



Culture Pirate

By OMER AHMED
News editor

Overload can be good thing

So I am a hypocrite. It is pretty plain and simple.

At the beginning of last semester, I wrote an opinion piece warning students against overloading on courses. It was all based on personal experience, too. Nothing was hypothetical. I had experienced an extreme overload and I knew it was a bad idea.

For those of you who don't know, the usual maximum unit load is 17.5 and your average student takes around 15 units. Taking any more units than the maximum is called an overload and requires the approval of a counselor. I took a 26-unit course load in the Spring 06 semester. Simple put, it was horrible. I was constantly stressed, exhausted, overworked and smelly due to not having any time to bathe. However, it is now Spring 07, my last semester here at Ohlone and I find myself, yet again, with a course load of 26 units despite my not-so-fond memories. I repeat, I am a hypocrite.

However, I am a hypocrite for a reason. As much as I decried the pains I went through during my Spring 06 overload in my previous article, I came out of that semester with 8.5 extra units, half the requirements for A.A. degrees in Journalism and English finished and a lot of my IGETC Plan C courses completed. If it was not for that ridiculous overload, I most likely would not be able to get my A.A. degrees before transferring.

So if you can handle it, why not take a severe overload? The most you're going to lose is your spare time, a little extra cash and possibly some hair and weight due to stress and what you get can really speed up your time until transfer. Add the 8.5 extra units I took to the 9 units that are normally possible in a regular summer semester and you basically have an extra semester of credit. All at the wonderfully cheap community college price of \$20 per unit.

Additionally, with all the courses I will have finished by this semester's end, I will be in the perfect position to double major in religious studies and anthropology when I transfer, due to fulfilling the lower division requirements for both majors.

I can honestly say overloading is not for everyone. If you need a consistent sleep schedule, your health or a social life, then an extreme overload is most definitely not a good idea. However, if you are willing to give up a large portion of your life and maybe a few permanent brain cells in order to get on with your college career, by all means take an overload, especially if it is your last semester and you can spend the summer recovering. Believe me, you'll need it.

Ohlone's first art teacher shows works

By CHEYENNE MARTIN
Staff writer

Former Ohlone Art Professor David McLaughlin's exhibit "The Artist's Compass Is In The Eye" is currently open in the Louie Meager Art Gallery at the Smith Center. The exhibit is a retrospective of McLaughlin's 50 years as an artist.

McLaughlin was Ohlone's first Professor of Art, teaching painting, drawing and art history from 1970 until he retired in 2003.

Each piece in the exhibit represents a time and style in the McLaughlin's life. "I wanted to show the most important pieces of my style throughout my career," said McLaughlin.

McLaughlin has been involved with art his whole life. At the age of 5, around 1942, McLaughlin was introduced to art by a cousin who attended San Francisco Art Institute. In high school, McLaughlin started to grow an appreciation for painting and figures, thus deciding to become an artist. McLaughlin attended California College of the Arts, then known as California College of Arts and Crafts.

In 1967 McLaughlin decided to go back to school for his Master's degree, attending San Francisco State University. After complet-

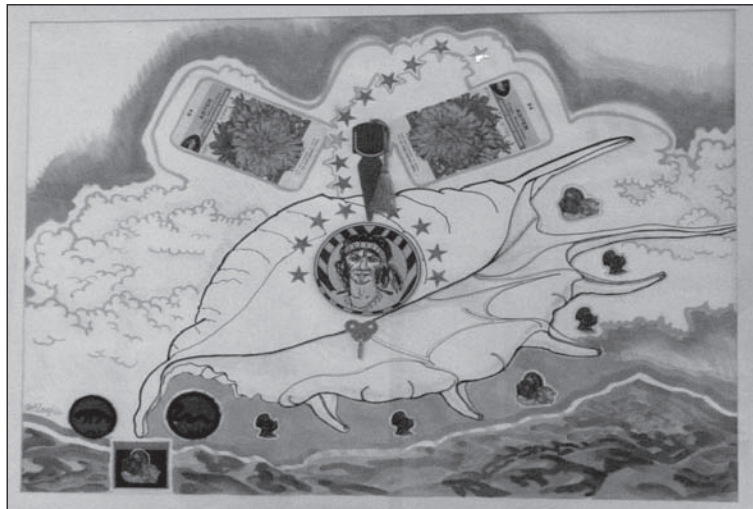


Photo by Destiny Harrison

A painting by Dave McLaughlin in the Louie Meager Art Gallery at the Smith Center.

ing graduate school, McLaughlin decided to become a teacher.

When teaching, McLaughlin made a point to show his students all types of techniques and results. He said he tried not to push his own styles onto his students. "I wanted students to know that personal opinion would not matter; that's what art should be taught like," said McLaughlin.

In 1999, McLaughlin briefly retired and then returned to Ohlone part time to teach watercolors and airbrush. He continued until 2003, when the dangers of airbrush caused him to retire.

McLaughlin had another reason to retire, as well. "[I wanted to] take the last chapter of my life as a solitary artist," said McLaughlin.

After retiring, McLaughlin contracted emphysema - a disease that is fairly common with those who use airbrushes.

After retiring for good, McLaughlin relocated to Winters, CA with his wife of 46 years, Penny, to be centrally located with his three children: Jed, Holly and Nicole, as well as his six grandchildren. This year he celebrates his 70th birthday is "still painting, I wanted to paint for myself, [and] have time to devote to exploring my art."

McLaughlin's exhibit will be shown through Feb. 27 in the Smith Center. On Wednesday, Feb. 21 there will be a reception

Photo By Destiny Harrison

and an artist talk from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. McLaughlin will describe his inspiration and lead an exploration through his artwork.

The next exhibit at the Louie Meager Art Gallery will be the Valentine Show, which will be up Feb. 9.

Hilke going to caucus

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Hilke's duties will be to caucus with other democrats across the state, vote for the parties' regional directors and to construct next year's state platform.

Issues important to Hilke are poverty in America, piece in the Middle East and Global Warming. "The real humanistic issues," described Hilke.

The California Democratic Convention will be held at the San Diego Convention Center from April 27 through April 29.

Freeman writes own textbook

By CHEYENNE MARTIN
Staff writer

Matthew Freeman, part time instructor at Ohlone, has published not one, but two texts for Ohlone and San Francisco State students.

Freeman wrote "An Introduction to Political Theory" for Ohlone's Political Science class, and "Readings in American Politics" for San Francisco State's Political Theory class.

Both books took a combined total of two years to create. The inspiration for his texts came from current issues, documentation, federal papers and presidential speeches, combined with the desire to provoke dialog about politics.

Freeman, an Ohlone alumnus himself, teaches American Government at Ohlone and History, California Politics and Political Theory at San Francisco State. Freeman also participates as Advisor of Ohlone's Alpha Gamma Sigma Club and the Forensics Debate Coach. He is also known for being one of the first instructors to podcast lectures through iTunes, a new program at Ohlone

that has been very successful.

Freeman was born and raised in Dublin and currently lives in Castro Valley. Growing up, Freeman was interested in politics and history and believes they go hand in hand. As a student at Ohlone, Freeman met and was inspired by Howard DeWitt, a longtime history teacher at Ohlone who has published some texts of his own.

As a teacher, Freeman's goals are to "re-open the dialog and encourage students to have opinions." As a teacher, it is important to remain neutral, said Freeman; he claims when an instructor reveals their views it closes the conversation.

It is also important to Freeman during his lectures to have both sides in an argument feel safe, and to always give the opposite opinion so students can be exposed and become empathetic to others and their views, said Freeman.

Family is very important to Freeman; he has a wife and a young son. "A happy home creates opportunities to find life's passions," said Freeman.



Staff photo
Political Science instructor Matthew Freeman holds two of his textbooks, which he wrote himself.

Teaching comes next. "If I can get a young person interested, I am doing my job right," said Freeman. "You can't feed [information] to someone." Freeman says his instructional style is based on student growth.

Freeman said it is important to remain sensitive to student feelings, and encourages his students to be respectful of others. Freeman said it is important to him to help his students have an opinion and be

grounded. Freeman says one of his favorite things is to hear students taking part in a political discussion after a lecture.

Freeman hopes to become a full-time instructor at Ohlone in the future. By being a full time instructor, Freeman believes he can contribute more freely and focus on his students. Currently, he is working on two new texts primarily in political science and California government.

'Inconvenient Truth' shown at Ohlone



Photo by Kyle Stephens

Assistant to the President Sarah Zentner introduces 'An Inconvenient Truth' at Thursday's 2:30 showing

By **KYLE STEPHENS**
Staff writer

The Ohlone Smith Center screened five showings of Al Gore's documentary "An Inconvenient Truth" last week. The movie, which recently earned Gore a Nobel Peace Prize nomination and was nominated for two Oscars, was followed at some showings by a debate and Q&A session.

The film plays out with a session of a slideshow by Gore, interspersed with footage of him working on his project, as well as the events that led him to discover the topic and expansions of the material in his slides. The film managed to be better than the real thing in this respect, going where a lecture hall alone could not go.

A parliamentary-style debate,

featuring four people and two sides - government and opposition - was held after the Thursday 2:30 p.m. showing, debating courses of action for global warming. Both sides acknowledged the existence of global warming but proposed different approaches.

The government side called for the US leading efforts against global warming, that the effect had consequences for human survival, the economy, and the pursuit of alternate energy sources. The opposition stipulated that the effects humans had on global warming was negligible, and that it would also hurt the economy to engage in efforts against global warming.

The rights to present the five showings of the film were acquired through the Campus Climate Challenge program. Around 700 schools

in the United States and Canada also showed the film free last week.

The showings, which took place at the Smith Center, were accompanied by presentations by Math, Science and Technology Dean Ron Quinta concerning Ohlone's own environmental programs, and Anthropology professor George Rogers concerning his new position as the college's Environmental Sustainability Coordinator.

The film touched on the basic principle of global warming: how increased levels on carbon dioxide raise global temperatures. These in turn, according to Gore's sources, cause more turbulent weather patterns and rising oceans (the beach could come to Fremont in 50 years if the film's predictions prove to be true).

The presentation tied in such events as the recent heat waves around the world and hurricane Katrina, which the film both labeled as the fallout of global warming.

The film flowed well, and made what amounted to a PowerPoint presentation an interesting experience. Gore avoided partisanship, pointing a finger at both parties, saying that while good people exist in both, they also both disregard the matter. He defined the issue as not political but "moral." His quandary was well backed by a wealth of information in clean but not overt graphics and diagrams, as well use of a segment from "Futurama" to explain global warming more animatedly. Shots of audience reactions were kept to

a minimum, leaving the viewer to react on their own accord, implying respect for the individual to find their own conclusion.

What was really grand about the whole affair was that Gore didn't preach. He laid out his data and reiterated the conclusions of scientists, and let the material speak largely for itself.

At the same time, Gore didn't explicitly say what the individual can do to work against the problem until the credits started to roll. Another detracting aspect of the film was Gore's passive aggressive pokes at an ambiguous opposition, and his slightly bland presentation. Gore now had more freedom to speak his mind, no longer being a presidential hopeful with a constituency that could get offended, but years of politics perhaps have smoothed his delivery.

He didn't really touch on alternate theories either, any more than to prove them wrong in favor of his point - which is what a good debater should do, true, but the asides on opposing thought were always very brief. This seems not born out of weakness of his stance, but more a quiet arrogance its superiority, in his eyes.

We also saw too many shots of Gore looking pensive. True, this was Gore's film, and some key events in his life, his education, the near death of his son and the loss of his older sister were relevant to his drive to get the issue out, but the emphasis seems overtly placed on the man.



Devil's Advocate

By ANNA NEMCHUK
Editor-in-chief

Procrastinate!

Every year I do the same thing. The first days of school are golden, shimmering with possibility and full of enthusiasm on my part as I make grand plans to do everything on time - no, ahead of time - get it done well and successfully carry a huge overload while working full-time, regularly cleaning my cats' litter-box, maintaining at the least an armed truce with the parental units and having some semblance of a social life.

For maybe a couple of weeks it all works. However, slowly but surely...actually, more along the lines of surely and with terrifying speed the entire shebang falls apart over my head like an omelet of soggy cardboard in the Amazon.

Refusing to admit it or, heaven forbid, do anything crazy like ask for help, I bravely soldier on, dealing with my rapidly degenerating life in the best possible way - by ignoring it completely and utterly. Deadlines zoom past like stop signs by a 16-year-old with no license and his daddy's new Jaguar, previously respected teachers are relegated to the ranks of enemy combatants - the goal is to avoid and exterminate, if possible with the aid of lots and lots of explosives - gentle but growingly insistent inquiries into my academic progress, home life and/or sanity are met with sounds usually reserved for lunchtime at the average third grade classroom high on cupcakes, and sleep becomes not so much a thing of the past as a creature of mythical legend, a fantasy perpetuated by the state in order to control us all.

In other words, I go quickly and quietly bonkers.

Having failed spectacularly at about 95 percent of what I set out to do four months earlier, I take a deep breath, burrow my head still further into that comfy sandbox and peruse next semester's catalog, as any idiot can see that I've quite clearly learned my lesson and would never even think of repeating such a travesty.

Professional help comes to mind, as do the names of some very good monasteries in the neighboring Himalayas, preferably the ones with really sharp sticks and an abundance of gruel.

Still, surrender is not an option. This semester, I think I've solved the problem. A story by Harlan Ellison comes to mind, one in which an addict is wired to a nuclear bomb set to detonate on his death and sent into an alien spaceship with the purpose of taking it over.

Like most of Ellison's antiheroes, he is as royally screwed up as he is screwed over; he comes to hate the fellow humans that value his life so cheaply and takes over the aliens all right, proceeding then to become their leader and conquer the humans, his addiction burned away in the blaze of his hatred.

All I need now is some plutonium. And maybe a few aliens.

Full season ahead for Smith Center

By **MICHAEL ABURAS**
Staff writer

The Smith Center for Performing Arts will have another full schedule this semester, featuring such acts as parody group Forbidden Broadway, performances by Ohlone's dance program, and improvisational

comedy group Comedy Sportz. For more information on the performances, go to [www.http://www.ohlone.edu/org/smith_ctr/](http://www.ohlone.edu/org/smith_ctr/). Tickets for the performances are available at the Smith Center box office.

The Forbidden Broadway Special Victims Unit will be the first major act of the semester at the

Jackson Theater. On February 23, Forbidden Broadway will perform for the second time at Ohlone, parodying famous Broadway plays. "They'll bring back the classics like 'Annie'," said Director of Theater Operations Chris Booras.

Audiences will see 200 costume changes in about an hour and a half, as a road cast of only six portrays the characters. The Special Victims Unit will feature the witches of "Wicked," a spoof on "Fiddler on the Roof," the puppets of "Avenue Q" and others.

"If you know musicals it's even funnier. Even if you don't know musicals there's enough physical comedy to capture your attention; there's a bunch of craziness on stage," added Booras.

Forbidden Broadway is based in New York and is in its 24th year of production. The production has won the Drama Desk Award given by critics of New York newspapers. "Every year we do one really big one (show) and this it for this season," said Booras.

The Ohlone College dancers will put on the largest student production of the semester and feature all of Ohlone's dance classes. The theme of the production is the elements and will feature earth, air, fire and water interpreted through dance.

Based in San Jose, Comedy Sportz will be another returning professional level production at the Smith Center April 27. Comedy Sportz is an improv comedy troupe, which breaks into two teams that compete for laughs. Fan participation is encouraged and fans will have the ability to call foul if they believe a player goes out of

bounds.

Jeff Kramer, who teaches improvisational comedy at Ohlone, is the founder and director of the San Jose chapter of Comedy Sportz. In addition, former Ohlone student Patrick "Choch" Hobban will be performing.

In September 2005 Alex Borstein performed with the troupe at the Smith Center. Borstein was once an actress on Mad TV who had a recurring role as Ms. Swan and also provides the voice of Lois on The Family Guy.

May 10-12 will feature the Student Repertory, a group of students who act, direct and produce one-act plays. "A lot of it is cutting edge contemporary themes," said Dean of Performing Arts Walt Birkedahl.

The Ohlone Wind Orchestra has been chosen to be one of six bands selected nationwide to perform at the American Band Association. The American Band Association is composed of a select group of conductors from major universities and military bands.

"They were invited by virtue of their reputation," said Birkedahl. The Ohlone Wind Orchestra will perform May 20 at the Smith Center.

The Louie Meager Art Gallery in the Smith Center will feature the Annual Fine Art & Design Student Show April 20 through May 15. The show features select works of Ohlone students. Works are judged and chosen to be in the gallery. According to Birkedahl, so many talented students turn great art pieces that many are turned away.

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Have YOU completed your 2006-2007 FAFSA Application for Spring 2007 Pell Awards?

You may also be eligible for a Cal-Grant but you must complete the 2007-2008 FAFSA application by March 2nd in order to be eligible!

To apply visit:
www.fafsa.ed.gov

For additional information, please contact the Ohlone Financial Aid Office at (510) 659-6150