



Photo by Adam Manning



Photo courtesy of Renee Gonzales



Photo by Adam Manning

A city navigable only by boat, one of many places visited by students last summer. (above) Carlos Vejar next to a girl in traditional Chinese dress. (lower left) Student ambassadors from the Shanghai Theater Academy, from left to right: Vincent, Kiki, and Summer. (lower right)

Strange encounters of the Oriental kind

By **CHEN LIN**
Feature editor

Ashley Dorsey had wanted to travel abroad all her life. It was her dream. So last spring, when she stumbled across a flyer recruiting students to be part of a delegation that would visit China in May, it may come as a surprise that she hesitated to apply.

"[I was] afraid of taking the chance to possibly be let down again," said Dorsey in an essay prepared for class. The past year, she'd been devastated when a trip overseas of her own was canceled after circumstances interfered. She was afraid that history would repeat itself.

Fortunately for her, however,

Dorsey applied in spite of her fears. After she learned in April that, along with seven others, she'd been selected to be a member of the delegation, she had no regrets.

In America, and for Dorsey in particular, dreams have a way of themselves coming true. But in China, as the student delegation members would learn, oftentimes the inhabitants don't have that same privilege.

One example is Kiki. The last of three student ambassadors assigned to accompany students at their first destination, Shanghai, Kiki is a singer who hopes one day to pursue her career as a vocalist in America, believing she'll have better fortune overseas than at home. She, like many other Chinese the delegates

encountered, is eager to be a part of the American culture that everyday so fascinates them.

Yet odds are she probably won't set foot in the U.S. anytime soon, but not because she can't afford it. Kiki lives in a lavish, well-off apartment in Shanghai. Her location is fantastic: outside her living room curtain is a sprawling view of Shanghai's vast urban landscape - row after row of high-rise apartment buildings. By Chinese standards, Kiki's family is unusually wealthy.

It's actually the paperwork that's the trouble. While it's not hard for foreigners to enter China - income from tourism accounts for about five percent of the nation's GDP - it can take months, years even, for Chinese to obtain visas clearing them for a

stay in the U.S.

"It's just, thinking that your dreams are not going to be realized," said student delegate Nicole Sanders, reflecting on the situation of those like Kiki.

No wonder then, that Kiki was so eager to accommodate the English-speaking delegates. She and her two fellow Chinese representatives, Summer and Vincent, all made a tremendous effort to be hospitable to Ohlone's delegation. In the process, students sometimes formed close bonds with their guides. Some still keep in touch through e-mail.

It was through Vincent and Summer that the students had their first glimpse of how native Chinese interacted. Close friends, the pair often teased one another.

"Bi zui!" Summer would tell Vincent jokingly, meaning "shut up" in Chinese. The students describe Summer as quiet, reserved, but otherwise "unconditionally nice."

Vincent, on the other hand, is more outgoing. He is tall, has a bulky build, and is exceptionally athletic. He likes to joke with the delegates.

"Do you know Tae Kwon Do?" Vincent asked, striking a mock martial arts pose. Laughter ensued.

When the delegation's stay in Shanghai came to a close, it was at Kiki's lavish, riverside apartment that the group said their goodbyes. Gathered about Kiki's living room, the entire student delegation, some staff, the Chinese ambassadors, and Kiki's parents all mingled and

Katie Frank molding marvelous marble

By MORGAN BRINLEE
Staff writer

Italians have had a reputation for being crazy for many years – in a good way. Over the summer, Ohlone Art Professor Katie Frank traveled to Carraro, Italy to try her hand at carving marble. She found that Italians are just as wild as their reputation implies.

“Don’t get me wrong, most Italians are really wonderful people. They were so excited and enthusiastic to have someone interested in their town and in learning to work with marble. They were very kind, engaging people, but they are crazy,” Frank said.

In Italy, Frank rented a room from a woman named Ana Borghi, who was perhaps the most colorful character Frank met while working overseas. “I can remember one time I was eating dinner and she came into the room and lifted up her dress and just started spanking herself,” Frank said. “There was so much drama in Italy.”

Manuel Neri, an artist Frank showed with at The California College of Arts early this year, invited Frank to Italy to work in his studio. Neri himself, however, never made it to Italy.

By luck, Frank happened upon the Nicoli Studio, where she worked alongside other artists from May 30



Photos courtesy of Katie Frank

Katie Frank working with marble in her studio (above) and standing next to a marble quarry (below).

until June 30, chipping and sawing away at marble. “It was a wild experience because I got to work in a studio where they made replicas of Michelangelo’s ‘David,’” said Frank. “I had no idea how you go

about working with marble.”

Looking through Frank's pictures you might ask if maybe there was a summer snowfall in Italy. Marble is everywhere in Carraro, both in its natural state and in the city's

architecture. “In Carraro marble is like cardboard,” Frank said. “It’s everywhere.” Mountains appear as if covered in snow and streets glisten white from all the marble. Marble, it seems, is a big business for Carraro, making it an ideal place to work in marble carving.

Frank spent most of her time in the studio. Monday through Friday, Frank would arrive at Nicoli Studio at 7 a.m. and stay until 4 or 5 in the evening.

While there, Frank made three marble pieces: an eye, a teardrop, and a replica of the ear from Michelangelo’s “David.”

While Frank doesn't see herself working with marble again any time soon, she is not opposed to the idea. “I think that if my idea needs to be made in marble, then I’ll make it in marble. But I still think in terms of clay,” Frank said.

In her free time, Frank explored the marble museum and the marble quarry in Carraro. She also traveled to Florence, Rome, Milan, Portofino, Lucca, Cirque Terre, and Pietrasanta. “If I went back, that is where I would work in marble. In Pietrasanta,” Frank said.

Frank followed up her month in Italy with two weeks in Spain, visiting both Madrid and Barcelona before returning to Ohlone for the Fall 2006 semester. “Italy is still with me. In some ways I felt like I was at a retreat,” Frank said.



Devil's Advocate

By ANNA NEMCHUK
Editor-in-chief

Stay out of my damn diary

For a nation that screams “lawsuit” at the slightest provocation, America has very odd views on privacy. We’re surrounded everyday with commands to keep our noses to ourselves. Yet, as usual, we hardly practice what we preach.

To say that today’s citizens are disillusioned with their politicians is, in my opinion, putting it rather mildly. But no one likes salt rubbed on an open wound, so further proof that power corrupts is a depressing, but unexceptional.

Recently, a private meeting Arnold Schwarzenegger held with his staff in March was reported on by the Los Angeles Times. More specifically, six minutes of it in which the governor’s remarks to his chief of staff Susan Kennedy about state Assemblywoman Bonnie Garcia’s “Latin” temper had the public up in arms.

Or so his opponent in the gubernatorial race evidently thought would be the result, as they have admitted to being the source of the leak.

Phil Angelides’s staff are maintaining that the information they found was freely accessible on Schwarzenegger’s site. Adam Mendelsohn, a spokesman for the Terminator however, insisted that the material was not in an area easily accessed and that some hacking had to have taken place.

So Angelides’s crew got a little over-zealous in their campaign and decided to see if they could smear Schwarzenegger for being a racist. Frankly, I don’t think I care whether they hacked or no – I don’t want my laws dictated by someone willing to play that low AND be stupid enough to get caught. As for Arnold, my sympathies are with him. I can’t imagine having to watch your words every waking moment and living in fear of some harpy denouncing you as some sort of “-ist”. So he joked around about the woman’s fiery temper. At least he didn’t go Mel Gibson on a Jewish coworker.

Where is our respect for privacy now? Why should average citizens respect each other when their leaders do not? Then again, this is hardly the first time America has shown an embarrassing lack of courtesy to its citizens, as evidenced by the 1998 Clinton-Lewinsky fiasco. No one is above being dragged through the dirt.

For that matter, if someone can explain to me what a president’s sexual behavior has to do with his merit as a leader, please stand up. Living in a country founded by Puritans, you’d think we’d fight harder against the moralistic yoke thrust in our teeth.

Then again, what is privacy when set against national security? I hope our current administration makes very sure to launder all their interns’ dresses.

Lift reopened in Building I



Kevin Kirk tries out the newly reopened handicap lift in Building I.

A bagpipe tribute to 9/11



Instructor George Rodgers played Amazing Grace on a bagpipe the morning of Sept. 11 to commemorate the terrorist attacks. From left are officers James Keogh, Miguel Mendoza, Rodgers and Ben Peralta.

... with more next year to come

exchanged gifts. For most, it was a touching experience.

With their adventures in Shanghai concluded, students next left for Hangzhou. Because of a delay, the delegation didn’t arrive at Zhejiang Changzheng College in Hangzhou until past midnight.

To the delegation’s surprise, students there remained awake and prepared at even that time to receive their guests. After only several hours sleep, typical of most of their nights in China, the students attended a two-hour talent show the next day held exclusively for their benefit. Students in Hangzhou were uncompromising in how much attention they gave their foreign guests.

“We were treated very, very well by the students,” Dorsey said.

This turned out to be a common theme throughout much of the delegation’s stay in China. Almost anywhere they went, the students were treated with unrivaled hospitality.

Except at popular tourist destinations, members of the delegation were often approached for photographs, most times only with exaggerated hand gestures and broken English. Their presence at schools often caused a sensation, and students generally welcomed them with open arms.

“We felt so like celebrities,” said student delegate Adam Manning.

It’s no surprise then, that members of the delegation generally felt that the trip was a success. The culmination of a three year long

dialogue with schools in China for development of an international exchange program, last summer’s trip was the first of what will probably be several international exchange programs with China.

In November, a troupe of dancers from the Shanghai Theater Academy is expected to perform in the Smith Center. By January, dorms may be ready for rent to exchange students from China studying at Ohlone. In May, a dance troupe of Ohlone’s own will perform at the Academy.

Some staff however, feel that the exchange program hasn’t been worth its cost.

“Besides emotional growth and other intangible and immeasurable aspects, I’m still not sure of the pur-

pose of this exchange we’re engaging in with Taizhou,” Professor Sheldon W. Helms said in a comment to Vice President Jim Wright’s blog earlier this month. “A dozen or so faculty and students have made the trip, using many thousands of dollars during a fiscally difficult time.”

Pilar Lewis, who is planning to teach classes in China next year as part of a contract education program, said in response, “Spending money and time in China is an investment that would benefit both Ohlone and China... [Shanghai Arts and Crafts Vocational School] is willing to pay all of the expenses to hire a teacher from Ohlone, and they may even pay extra money to buy necessary equipment for my department.”