



# MOHLONE COLLEGE MONITOR

Vol. XXXVIII No. X

Fremont, California

April 2, 2009

## Women's basketball coach won't return



**Stanley's contract has been terminated.**

By **TOMÁS ORTEGA**  
*Sports writer*

After nine years as Women's Basketball Coach and a few weeks after finishing a 12-0 Conference season, Elizabeth Stanley will not be returning for the 2009-'10 season.

There has been no official word on why Stanley will not be returning as coach.

Stanley told the *Monitor* that she "doesn't know" why she was

relieved of her duties as coach. She also didn't give a possible reason of why she was terminated.

Ohlone Athletic Director Chris Warden has been off campus at a conference and could not be reached for comment.

College President Dr. Gari Browning would not comment on the situation due to it being a personnel decision. She did, however, refer the *Monitor* to talk to Warden.

Some of those who played under

Stanley had little to say about the situation and looked upset when asked about the decision.

"I don't think it happened by choice," said one of Stanley's former players who would only speak under anonymity. "I'm upset how everything happened. I mean, the whole process."

Stanley took over as Ohlone women's basketball coach in the 2001-'02 season. Since 2005, Stanley compiled a record of 82-

39. She also reached the playoffs in six consecutive seasons since 2004, three times as Coast North Conference Champions in 2004, 2007 and 2009. In 2009, Stanley's team compiled a 12-0 Conference record, her best season ever.

When asked why she believes Stanley was relieved from her duties as head coach, another player, who also wished to speak under anonymity, said, "things happened that you're not going to find out."

## On the road again: Oppenheim rides on

By **ERIC DORMAN**  
*Editor-in-chief*

It's a story that stretches from the strawberry fields of Oxnard to the jungles of Vietnam to the steps of Ohlone; from hopping freight trains to riding Harleys; from a childhood of truancy to 33 years of teaching at Ohlone. And now, Sociology Professor Bennett Oppenheim is ready to turn the page and begin a new chapter: retirement.

"I leave this campus with warmth in my heart and a smile on my face. I have no regrets, I would do it all again in a moment, and I hope being a professor of sociology is as fulfilling for my predecessor as it was for me," said Oppenheim, who will be stepping down as a full-time professor after this semester.

"Bennett will be missed. I can't imagine him not being here next semester," said Psychology Professor Tom McMahon, who was hired the same day as Oppenheim in 1976. "[He's] one of the stars on campus."

Few, including Oppenheim himself, could have predicted the career devoted to education from which he is now retiring. Speaking in the metered, carefully constructed and immaculately punctuated sentences that characterize his speech both inside and out of the classroom, Oppenheim described a childhood of adventure, hardship and little emphasis on education.

Born in Detroit, Michigan in 1947 and growing up in California, Oppenheim saw little use for school and decided his hands were more likely to earn him his livelihood than his mind. As a frequently truant high school student in the early '60's, he found that the only summer work available to him lay in the fields of Oxnard, California, picking strawberries and other fruit for 50 cents an hour alongside Mexican migrant workers as part of the Bracero worker program.

The work, which started at 4:15 in the morning and stretched until 7:15 at night, was physically and psychologically brutal. At the start of the workday, at 4:15 in the morning, "I'd get down on my knees on the front end of a row of strawberries and I couldn't see the end," remembered Oppenheim. At the 7:15 p.m. quitting time, he'd still be picking strawberries from the same row.

The Bracero program, a temporary work contract initiated in 1942 between the United States and Mexico, was officially terminated in 1964 due to the substandard pay (Oppenheim's 50 cents an hour was less than half of minimum wage) and deplorable working conditions that had come to characterize the program. The conditions, though, however difficult, enabled Oppenheim to take an early step in his sociological education. Living, eating and working alongside

Mexican immigrants, Oppenheim was immersed in a culture he might never had experienced so fully otherwise.

If the experience taught him about people, it taught Oppenheim about the importance of a positive outlook on life, too. Picking strawberries day after day alongside people who had very little materially but lived richly nonetheless, "taught me that it isn't what you do, it's how you do it," said Oppenheim. "There are things more important than a material standard of living."

After three years of high school in Ventura, Oppenheim spent his senior year in the Boys Republic correctional program in Chino in 1965. At Boys Republic, the motto of "Nothing Without Labor" very much held true, said Oppenheim, as the boys were expected to put in long hours on the farm held by the program. It wasn't jail, but there was no leaving and no visitation.

After Boys Republic, Oppenheim enrolled in Ventura Community College, but dropped out in April 1966 to join the Marines. The decision, he said, constituted more of a preventative measure than a desire for a long-time military career. "I figured I was either going to get in trouble [on my own], or I could put myself in an environment where I couldn't," explained Oppenheim. Eight months later, he stepped off the plane in Vietnam.

*Continued on Page 4*



Photo by Jack Husting

**33-year Sociology Professor Bennett Oppenheim hopes to spend more time on his Harley after he retires from full-time teaching in May.**

## Theater Festival to showcase high school talent

By **ESMERALDA LEON**  
*Staff writer*

The 15<sup>th</sup> annual Ohlone High School Theater Festival is coming Friday, April 3 to the Fremont campus. This two-day event will be a chance for high school students from Northern California to see what Ohlone has to offer, as well as welcome them to become part of this summer's big production, the "Sweet Charity" musical.

Not only does this provide a chance to recruit students, but it also provides an op-

portunity for students to compete and put on a show.

Students have the chance to choose any public plays, costumes and props they like and perform in front of judges and their competitors. Ohlone students, faculty and staff are all welcome to come see high school students battle it out. Participants have five weeks to prepare for the festival.

Theater Professor Tom Blank officially started the event 15 years ago. "But everyone in the department, about 50 faculty, staff and students are the ones who really create the

magic and work together to give the high school students a terrific time," said Blank. This production gives high school students an opportunity to earn a half unit of college credit, and is offered to 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders. There is no cost, but registration and signed permission from the school principal, counselor and parent/guardian must have been submitted by March 4 in order to participate.

"There will be around 500 events going on in seven different buildings on campus. It's going to be crazy, but very fun," said Blank. About 750 students will be competing, which

will represent two dozen high schools from seven counties in California.

There will be 150 professional judges, some of whom are Ohlone alumni, who will help to determine who will take home awards. Awards include the school spirit award and monitor of the year award, among others.

The opening ceremonies will take place in the gym this Friday at noon. The competition of scenes will take place all over campus from 1 to 5 p.m. On Saturday at 9 a.m., competition will resume and the final performance will take place from 1 to 3 p.m.