



Weighing Anchor

By ERIC DORMAN
News editor

Politicians: use less mud

Americans might be dreaming of a white Christmas, but this yuletide season will be only mud-colored if our political frontrunners continue to fling insults and launch attacks at each other.

If there was a time politicians took on feelings of peace and harmony during the holiday season, that time is long gone. Ironically, a little peace and goodwill would probably go a lot further to advancing their campaigns than all the mud they can carry.

A fitting example of the kind of attacks the candidates are making to kick off the holiday season occurred Sunday, when Hillary Clinton accused fellow Democratic candidate Barack Obama of being all talk and unwilling to take action. "I think [the American people] want someone with a real record—a doer, not a talker," said Clinton in a direct jab at Obama's Senate voting record.

Obama had some accusations of his own to fling back. Tuesday, he claimed that Clinton could never win because too many Americans viewed her negatively. "If you start off with 47 percent negatives, you have a pretty short field to work with," he said, referring to her 47 percent negative approval ratings.

Interestingly enough, a different Democratic candidate is looking to benefit from the fracas going on between the two front runners. John Edwards, a candidate who has been trailing Obama and Clinton in the polls since the race began, is taking a step back from the action after a year of aggressiveness has failed to increase his popularity.

"Listen, I don't think America benefits from any personal fighting between candidates," said Edwards. Other politicians would do well to follow his example.

Republican front-runners Rudy Guiliani and Mitt Romney have succumbed to personal attacks as well; in a debate last Wednesday they both accused each other of being soft on illegal immigration.

While it may be tempting for candidates on both sides to bash contenders out of the way with cheap personal attacks, the strategy is ultimately an empty one. When it comes down to leading the nation, it will be the content of a candidate's character—not their ability to point out deficiencies in another—that will define who they are as a leader. Furthermore, Americans do not have an unlimited tolerance for continued low blows such as these; candidates should avoid too much negativity if they want to keep their poll numbers up.

As a Christmas gift to America, it's time for our politicians to clean up their acts and reevaluate their campaign tactics. Only then can we have a harmonious blue, red, and white Christmas.

Auer's art shines at Olive Hyde

By ANDREW CAVETTE
Staff writer

Executive Assistant in the President's Office, Shelby Auer, showed and sold works of folded paper at the nearby Olive Hyde art gallery over the weekend.

The Olive Hyde Art Guild's annual "Holiday for the Arts" show celebrated its 25th anniversary with a well attended gala event on Nov. 30. The sale continued through Dec. 2. The City of Fremont as well as several foundations and corporations sponsor "Holiday for the Arts." Tickets to Friday's gala event cost between \$12.50 and \$15 and the proceeds from the show benefit visual arts in the community.

Auer's work included handmade cards and other framed, folded paper pieces. She likes to use a great deal of recycled paper goods. Auer salvages everything from old envelopes to used wrapping paper for use in her art.

Auer said, "I'm a really sentimental person and I like letters and cards... I've always been a collector; I get that from my parents."

Her technique combines origami with influences of Danish paper work and Victorian era paper craft.

Auer said her mother first taught her the basic folding techniques. She recalled, "It was always something I did on the side as a labor of love. It doesn't generate much money."

For the Olive Hyde show, Auer's foldings included a variety of subjects, among them: small, framed kimono dresses as well as hearts with swirling centers in the shape of a camera's aperture.

Some of her work uses photography, which she does herself. "I always had a camera, probably since the age of 6. I used to take pictures at the zoo." She got the



Photos by Andrew Cavette

photography bug from her father, who also enjoyed photography. "One of the last things he did before he passed away, was that he gave me a camera."

Her favorite subjects are flowers and butterflies. Auer observed, "I'm always trying to seek out beauty" and of photography said, "Sometimes I see something [beautiful] and think I might never see it again." Auer said both of her parents were very creative people when she was growing up near Los Angeles and always supportive of her work.

Auer has pursued her artistic endeavors with more drive in recent years, but said that doing paper folding as more than just a hobby "was kind of a fluke." She

began by making a few things for a friend's art show at Aurora School in Oakland in 2004.

She said, "the cards sold really well." Auer remembered, "The first year I did it, I had a few people that came back the next year [wanting more]. I still have a few friends who call me around Christmas time saying 'I need more cards.'"

Auer sold her work at the show for three years before her friend moved out of California. "This year I didn't know if I was going to do anything and then I decided to try to be a little more ambitious."

Auer auditioned her work for the Olive Hyde show in September, something she had never done before. Though she has had some

success with her cards, Auer is still very modest about her work.

She said, "I went over there [to the audition interview] and had no idea what to do. The woman came up to me afterwards and said 'We love your work, but one thing... when we put it in the show, please make sure you put your name on it.'"

A week after the interview, Auer received word that she had made it into the guild's 25th anniversary holiday show.

With no plans to make a living from her artwork, Auer believes, "Life is too short not to fully involve yourself in your creative pursuits." And, if nothing else, she said, "It makes me happy."



Shelby Auer stands by a rack of her handmade cards on sale over the weekend at the Olive Hyde art gallery in Fremont.

3 1/2 plays to premiere on Ohlone TV

By INEZ BLACK
Staff writer

"Teacher's Pet," "Toupee Incident," "Perfect Marriage," and "Prey" offer murder, comedy, surrealism, and a thriller, all in less than 30 minutes, on Dec. 14 at 7 p.m. on ONTV, Channel 28. The 3 1/2 One Act Plays are based on the premise of "Misunderstandings."

Tom Blank of the Drama Department stated, "Dominic, Gary and I all have contacts with the industry. Usually we get some scripts from LA -- some pilots that are kicking around. We shoot it and send it to them. We got the Ally McBeal script before it was shot - the pilot. It was brilliant, but you don't get that quality all the time."

Gary Kauf, former KTVU reporter and head of the TV Department, teaches and supervises post-production. Kauf said, "This year we did not have any good scripts from Hollywood."

Blank said, "I think they knew the writers' strike was on, so they were being protective of their scripts."

So, Blank assigned his class to write a one-paragraph summary of a scenario with the premise of "misunderstandings." Then they pitched

them to the class, assuming they would receive \$500,000 to create the pilot. From 24 proposals, scripts were written, and it was narrowed down to four scripts.

Kauf stated, "It happened that we had four students who were unusually talented in writing - very young, very green. Only one of them has written anything like that before. We worked with the students, especially Tom, who helped shape the scripts."

Blank indicated, "It's the first time we went from doing one long project to doing four short projects. Each play is about eight minutes and the trailer is 3-4 minutes."

Dominic Bonavolonta, instructor in the Broadcasting Department, said, "'The Toupee Incident' is very funny. The 'Perfect Marriage' is a surrealistic look at marriage. I'm only with the students while it is being shot, so I don't get to see it from the beginning to end as Tom does."

Blank and Bonavolonta explained that the budget is five days per shoot, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. That includes arriving at the studio, getting the equipment, getting to the location for the shoot.

The actors arrive and dress in

costume, then go to the location. Lighting is set up. They frequently don't start shooting until 3:30 p.m. and they can lose the lighting during the winter. The approximately 80 scenes will be edited to eight to 10 scenes, for the eight-minute production.

Meghann Bird wrote the screen play for "Teacher's Pet." It is about a teacher who abuses his position. It was produced by Lila Salinas, directed by Jake Baptista, edited by Lila Salinas, and stars Barry Kearns and Kaly Vadlamudi.

Kearns said, "I played one of the leads, Professor Morrison - a young handsome teacher!... I thought I did fine until I started watching the scenes."

"Toupee Incident" is a comedy written and directed by Barry Kearns about a mispronunciation. It was produced by Erika Wicks and edited by Sho Ansari. It stars Michael Callan, Diane Wagner, James Devreau and Lisa Teller.

"Perfect Marriage" was written, directed, and produced by Von von Lindenberg is a surreal look at a marriage. It was edited by George Bader. Von Lindenberg enrolled in the class to learn how to produce his songs.

He said, "I enrolled in this class and had no idea that I would have to write a script. I'm a songwriter. Most of the songwriting I do is about joy, happiness, awakening, and finding answers. It is a turn of event to write a drama about a not-good ending - a psychotic woman."

Blank quipped, "Where did we get the 1/2? We ran out of time... The lighting and the complexity of the shoots far exceeded the time we allotted to them. We told Tommy we have two days left to shoot."

Tommy Jernigan offered to make a trailer to present it to someone in an effort to obtain money to produce it.

"Prey," the thriller trailer, was written, directed, produced and edited by Jernigan. He said, "The story is about a woman stalked by this random person. She gets to her house, and she calls her husband. He shows up scares the stalker away, but the stalker returns... It's based on a real woman who married a guy and killed him for his money. Then she moved, changed her name, and did it again."

The three plays will be available on demand on the website ohlonetv.com, in Video Archives after Dec. 14.