



**Tony
C.
Yang**

Don't be fooled by white smoke

For those of you living in a cave, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger is now Pope Benedict XVI, after a two-day deliberation by a secretive Vatican conclave.

While 1.1 billion of the world's Catholic faithful cheer the ascension of the 265th Vicar of Christ, a dwindling number of loyalists in the west, as well as social unrest among third-world countries, threaten the supremacy of the Catholic church. In light of this new election, I do believe it is doomed.

Hear me out. I am all for morals, decency and a firm reliance on God. Yet the current tone of the Vatican has been nothing but strident.

What's interesting is that Benedict was not only a member of the Hitler Youth in WWII Germany, but ended up becoming an American POW in 1945 in the last days of the war.

After seminary school and much ladder-jumping, Benedict became John Paul's right-hand man for enforcing doctrine.

It is also worth mentioning that Benedict has been out of the public eye since 1981, when Pope John Paul named him the prefect of the Holy Office of the Inquisition. A complex, messy job, no doubt (whose name and duties has changed over the years), but one filled with the arcane details enforcing the orthodoxy of the establishment, which he loves.

Known as "God's Rottweiler" in some circles, Benedict is an unrepentant ideologue, whose dogmatic views goes something like this; "I am personally convinced that the constant presence in the press of the sins of Catholic priests, especially in the United States, is a planned campaign." His hard-line stances on gay marriage, abortion and euthanasia don't help matters, either.

It is with this problematic background that leads me to conclude that Benedict will not change overnight into a beloved figure just because of this promotion.

Benedict is facing not merely a new wardrobe and a name change- but an ever spreading "godless secularism" he decries that is exacerbated by activist priests and Dan Brown books.

Benedict's ironclad adherence to the orthodoxy of the Church will continue to be a sore spot for western Catholics, whose hopes for a more flexible and liberal ideology died along with his friend, the late Pope John Paul II.

If history is any indication on how Benedict will fare, I think we should look to an old Roman saying: "Fat Popes are followed by thin ones, and so on." If this is true, then Pope Benedict may have some large robes to fill.

Dance show comes to the Smith Center

By **MEENU KAUSHAL**
and **BRITNEY BINDEL**
Staff writers

The Ohlone College Department of Theatre and Dance will bring their audience to the brink of "world," "reality," "bliss" and "despair" in their Spring 2005 dance production, *Dancing on the Brink*.

It will be presented on Friday, April 22 and Saturday, April 23 at 8 p.m. A matinee will be presented on Sunday, April 24 at 2 p.m.

The dance production is Tomblin-Brown's vision and creation. As director of the dance department, Tomblin-Brown explains that her job is "not just about dance."

The spring concert is the achievement of this goal, as represented by Tomblin-Brown, and the other teacher and student choreographers. "It is a diverse production with as many as 11 choreographers and 120 performers. There are many types of dances - jazz, tap, hip-hop, and ballet," said Brown.

Jana Morris, assistant artistic director, confirms, "It unifies all the dances and signifies the college's motto of a world of culture united in learning."

The spring production has the creativity of each of the 11 choreographers who are as follows: Julie Collins, Onel Higginbotham, Senchal Burks, Morgan Lindstrom, Michelle Kelly, Natalie Martin, Ashley Bogue,

Cara Candelanci, Justin Isla, Alia Padaong and Melissa Larson.

"The choreographers have motivated the dancers to perform, both emotionally and physically, beyond their boundaries and capabilities," Morris said.

"It was both challenging as well as rewarding for the choreographers to help the artists with different body types and experience levels, [and] perform in such a versatile dance production," said Morris. "The dances are, however, a part of a theme. It is different from a recital or a concert as the production has a story."

Tomblin-Brown has set movement to her own personal turmoil in the finale, *Unempowered*. In this piece, she beckons to the buried experience, addiction or relationship, "it," and challenges her dancers fight through their dance for healing. The performers exude their raw experiences of whatever life-sucking powers "it" may hold over their lives.

A climax occurs when the dancers begin dancing over their "brink of despair." This is evidenced at different times, but becomes undeniably obvious as dancers walk away from their "it" wall.

Consequently, the wall fades and pictures of children are flashed in cadence with their laughter. Tomblin-Brown's voice offers hope to the audience as she explains; "There is a reason for the

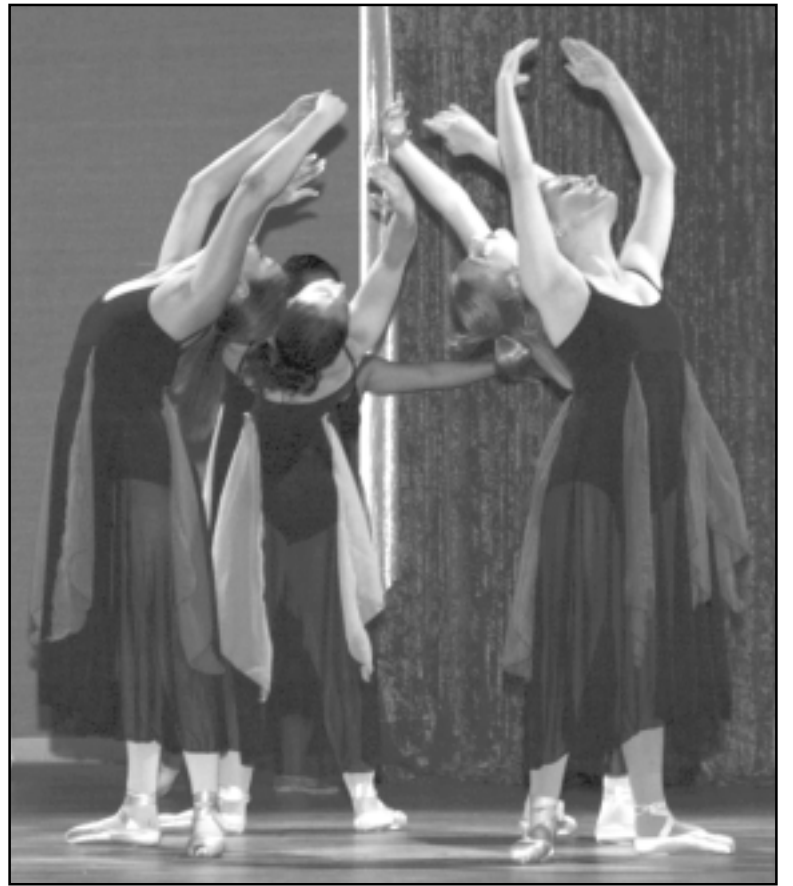


Photo by Daniel Kwan

The dance company practices for their upcoming show with their ballet *L'oiseau*, choreography by Morgan Lindstrom.

dark hours, a very good one. Despair has succeeded in its purpose if it leads us back to hope."

Tickets are available online at www.smithcenterpresents.com or at the Box Office at (510) 659-6031.

For more information about "Dancing on the Brink," contact Janel Tomblin-Brown, Director of Dance at (510) 979-7450, or contact Jana Morris, assistant artistic director at (510) 659-6000 ext 5242.

Ohlone art instructor has new art show

By **AMAN MEHRZAI**
News editor

Art is like a mirror, reflecting the mood and character of its creator. Some people create art to dissolve stress, while others choose to capture beauty. But many artists always have a hidden message in the work they create, telling something a little about themselves, about the world as they see it, containing deeper messages that only those close to the artist get to find out.

Ohlone's Art Professor, Kenney Mencher had the opportunity in recent years to not only create the paintings he loves, but his art work has been displayed in places from the Bay Area to Sacramento.

Mencher's works are not shy of controversy. Last year, his drawings were removed from

Sacramento's California State Teachers' Retirement System office lobby, for being "wry and perverted." An array of Mencher's paintings on display there depicted women and men in what was perceived as "sexual." Many female employees felt uncomfortable with these depictions and pushed to get the paintings removed.

Mencher pondered on what happened and decided to incorporate the incident into his new set of paintings.

Mencher often ties in his real life experiences with his paintings, both with the actual paintings itself and with its titles. The title of Mencher's current display in Sacramento interplays with the incidents of the past.

"A ham is an actor who over acts," said Mencher, referring to Shakespeare's infamous play. "This is a common cliché" in the world of



Photo by Inez Black

Kenney Mencher stands next to one of his pieces.



Photo courtesy of www.kenney-mencher.com

Man thinking of morality in 'Hamelettes on Wry.'



Photo courtesy of www.kenney-mencher.com

Is the cup half full or half empty?

Art and Theatre. So I decided to do a play on words with it. "Hamlettes is spelled almost like omelets. It is like a derivative of a little ham. The wry almost sounds like rye bread, playing on the lady calling my work wry and perverted." The final illu-

sion, sounding like "omelets on rye" is a sarcastic play on spelling, wording and real life.

Currently, Mencher's new paintings, "Hamlettes on Wry" is on display at the Elliot Fouts Gallery in Sacramento.

Ice skater goes to competition with UC Berkeley skating team



Photo by Daniel Kwan

Alice Ho practices skating at Fremont's Iceoplex.

New Ohlone English instructor shares his past experiences through writing

By **ALISHA FRANCISCO**
Features editor

After serving in the Marines during the first Gulf War, Sean Brown says he has now found his true calling.

Now a part-time instructor since this spring semester, Brown has been teaching the fast track English classes at Ohlone.

During the first episode of the Gulf War, he worked as a Marine jet engine mechanic for AU8B Harriers. While loading a 500-pound cluster bomb, his partner who helped him carry the bomb onto the aircraft, tripped over a chain and let go of the bomb. The weight of the bomb resulted in Brown needing surgery because of a dislocated shoulder. Then came a medical discharge.

Brown's inspiration goes back to when he served in the Marines. During that time, he kept correspondence with a doctor's wife

and teacher who gave him encouragement to continue writing because of the narratives that he would write in his letters.

In 1994, he came back from the Marines and decided to go back to school. "Going back to school helped make me realize that writing was what I was suppose to do," said Brown.

Brown's first attempt to go back to school was on the East Coast. He then moved out to California where he went to San Francisco State and received his master's degree in English, Creative Writing and Fine Art.

Brown's writings range from fiction to poetry. "I write primarily in camps of experiences. I write about my childhood, family, military experiences and day-to-day experiences."

His forthcoming book, *Manufacture's Specifications and Guidelines*, is set to come out at the end of the year, which talks

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in another. However, her UC Berkeley skating school ranked fourth place in the overall competition.

Her inspirations come from her favorite ice skaters, Michelle Kwan and Sasha Cohen.

After an hour and a half to two hours of skating, which would seem daunting to anyone who has not done this since they were 13 years old, 21-year old Ho sets off to her first classes in Berkeley at 11 in the morning.

Currently Ho is signed up for 15 units in two different schools, three units at Ohlone and 12 at UC Berkeley.

Only coming to Ohlone three times a week is still a hassle, because Ho has to take the Fremont BART to Berkeley, just to get to her classes there. But all work and no play isn't what she's about.

Just to unwind, Ho listens to her 20-gigabyte iPod, full of her favorite music. She enjoys hanging out with friends at the movies, or watching the television show "Lost" at one of their houses.

As you can see, much unwinding is due for Ho as she juggles the pressures of her parents' jockeying for her to graduate with her pastime of figure skating.

Majoring in mass communications, Ho wants to go into advertising.

Although she does not think she is good enough for the Olympics, Ho still wants to continue ice skating for a long time to come.

Ho was first introduced to ice skating when she went on a trip with her church, when she was 13 years old. She went to San Jose's Eastridge Mall ice rink.

Her first time on the ice was in a small group lesson, given at the church outing.

When Iceoplex opened in Fremont, Ho begged her mother to sign her up for group lessons. "When I first went ice skating, I loved it."

As long as Ho continues to fuel her passion for ice skating, along with her continued dedication to her schoolwork it will surely pay off in the long run.



Mark McCord

The circus trial of M. Jackson

I didn't want to talk about it, but now I need to talk about it somewhere, why not here? The "it" is the circus that is the Michael Jackson trial.

OK, let me start by saying that this is probably one of the hardest cases to get a handle on; I'm not sure what to think. On the surface it looks like Jackson could be guilty, things like: him being 46 years old and keeping company with young boys and, according to allegations, would shake and cry hysterically if the boy wasn't allowed to sleep in his room with him. To say that's creepy would be an understatement.

Over the years Jackson has been constantly talking about how he missed out on his childhood. Hey, in the past 20 years this guy has had a better childhood than me and any 20 people I've ever met. Settling a previous charge of child molestation out of court in 1993 has definitely hurt his case too.

OK, now from what I understand of the case: the boy's mother has said that she and her family were held captive on Jackson's estate while a documentary was being made that refuted allegations of improper behavior by Jackson. The accuser, a 13-year-old cancer patient, has made allegations that Michael Jackson fondled him. According to published reports, Jackson is said to have "seduced" the boy by serving him wine.

OK, so where's the circus? The clowns are the parade of witnesses that are former employees who have stepped out of the shadows to say, "I saw the boss do bad things." A security guard has said that he watched as Jackson stepped out of a shower - naked- with a child - towel his hair off, kiss him and then perform oral sex on the boy. Is this guy to be believed? I don't know about you, wait, no, I do know about you, we couldn't just stand there while a grown man performed oral sex on a child; job be damned, who can stand there while something so morally reprehensible is going on? If Jackson would've taken out a gun and shot the kid, the guard would've instantly been on the phone with the cops. But he sees him engaged in oral sex with the kid and he does nothing? Yeah right, believe that and I have a bridge in San Francisco for you to buy.

Former maids have taken the stand and have made the same kinds of allegations, one of them has said that Jackson had improper relations with her son, but they settled the claim out of court. As a father of three sons, let me tell you something, there is no job and no amount of money someone can pay me to keep quiet about someone improperly touching my kids. The only representation I'd need is the firm of Smith and Wesson.

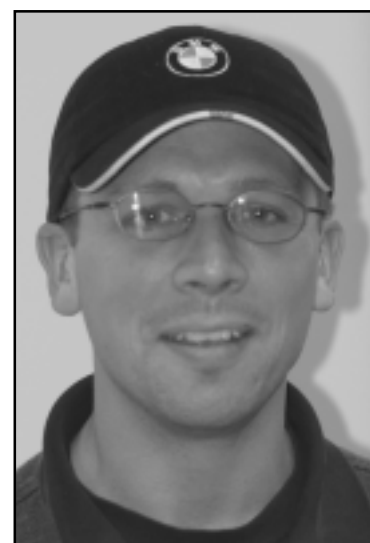


Photo by Sean G. Crawford
Sean Brown is Gulf War veteran now at Ohlone.

ness," said Brown. "This is a big part of my life right now."

Brown will have more experiences to write about while starting his new chapter here at Ohlone.

Summer enrichment program for children

By **FRANK ADDIEGO**
Staff Writer

The semester is winding down and Ohlone College will be holding its popular *Ohlone for Kids* summer enrichment program. Starting June 27, Ohlone College and Mission San Jose High School will be holding classes intended for children between the ages 12 to 15.

Ohlone for Kids will feature courses on a variety of topics that are sure to appeal to younger stu-

dents who fall into the desired age group.

For the more artistic students, there will be classes on art history, cartooning, drama, theatre improvisation and ethnic art.

For more science-and-technology-centered pupils, there will be courses on electronics, chemistry and robotics. The robotics classes will teach students about machines through the aid of *Legos*.

Not all *Ohlone for Kids* classes are geared toward recreation. For parents concerned that their kids

are going to waste their summer on fun and games will be happy to know that the program offers more serious academic courses.

There will be courses on language arts, geography and mathematics including algebra. Health and fitness courses are included as well and include swimming and karate among other physical activities.

According to the *Ohlone for Kids* page on Ohlone College's web site, "attending Ohlone for Kids nurtures the habit of learning that becomes a life-long per-

sonal investment," and it is a "rich selection of diverse and challenging courses to help you along that important journey to [the children's] future."

The semester will be divided up into three sessions. Session one starts on June 27 and ends on July 7. Session two begins on July 11 and runs through July 21. Session three is offered from July 25 to July 28.

For more information, visit Ohlone for Kids on the web at <http://www.ohlone.edu/org/ohloneforkids/>