Also specializing in American Government, International Relations and Comparative Government, DeWitt's background has enabled him to take part in a political science study tour of Germany and Austria in 1992.

A former instructor at several different universities as well as an speaking internationally, traveling to London as a featured speaker is nothing new to DeWitt. With the goal to academically inform the Young Lives Project about the underprivileged youth in the Philippines, Dr. DeWitt said he, "appreciates the opportunity to make the international academic community aware of the history and needs of the Philippines."

Mentor and tutoring program at Ohlone

By **JAMES HENDRA**
Staff writer

This Friday, there will be a forum for a community service project for tutoring and mentoring. In collaboration with Cabrillo neighborhood schools, Ohlone is doing a tutoring program for grades K-6. So far, there has been a large response in the program, by both students and faculty of Ohlone. The program opens their arms, metaphorically, to both, who are interested in either tutoring and mentoring students of those grades.

Mike DeUnamuno is spearheading this project by leading by example. Unamuno started three weeks ago, and as he would tell you, "I come into work, and I feel good, I feel better, knowing that I made a difference."

Looking for more membership and response in the Community Service Task Force funded project,

the forum is open to anyone who wants to join the effort.

Volunteering can also have some good side effects more than just the actual feeling of helping. If you qualify for the financial aid, mini-grants are also provided as financial aid for school. Also, working for the effort can earn you work study units, which are transferable to UCs and CSUs.

Superintendent Douglas Treadway came up with the idea when he came from Shasta University. He got the idea for this program from a similar program called, *Each One Reach One*. These programs will also interact with the youth's parents and get them involved as well, working with them to maximize the effectiveness of the tutoring and mentoring.

Anyone interested in joining the mentor and tutor program, the forum is going to be this Friday in room 8113 at 2p.m.

Five plays on one bill

By **RANDALL WOO**
Staff writer

Tom Blank's Student Repertory Theatre class will be performing a series of five one-act plays at the Ohlone NUMMI Theatre.

Many different styles, including comedy, drama and abstract fantasy will be represented on the stage.

One of the acts on the bill is *The Problem* directed by Sedrick Amar. Amar has also directed last year's play, *Act Without Words*.

The Problem written by A.R. Gurney Jr. is the complex story of a husband and a wife.

"I really wanted to make it like an illusion; similar in style to *A Clockwork Orange* or *Dick Tracy*," said Amar. The approach was to make the play really colorful and surreal.

Starring in *The Problem* will be



Photo by Shari Wargo
Sedrick Amar, director of the one-act play *The Problem*.

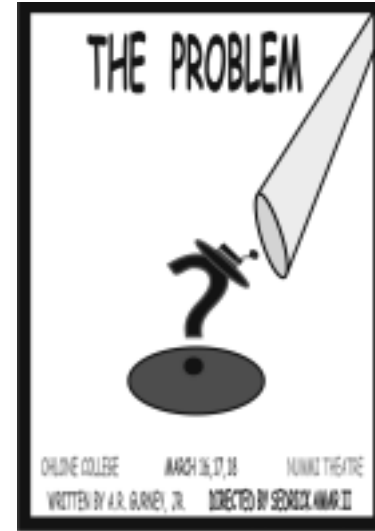
Ryann Hammond whose influences include, Al Pachino, famous for his role in *Scarface*. The other main character of this act is Jonna Hughs who is role model is from the original *Saturday Night Live* cast, Gilda Rodner.

What Amar enjoys about being a director is the leadership and the artwork aspect.

Amar said his influences include Stanley Kubrick, Harmony Korine, Martin Scorsese and Gus Van Sant.

When it comes to a dream project, Amar said, "Everyday I pray to have the ability to direct a script by Charlie Kaufman." He hopes to someday become a professional filmmaker.

You can catch the plays three nights in a row; on March 16, 17 and 18 at 8 p.m. in the NUMMI Theatre. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults.



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