

THE MENLO OAK

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Oak attends S.F. news conference

Staff learns lessons of the industry while teaching some of their own

ASHLEE EVANS-SMITH
MENLO OAK STAFF WRITER

The staff of *The Oak* newspaper attended a conference in San Francisco on Feb. 28-29 where the co-editors, Kelly Miller and Cody Brydon, sports section editor, Matt Johnson, Advisor Deanna Derosa and I sat in on sessions about how to run a better newspaper and be better journalists. This was the 24th year the conference has been held in San Francisco the second time Menlo has been present.

Johnson was not only in attendance for his own personal growth; he also gave a seminar on covering college sports. Johnson and Jeffery Hand, a professor from New Mexico University, talked in depth about balancing your coverage of men and women, networking with other colleges, and the do's and don'ts of sports writing.

"It was a great opportunity to represent Menlo College and speak at the conference. I enjoyed both sharing my knowledge and learning from the other

experts from around the country. The fact that other Menlo students could attend added to the value of the conference as a whole," said Johnson.



Photo courtesy of Ashlee Evans-Smith
Pictured from left to right: Editor Cody Brydon, Advisor DeAnna DeRosa, Sports Editor Matt Johnson, writer Ashlee Evans-Smith and former Editor Ercilia Pastora.

This convention is the world's largest gathering of student journalists and advisors, and has many leading news outlets in attendance such as the ACP, CMA and CBI. There were close to a hundred practical and professional

learning sessions from high profile key notes to specific problem solving break outs, hands-on workshops and discussion groups. Other convention activities

included the ACP's best of show contest, receptions, award convocations, critiques and a newspaper job fair.

The conference is arranged in a way that lets you choose what seminar you want to attend while multiple ones are

taking place. It's often hard to choose the one best suited for you if you have multiple interests in journalism, but one always seems to stick out from the rest. The seminars I chose to attend were "Covering College Sports," with Johnson, "Feature Writing," with Steve Rubenstein of the San Francisco Chronicle, "Investigative Reporting," with Marcy Burstin of Humboldt State and "The Do's and Don'ts of Interviewing for a Job," with Lesley Guth of the San Francisco Chronicle.

When the seminars concluded, the staff of *The Oak* took a ferry to Alcatraz Island and learned the history of San Francisco's federal penitentiary, the 18 month occupation by Indians the rich history it holds as well as the natural side of The Rock -including gardens, tide pools, bird colonies, and the beautiful view of the bay.

The Oak attends two conferences a year, which vary in location from year to year. New York City, NY was attended in the fall and next fall Kansas City, Mo. will be on the agenda.

That Takes Ovaries lecture draws a crowd

Bobbi Ausubel, part of the Women's Movement, was brought in to lead the workshop

NICK BERRY
MENLO OAK STAFF WRITER

On April 16 the Fireside Lounge was used for a workshop called *That Takes Ovaries*, hosted by the Women's Club. *That Takes Ovaries* is a nationwide women's empowerment movement which involves women leading workshops about acts of female bravery and success in an effort to empower more women across the country and the world. The workshop is based around a book of same title which is a collection of real stories submitted by women.

The workshop at Menlo was led by Bobbi Ausubel, a woman who was an active member of the Women's Movement in the 1960s and 1970s. More recently, she returned from leading women's empowerment workshops in countries like India, Thailand and Kenya.

At the beginning of the workshop the 30 plus students and faculty attending

were encouraged to make eye contact with someone they did not know across the room and then go to that person and ask, "Why lead a bold life?" This conversation led into a group discussion which ultimately led to the idea that, "if you speak your vision it has a better chance of happening."

After that discussion several Menlo students read short stories from the book *That Takes Ovaries* that they picked out because the stories related in some way to their own life experiences.

This was followed by a brief history of the Women's Rights Movement and then the students breaking into small groups to discuss the next generation for women's rights that need to be addressed now and in the immediate future. The groups decided that equality in politics will be at the forefront. Ausubel told the group that only 16% of politicians in the US are female. The other major issue discussed was rape. Ausubel said that 75-90% of date rape victims don't report it. Many women feel pressure to not say anything when it



Photo by Nick Berry
Wrestler Lee Morrison attending the *That Takes Ovaries* lecture on April 16.

happens due to social pressure and the only way to alleviate that pressure is to keep an open dialogue about rape.

At the workshop students also listened to a woman who submitted her own story for the *That Takes Ovaries* book. Her name is Kathy Bruin, and she started a website called about-face.org. According to the website, their goal is to "equip women and girls with tools to understand and resist harmful media

messages that affect self-esteem and body image." Her story was called, "Diary of an Urban Guerilla." The story was about Bruin and a group of her friends and family posting a city for women's rights. They went out at night and put up posters that criticized the media's portrayal of women that eventually led her to start up the website.

The night ended with Ausubel opening the floor to students to tell their personal stories of female courage and bravery to the group. There were several heartfelt stories told by students and some from the attending staff. The stories were about overcoming problems with alcoholism, becoming part of a larger family through extra curricular activities, and stories about overcoming personal fears such as traveling far from home and accomplishing personal goals.

The night was a great success. Everyone who attended came away with a new perspective on feminism and hopefully the courage and ability to help make a better future for women around the world.

Entertainment



Forgetting Sarah Marshall is a hit film

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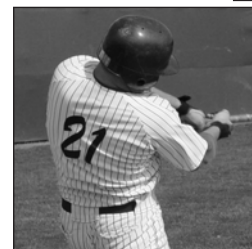
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Gail Ortega departs from Menlo after eight years

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NEWS

2008 Mystery Dance a success as always Students party on boat in McCovey cove and end up on television

JEFF LARSON
MENLO OAK STAFF WRITER

Throughout the school year, the one question that seems to be on everyone's mind is, "Where is the Mystery Dance going to be?" "If you want it to be in San Francisco, it will be there. If you want it to be in San Jose, it will be in San Jose. If you want it to be in Oakland, it will be in Oakland," said Student Involvement Coordinator Sonet Yee. Yee was in charge of putting on the Mystery Dance, and it got a lot of good reviews from students, faculty, and non-students who attended the 2008 Mystery Dance.

"We went to places that were very fun and exciting. The best part was going to AT&T Park and getting on television during the Giants game," said junior Amber Boneso.

A lot of the students were very impressed with the ticket sales. Menlo College students were able to go for free and guests were \$10. In the years past, students had to pay money to get a ticket or two. Not only that, but there were deadlines to purchase tickets for a certain price and then the price would go up after that.

There were many different styles of attire that people wore to the dance. The

girls wore many different dresses that were very colorful, and the guys wore clothes that they would wear to the club or a party. This is the one event that the students always look forward to the whole year. It's a time where the students can put down their books, study habits and video games and come together to try and figure out where the dance is going to be held.

After driving across the Dumbarton Bridge and taking numerous twists and turns, the buses stopped at the port in Alameda. Seniors and juniors were very familiar with the area. They remembered two years ago that the Mystery Dance was at this exact same place. However, Yee was determined to make this boat ride different than it was two years ago. Once on the boat, people were guided into the dining area where snacks and drinks were provided. When all the people got to the boat and everyone was on board, the anchor was pulled. The captain started the engine and the boat set sail for a cruise on the bay.

The sunset was worth sailing into for all of the couples and dates that were onboard. Then, once the sun set into the ocean, nighttime approached and the partiers started to get their groove on the dance floor. The DJ played all different kinds of artists from Souljah Boy to Jay-Z and much more, remixing every song



Photo by Grace Kilpatrick
From left to right Katie Simon, Brooke Ingram and Kayla Hansen attend the Mystery Dance on April 11.

into an up-tempo fast beat. Only after twenty minutes of music and dancing, the room became very hot, steamy, and sweaty. If people got hot or tired of dancing, they walked out the door towards the deck of the boat and looked out into the bay and the night sky.

One of the highlights of the night was

when the boat cruised into McCovey Cove, right next to AT&T Park, home of the San Francisco Giants. A lot of the students commented that being a part of the fan watch in McCovey Cove for home run balls was very interesting. Lots of pictures were taken and to top that off, there is a video on Facebook showing the footage of the game that includes Menlo College on the boat at AT&T Park.

"Just to get on TV is one thing, but to be on TV on a boat in McCovey Cove, that's pretty exciting, said junior Alex Baumgartner. After the departure from AT&T Park, the Mystery Dance set sail underneath the Bay Bridge, took a couple of trips around Alcatraz and to the piers in San Francisco.

The Mystery Dance was a night to remember for all the different classes, especially the seniors because it was the very last Mystery that they would attend as a student of Menlo College. Being with the ones that you like or love was truly something that was worth spending Friday night on. A free dance on the bay was definitely worth going to. A lot of the underclassmen were very impressed with the way that the dance turned out and they said that this would be the one event that they will look forward to every year.

N.Y. news conference full of articulate speakers

Ex CIA officer addresses college journalists about her about defending freedom

GRACE KILPATRICK
MENLO OAK STAFF WRITER

The College Media Advertisers (CMA) in New York had a Spring National Convention in March that offered Media Pro Workshops. Menlo College had the opportunity to go to the convention and meet hundreds of college media editors, staff members, and advisers whom also attended. The event was held at the Roosevelt Hotel and the Marriott Marquis in New York City. According to the CMA the guests were also provided with 15 Media Pro Workshops for attending the convention. In addition, there was a Historians Conference that featured many keynote speakers.

"The Conference was awesome. We saw some great speakers that gave us advice for the paper, as well as our careers. It was an unforgettable experience," said editor Cody Brydon.

One of the featured speakers was

Valerie Plame Wilson a former CIA covert operations officer who dealt with the political dilemma of having her position exposed. According to New York Times articles from 2003, Plame's husband was asked by the CIA to investigate whether Iraqis were trying to buy large quantities of uranium yellowcake from West Africa. As a result of Plame's husband pursuing this investigation Plame's position as a CIA agent was released. During the convention Plame speaks about the abuse of the public trust by the Bush administration striving to silence the situation and the right to defend oneself through freedom of speech. Menlo College also had the opportunity to purchase a copy of Plame's book, "Fair Game: My life as a Spy, My Betrayal by the White House" and have her sign it.

The New York Convention also included the Joint Journalism Historians Conference. The American Journalism Historians Association and the AEJMC History Division presented an intimate

academic gathering about innovative research. All areas of journalism and a variety of topics were discussed from all historical time periods. Later, a tradeshow exhibit featured companies offering products and media programs for college students. Also for guests' convenience there was an information exchange available.

Upon return from the New York conference The Menlo Oak newspaper staff was awarded first place in the American Scholastic Press Association's annual newspaper competition. The paper was judged on the production of our editors, reporters, writers, photographers, and layout designers.

"The judges gave us some good suggestions for future issues," said editor Kelly Miller.

According to American Scholastic Press Association, Menlo College has an excellent school newspaper, which displays the talent of our entire staff. Advice was also offered so the newspaper staff can continue to produce award

winning work.

"I was very surprised to hear that we won! It makes us feel like all our hard work recognized," said Miller.



Photo courtesy of DeAnna DeRosa
Valerie Plame Wilson and staff advisor DeAnna DeRosa in N.Y.

Journalism advisors gain more protection under new law

Judiciary Committee passes a bill, 35-2, protecting advisors' right not to oversee final publications

GAVIN MOFFAT
MENLO OAK STAFF WRITER

On Monday, April 21, 2008 the Senate Judiciary Committee voted in an overwhelming agreement (35-2) to further protect journalistic advisors in the California high school and college systems. An ongoing battle between administration and advisors regarding censorship and prior review of student newspapers has finally been resolved.

Sponsored by Senator Leland Yee (D-San Francisco) SB 1370 gives more protection to advisors and their right to not check their students work prior to it being published. Students have the same constitutional rights as other journalists and both the administration and their teachers do not have the right to view their work prior to it being published. This inability to govern the content of work before its made public has put an extreme amount of pressure on the teacher from the administration to come

down harder on their students as far as content is concerned.

As a result, it has been putting the adviser's careers at risk. There have been at least 12 documented cases where teachers with experienced journalism credentials have been terminated by the schools principals or presidents, and replaced by less qualified teachers who will enforce regulations favored by administrators. Thus the students' First Amendment rights are violated.

Organizations that oppose SB 1370,

like the California School Boards Association and the Association of California School Administrators argue that the new law will only increase lawsuits by teachers against administration. They believe that current laws already provide sufficient protection for teachers.

However SB 1370 is a victory to all journalists in the academic community. It continues to protect First Amendment rights for students while giving teachers a reason to breathe easier.

Menlo Appreciation Day a big success

Second annual event filled with food, fun and prizes for students

MICHELLE CHANG
MENLO OAK STAFF WRITER

The second annual Menlo Appreciation Day was a huge success on Thursday, April 17. It was a fun-filled day of activities, food and awards where the entire campus came together to recognize its outstanding individuals. Menlo Appreciation Day was put together and sponsored by the Student Athletic Leadership Council (SALC), Student Affairs, Athletics, and the Menlo College Student Government Association (MCSGA). After last year's first ever Menlo Appreciation Day was so popular, the sponsors decided to make the special day a yearly event.

The day began with breakfast being served at three different locations around campus where student volunteers served coffee, orange juice and muffins to their classmates. The food

continued with lunch where day students were given a rare free lunch in the cafeteria. With deadlines and finals approaching, it was a relief for students not to have to worry about their next meal.

The main event of the day was the Appreciation Day Awards Ceremony in the Quad. Students were recognized for their hard work with several prestigious awards. Kerilyn Yadao won the Outstanding Student Government Award, presented by John Davila. Elizabeth Cardona won the Outstanding Club President Award, presented by Monique Cabrera. Cabrera presented again to give the Outstanding Club Award to the Hawaii Club. The Gail Ortega Service Award was given to Gail Ortega, presented by Kerilyn Yadao. Caitlin Collier presented the Glen E. Dorst Award, the F. Philler Curtis Award, the Don W. Baer Award and the Don Baikie Co-Male and Female Athletes of the Year Awards to

Jeff Brown, Kepua Lee, Bryon Wesley, Mikael Ryder, Robert Davis and Christa Hewitt, respectively. Finally, Davila presented again to give the Faculty and Staff Members of the Year Awards to Mark Hager and Mary Robins. The ceremony also recognized the current MCSGA members and introduced the new 2008-09 Board. Many student and staff members helped to put the ceremony together, including Sodexo, the Office of Student Affairs, the Athletic Department, SALC, MCSGA, Joe O'Brien, Bob Talbot and Judy Wassman.

After the awards ceremony, everyone enjoyed a barbeque and carnival with a DJ in the quad. The festivities included a dunk tank, an inflatable boxing ring, and many games. Students were able to participate in a gladiator-like event in the inflatable boxing ring as well as a challenge where students were connected to a bungee cord and would race each

other to opposite ends of the ring. Students also enjoyed an egg toss, won by basketball players Kyle Adams and Craig Haberlein. The barbeque featured a huge variety of food, including pork, hot dogs, popcorn, corn on the cob, chocolate chip cookies, and frozen bananas. After all the food and games were finished, students hung out throughout the night at the Oak Tavern.

Menlo Appreciation Day was an incredible success that was very enjoyable. Mindy Mills, Menlo's Sports Information Director, summed up the day: "It was a great event to bring faculty, students and staff out to celebrate the accomplishments of this past year," she said.

Students and staff alike thoroughly enjoyed the day. Menlo Appreciation Day will continue to become one of Menlo College's most anticipated traditions.

Theft is a serious issue on campus

Security reports over 40 incidents have taken place this semester

NICK BERRY
MENLO OAK STAFF WRITER

As this year comes to a close, students across campus are packing up their belongings and getting ready to move out for the summer. While you're packing up your room make sure that none of your things end up in other people's luggage.

This year alone there have been over 40 incident reports cited by security. Some involve alcohol or drug related issues, but there are also many reports of lost or stolen property. The reports can be checked by any students who wish to see them by going to the security office and asking for the Daily Crime Log, which is updated at 6 am everyday. The reports do not contain any names, but the incident, date, and time are all listed in the reports.

"We track everything that is reportable by institutions under the Cleary Act," said Director of Security, Venkat J. Naidu. He also said the most common items to be reported missing are usually, "Wallets, calculators, cell phones, iPods, IDs and digital cameras." He also men-

tioned that, "Backpacks and laptops tend to walk away."

Naidu's advice for students who have lost items is for them to retrace their steps and to check in the lost and found for each building that they might have lost their belongings in. "A lot of items get left behind in the cafeteria, a lot in the student union and a lot in the library," warned Naidu. "Those buildings maintain their own lost and founds. You have to retrace your steps."

Keep track of your books too. "We are very mindful of the fact that things like books can be stolen and resold," said Naidu. Anyone can resell a book, so students should keep an eye on their text books if they want to sell them back for some extra cash at the end of the year.

Do not procrastinate when it comes to your lost items.

"We are required to hold lost belongings up to 30 days. We hold them until the end of the year. Items not claimed will be donated to charity under student handbook policy," Naidu explained. If a student has lost something and they think it could be in the cafeteria, student union, library or the book store, they should go back to those places and ask to see the

lost and found.

Also for students who live in Kratt, Michaels or Howard, do not give out your code. If a student has already given their code to too many people, they can go to one of the Resident Directors and request a code change. Sophomore Thomas Hammontree learned first hand not to give out his code.

"My TV was stolen right after spring break. I didn't report it because I kind of figured it was one of my friends. All of my friends know my code, and a few people who aren't [my friends]," he said.

So during these last days of school students need to be mindful of their possessions. Keep dorm room doors locked even when just going to the restroom or to get laundry, and do not give out door codes. If a student finds out something is missing they should try to retrace their steps and ask each campus building they visited to check the lost and found.

"The most painful thing about items lost is students coming with lost assignments, calculators with programs saved, or a notebook he was using for his exam," said Naidu.

Olympic torch hits S.F.

CHRIS FOUSER
MENLO OAK STAFF WRITER

The opening ceremony of the Olympic torch relay took an unexpected turn at McCovey Cove in San Francisco on April 9, 2008. Less than an hour before the ceremony started, officials cut the original six mile route nearly in half. Instead of heading up the Embarcadero as planned, the torch was transported to Van Ness Avenue, where the relay began.

There were protestors lying in the streets which stopped the bus holding six Olympic torch carriers at Embarcadero and Bryant Street. San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom has no regrets about the decision to move the Beijing Olympic torch relay across town, but said the experience has convinced him that the relay should not go through Tibet. The Mayor said that the decision was made exclusively because officials could not guarantee the safety of people at the event.

Newsom defended the decision of Chief Fong to pass thousands of spectators and protestors by moving the relay to the city's northern section. She praised the officers for defending the decision to re-route rather than having to fight through a path of protestors who refused to get out of the streets. Fong also noted that there were only five arrests made: two in the Marina, two at Justin Herman Plaza and one at McCovey Cove, where the torch lighting ceremony began. Newsom also argued that the protestors fully expressed their First Amendment rights even though there was a change in route. Allegedly there were several protestors in Justin Herman Plaza who were pushed out by the police and Newsom said that these officers were wrong and had been mistaken. Many of the barricades were ignored by the protestors as they verbally expressed their opinions then blocked and vandalized a bus near AT&T Park. Supervisor Chris Daly said that he was there to expose and protest Beijing's poor human rights record while asking the IOC to keep the torch out of Tibet.

Dr. Ellen Morrison, a sociologist from San Francisco, expressed that it seemed as if they were trying to make fools of the protestors by having them chase this way, and chase that way. San Francisco was chosen to host the relay because of its large Chinese-American population. Most of the Chinese American spectators were opposing the Tibet ceremony.

Harsh times for drivers at the pumps won't stop soon

Prices sit around the \$4.00 and are only expected to increase this summer

JENNELLA COURSON
MENLO OAK STAFF WRITER

What is next? Are gas prices really going to hit five dollars? We all thought that it would be decades before "unleaded regular" said "\$5.00" next to it. This nightmare is becoming a reality more and more as each day passes.

I remember being about ten or eleven years old and going to the COSCO gas station with my parents in Southern California, where I grew up. The gas fluctuated a bit but I remember it being \$0.89 one day. It was always around one dollar then gradually as I grew so did those gas prices.

It doesn't seem that gas prices are going to be lowered anytime soon. The average gasoline price in the United States is \$3.50 per gallon. Although, living in the Bay Area you probably would have guessed the average was more like \$4.00. It seems that everywhere in this area gas costs more than \$3.50. If you drive either way on El Camino Real you are sure to find a gas station with prices

between \$3.90 and \$4.00.

Did you know California has the highest gas price in the United States? Gas has hit a price of \$4.50 in Groveland, Ca.

There is not much we can do about these continually rising gas prices. OPEC rejects the idea of producing more crude oil and a barrel of crude oil is going for about \$100.00. It is a product that is always in demand.

Being a college student I am always trying to save a little money. Going to the gas station can empty out my pockets. I try to ride my bike and walk whenever I can, but sometimes I still have to drive my car. If you need to save a little money invest in a bicycle. It gives you a little exercise, helps the environment and can save you a couple of trips to the gas station a month.

However, if you have to drive your car and are looking for the cheapest gas prices around go to Woodside Road at Hudson in Redwood City. The Arco there has the lowest gas prices I have seen in a while. Also try the Quick Stop Market and Gas on Middlefield between 5th Avenue and Marsh Road. However, it

only has four pumps, so expect it to be busy. I suggest going after nine p.m. if you are in a hurry. If you are headed to San Mateo there is an Arco station just off of the 101 at Highway 92. It has the most pumps I have ever seen at a gas station and it is still always busy but their gasoline is about \$0.10 less than anywhere else.

Even if gas prices reach \$5.00 try not to become overwhelmed. I understand it's hard not to become irritated at these devastating gas prices, but do what you can to save your money. Walk to a place if it is only a couple of blocks away. Get a bicycle and ride around your neighborhood a little bit. You might even discover some things you never knew about before. Another idea is to invest in a hybrid or a car that consumes less gas. Hybrids get a lot better gas mileage than regular cars on the road. If you are looking to be adventurous consider getting a motorcycle. Of course you should get your motorcycle license before considering getting a bike. A motorcycle's one gallon tank can go a lot farther than one gallon of gas in a car.