



**The Voice Within**  
by Aman Mehrzai  
Editor-in-Chief

## From isolationism to intervention

A core American value at one time used to be isolationism. As a matter of fact, the founders of our nation believed in it so much, that they repeatedly wrote that isolationism was essential not only for the survival of America, but for a successful one. George Washington said in his farewell address, "The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign nations, is in extending our commercial relations, to have with them as little political connection as possible."

Thomas Jefferson followed suit in his inaugural address: "peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none."

Thomas Paine's Common Sense, amplified a strong sentiment amongst the people, that in order to assure true freedom, all foreign alliances must be avoided. Needless to say, our foreign policy today, is the opposite of what the authors of the constitution intended. So what happened? A common argument is that the world changed and we had to get involved to defend ourselves from the likes of Nazi Germany and Imperialist Japan, or more recently, the terrorist attacks in New York.

The other excuse is that of the noble mission of spreading democracy. But since 1945 the U.S. has intervened by means of bombing, the nations of (in chronological order): China (1945-46), Korea (1950-53), China (1950-53), Guatemala (1954), Indonesia (1958), Cuba (1959-60), Guatemala (1960), Congo (1964), Peru (1965), Laos (1964-73), Vietnam (1961-73), Cambodia (1969-70), Guatemala (1967-69), Grenada (1983), Libya (1986), El-Salvador (1980's), Nicaragua (1980's), Panama (1989), Iraq (1991-2003), Sudan (1998), Afghanistan (1998-2002), and Yugoslavia (1999).

Not one of these nations ever attacked America, nor have any become successful democracies. All continue to hold gross human rights violations (too many to break down). So who won? In my cynical view; the corporations were the winners who made hundreds of billions in these costly "interventions" that have left much of the third world with a black eye and a bad taste in their mouths. A few contemporary conservatives, progressives, and libertarians alike; such as Pat Buchanan, Ralph Nader and Justin Raimondo, actively warn that further foreign entanglements will be the end of America. But these beleaguered voices are drowned by fear mongering and the promise that the only solution for peace is violence, not at home, but abroad.

## New philosophy instructor teaches Asian religion

By JEROME ENGELBERTS  
Opinion editor

As a fairly recent addition to the Philosophy department, Jacob van Vleet has the job he's always wanted. According to him he took some philosophy courses in a community college, and decided "that's what he wanted to teach". At Ohlone



Jacob van Vleet

College, Van Vleet has been teaching several courses: Introduction to Asian Religion; Introduction to Western Religion; Introduction to Old Testament; and Formal Logic. "I guess that makes me the "religion" guy", he states.

This semester he's teaching Introduction to Asian Religion, (the Old Testament course was unfortunately cancelled for lack of enough students), and he's

looking forward to the Spring 2006 semester when he will once again be teaching the Formal Logic course along with Eastern and Western Religion.

When asked about what he hopes students will get out of his courses he says: "I'm trying to get people to think outside of their own religious "box", even if they think they don't have one. Almost everyone, whether belonging to a specific religion or not, becomes cultured by religious principles. People growing up in the Western Hemisphere are raised with predominantly Christian rules and culture, even if they never see a church on the inside."

Van Vleet emphasizes the importance of critical thinking, and seems to be the poster child for Socrates' celebrated words "the unexamined life is not worth living". In his classes (I've been in two) he offers ample room for discussion and student opinions to keep the flow of thought going. He's also adopted a very informal attitude towards the topics he teaches, and encourages students to offer their own thoughts on the meaning of religious texts.

Even if you're not a "philosopher" per se, these courses offer an opportunity to see religion in a new and non-dogmatic light; and formal logic in a way that will help you organize your thought process when tackling complex subject matter.

## Former Ohlone Monitor Editor-In-Chief, Tony Yang enjoys life at University of Wyoming

By JESSICA LOSEE  
Staff writer

Since moving to the remote town of Laramie, Wyoming, Ohlone alumni Tony Yang has been quite the busy bee.

As editor-in-chief of the University of Wyoming daily student-run newspaper, the Branding Iron, Yang has the important responsibility of not only getting an 8- to 12-page newspaper out every night before 10, but also getting his homework done.

"We just transitioned from a four-day paper to printing five days a week," said Yang.

In addition, Yang is also taking 14 units of other classes.

While Yang was attending

Ohlone, he was editor-in-chief of the Monitor, as well as a reporter for the Oakland Tribune and the Tri-city Voice. He was also very active in the Ohlone Forensics program.

Prior to coming to Ohlone, Yang attended West Point Military Academy in New York, as well as the Defense Language Institute in Monterey.

Yang also won a Multicultural Pride Scholarship to help pay for the

cost of school.

"I believe that expanding one's horizons is key to continuous learning, something I began to understand at Ohlone College, with the Communications Department and the Forensics Team," said Yang.

There are definitely a few drawbacks to his move to Wyoming.

"It has been raining off and on here...and it looks like it will be snowing buckets of powder in a few weeks" said Yang. "I miss the great weather in California, the great ethnic food and the great people. Things I am glad I



Courtesy of Tony Yang

no longer have to deal with include sky-high gas prices, taxes and crazy traffic. Classes are engaging and I am very glad to be in 'Cowboy Country' with the University of Wyoming."

Along with classes and the Branding Iron, Yang is also involved in the ROTC program at the University of Wyoming.

"While Ohlone had wonderful people and nice weather, I must admit I have been pleasantly surprised by one of the top-rated dining halls in the country and our nationally-ranked football team," said Yang.

Yang has decidedly found the brighter side of his education, even if the surroundings are somewhat damp.

## Tracy Virgil: A Puente program mentor and English instructor calls Ohlone College her home



By ANNIE UTTER  
Features editor

A bright and warm smile greeted upon me as I sat down to ask questions about Ohlone College English instructor, Tracy Virgil.

Virgil has been at Ohlone College for around 11 years as a student, staff, and now a teacher. Virgil

has been teaching part time for the past two years and one year as a full time teacher. She teaches pretty much the whole regime of English classes from 151A to 101C.

Virgil graduated from Ohlone with an AA degree and transferred UC Berkeley to get a BA degree then she went to San Francisco State University and got her MA degree. Virgil definitely enjoys Ohlone campus since she has been a student and a part time teacher so she is familiar with the staff and faculty here. "I got to know the faculty (people) of Ohlone very well" As well as the atmosphere and the environment of Ohlone

college, which makes Virgil feel right at home.

Virgil is involved with Puente Project, a program designed to help mainly Hispanic students to have a mentor for their studies which statistically helps boost the graduation percentage.

When asked how important English is to Virgil she responded that English helps students to become successful, not only the academic writing but to develop pleasure in writing. Once Virgil had her class to do a writing assignment about each student's personal family photos and enjoyed hearing her students writing about the "memory

associated with the picture" One of her embarrassing moments was when a cell phone went off during the class and she had actually asked the class "who's phone is ringing?" not realizing it was her cell phone! "That was pretty embarrassing" laughed Virgil.

While she knew she wanted to become a teacher, it was hard for Virgil to overcome her shyness when she had to teach a roomful of students to complete her Master's degree. Virgil had always respected her teachers in past.

Virgil's spends her spare time playing the piano, jogging, cooking, writing poetry and stories.

## Deaf News Corner

In Memoriam of Gil Lentz

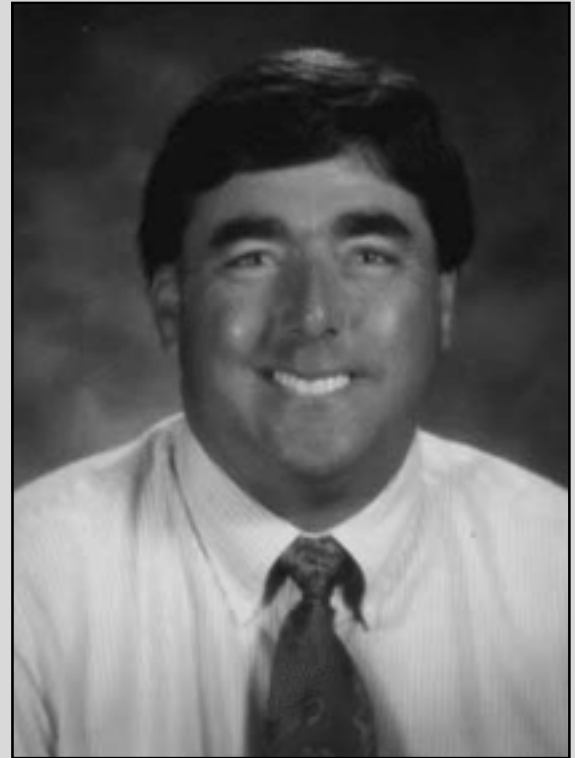


Image from <http://www.deafhood.us/gilmemorial/>

1957-2005

On Monday, Sept. 19 the Deaf community received the news of their favorite all around person, Gil Lentz has passed away in his sleep.

Lentz graduated from California School for the Deaf in Berkeley (former school site) in 1975. Attended to Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. then came back to CSD in Fremont as a counselor, head football coach, and assisting athletic teams as well.

Over 1,000 friends, families, teachers, and students attended to the Gil Lentz's the memorial service which was held at the California School for the Deaf (CSD) in Fremont on Sept. 21 around noon. Numerous stories, poetry, and anecdotes about their memories of Lentz were told.

Lentz was CSD football coach for 14 years and retired in 2000. He is a teacher, a friend, and a father figure. "Many Deaf Ohlone Students looked up to Lentz as a their second father" said Tom Holcomb, of Deaf Studies

Gil Lentz is survived by his wife, Alyce, who is an Ohlone Deaf instructor, and his sons, Ivan, Dane, and Ryan.

By ANNIE UTTER, Features editor

# Abroad, Ohlone students living in a different world

By **JESSICA LOSEE**  
Staff writer

Alisha Francisco and Olivia Speranza, the two Ohlone students who won scholarships to study in South Korea this semester, have been thrown into a completely new experience, culture and school.

The former *Monitor* newspaper editors seem to be faring fairly well.

"On the weekdays, I'm usually busy with school," Francisco wrote in an email. "I'm taking five classes- Korean Reading and Writing, Korean Conversation, Tae Kwon Doe and International Relations. I also added Calligraphy last week."

But not all of their time is spent studying. "When I'm not in school, I'm doing exchange ses-

sions where I met with two Korean students and for an hour have a conversation in English. This allows the Korean student to improve their grammar and get a chance to actually use what they learn in the classrooms," said Francisco.

But Speranza said they do get to have some fun on weekends.

"Saturdays usually consist of going into Seoul or other cities near our campus to sightsee and shop," explained Speranza in an email. "We take the train or a bus to the subway then navigate from city to city from the subway or by taxi."

The two girls left for Korea on Aug. 16 and are returning Dec. 23. While there they are earning credits for keeping a journal and tutoring English to Korean students.

Speranza is not only there to

study, but is also working part-time.

"I cocktail waitress at a nightclub near our school until 11:30 p.m. I'm home by midnight. Monday through Friday our curfew is at midnight," said Speranza. "If you're not back by then, they lock you out and you have to sleep in the library or in a bar."

The two have learned many things since they made the dramatic life-change, including the social standard of the culture.

"Elders demand respect and they can do just about anything they want without objection," explained Speranza. "Shoes are not to be worn in most restaurants, the dorms and in certain areas that are designated to relax in."

Both have embraced the new experiences thrown at them while they are studying.

"The most fun thing that I've got to experience was going to a public shower house. It's in Onyang, which is 10 minutes away by bus. It's in the basement of this nice hotel and right when I walked in, everyone was completely naked. I had went with the intention of keeping my bathing suit on, but once I saw everything else I thought, 'What the heck!'" said Francisco. "So I went for it and it was pretty relaxing."

The girls admit that there are some things that they miss, especially family and friends, the food and driving.

The two also say that there are some differences in their studies.

"The instructors here are trying to teach us another language, for the most part. This means that they either speak little or no English. We're learning on a first grade level, so everything

is easy if you study," said Speranza. "The attitudes and expectations are more strict; they're expecting a lot from us."

"The work load is very light especially for Korean writing, reading and conversation," said Francisco. "It's like elementary school homework. The only class that requires a lot is International Relations because the reading is much just like back at home. We have to read about 100 pages per class session."

Some things have not changed, despite the thousands of miles distancing the girls from Fremont and Ohlone.

"The campus we're on is full of stairs, just like Ohlone, so not much has changed with working out our leg muscles," explained Speranza.

## Jim Klent, professor of chemistry is considered a 'father figure'

By **JOYCE LEUNG**  
Staff writer

Retired, he may be, but forgotten, certainly not.

There are vestiges of his influence all over campus. From the laboratories he designed, to the lab manuals he wrote, to the generations of students he taught. For all of his 37 years of service to the college and to the vitality he brought to his department; Professor of Chemistry, Jim Klent has been honored with emeritus status by the Board of Trustees on Sept. 14.

"The nicest thing is that I didn't have to die first," Klent joked.

Though his retirement in May 2005 did not sever his ties with Ohlone, his departure did end a long history in teaching and community service. Arriving from Illinois in 1967 in pursuit of the west's picturesque mountains and shorelines, he saw an opportunity to mold a then newly built Ohlone College. He couldn't have imagined a better way to start a career. "To be at the beginning was an unbelievable privilege," said Klent.

And since those early years, he had an active role in leading and shaping the college. Serving as the first faculty senate president in 1968, he often returned to office as needed.



Jim Klent

His devotion also led him to serve as campus representative to the Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges for 8 years. In addition, he has extended his services to the Board of Trustees, serving as an elected member for 13 years.

But perhaps his most significant contributions were as a teacher, a colleague, and a friend. "He's almost like our father figure. He's been a mentor to everybody," said Anu Ganguly, Professor of Chemistry.

"He always had the patience to leave his door wide open. He took

time for people," said Yvette Niccolls, Math/Science Coordinator. "He leant an attitude and presence...he made the whole chemistry department feel cohesive."

As a professor, Klent also recognized the need to keep abreast of developments in chemistry. Over the years he has received 8 National Science Foundation grants to attend summer workshops across the nation for attaining new skills, particularly in computer applications for chemistry. His membership with the California Association of Chemistry Teachers, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Chemical Society has also kept him up to date with his field.

Try as he might, Klent will have a hard time leaving Ohlone completely, when so many have depended on him for his knowledge and friendship.

"He was our answer and we don't have a Jim to ask anymore," said Niccolls. "He was a one-man department. If you needed a handyman, it was him. If you needed a teacher, it was him," insisted Ganguly. But Klent recognizes that, "The campus is part of my life. That's part of being an emeritus. You're still part of the college's life."

## Local author involves an Afghan Ohlone Student in his novel 'Kite Runner'

By **NICK ZAMBRANO**  
Sports editor

Having a part of your life is involved in a novel is a rare occasion. Autobiographies and biographies not included, the number of people that say they have, are few.

The quiet town of Fremont and students of Ohlone College can raise their hands as they pivot roles in the novel, *The Kite Runner*, written by a native San Franciscan, Khaled Hosseini.

In the first apparent Afghan novel to be written in English, Hosseini writes about how the past can sometimes never leave you.

The story, with a backdrop of Afghanistan on the verge of being invaded by the Soviets, focuses on polar opposite friends Amir, and Hassan. Amir is from an intelligent and rich family, while Hassan and his family are servants to the much more fortunate Amir and his father. They both look after each other. Hassan protects lonely Amir from bullies, while Amir reads to the illiterate Hassan.

Some would think that this could be difficult to depict, but Hosseini makes it believable.

However, the friendship hits a rough patch during a Kite Fighting match. In the middle of the match Hassan is savagely attacked by a

group of bullies, not knowing how to respond, Amir runs off, leaving his friend behind. Soon after, the Soviets finally invade Afghanistan forcing Amir and his father to flee the country and head to the United States.

Once arriving in the country, Amir and Baba settle down in the town of Fremont, California. Wanting to further his studies, Amir decides to enroll at Ohlone College majoring in writing.

A complete 180 degrees from what life used to be, Amir and Baba goes from living in royalty to running a small stand at a Fremont swap meet. Now years removed from Afghanistan, Amir appears to be enjoying life in Fremont, however he is still haunted by what he let happened to Hassan.

Hoping to reconcile the past with Hassan, Amir returns to Afghanistan. When he arrives Amir finds that country is now under Taliban rule. While there, Amir is overwhelmed by conflicts ranging from a stand off with an old rival to facing the harsh reality of his actions passed.

*Kite Runner* is a novel that directly relates to the lives of students here at Ohlone. Copies of *Kite Runner* can be picked up at our campus or your own local library branch.

# Large turnout at Ohlone's Garage Sale Blast

By **DANELLE MEYER**  
Staff writer

Tables, chairs and tents began going up at 6 a.m. as people gathered together in the lower parking lot to have the "The Garage Sale Blast."

For only \$25 anyone could come and set up within a two parking space span, and take advantage of the oncoming crowds and excitement.

"It's already been fun this morning with all the sellers," said former English teacher Jacquelyn Kerner as the garage sale first started. Kerner and her husband Jeff were just a couple of the people who ea-

gerly awaited the customers.

As part of the second garage sale of the year, students such as Charlie Hebison and Daniel Hu came to help set up cones and barricades. After the early set up they began to "monitor things and make sure things stayed in order," said Hebison.

Students, parents and children all joined together as displays of all kinds of newer items and antiques lined up. Toys, games, movies, jewelry, bags, computers, books, sport memorabilia, cameras and radios were some of the many wonderful finds that people could sift through.

"I found a lot of stuff for sale, like really cute clothes that are almost brand new," said Kathryn Matlock, a Chabot student, as she carried bags full of newly found treasures.

"It's great, I've been bargaining and getting really good deals," Matlock said.

People milled from booth to booth to find old things to start calling their own. "This is fun. It's the used stuff that make people come in," said Elaine Nagel, retired community events coordinator, who works part time with flea markets and fund-raisers for Ohlone.

The garage sale lasted from 8

a.m. to 2:00 p.m., with people filling trunks and bags. "It's our regular outing," said Sharon Brown as she bargained with different people.

"We come to the Flea Market every month and heard someone talking about the garage sale and couldn't wait," Brown said.

Whether they had junk left over from the Niles Flea Market, or retiring from their jobs and needing to clean out such as Jim Ferguson who already has 300 boxes "packed to move to Hawaii" Everyone who was selling was happy to give their old stuff away in exchange for space and money to buy new things.

"When I heard they were doing a garage sale version of the flea market I thought it was time to clean up," said Christy Hines, former Ohlone student.

"We had a good turn out and are happy with the attendance," said Nagel.

"We'd like to keep doing this and for it to continue to grow. It's already bigger than the last one," Nagel stated.

In addition, The Ohlone College Super Flea Market is held every 2nd Saturday of the month. The next one will be held on October 8th, 2005.