



Correction, issue date 10/27/10, page L3, 'Round the Clock We Go:

We incorrectly identified one of the owners of Clocks Etc. as George Hampton – actually he is Scott Hampton (we knew better – sorry, Scott).



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SMC Dancers in Fragments

By Lou Fancher



Dancers rehearse Tali Stevens' *All There is, is in Your Mind*.

Photo Francesca Crebassa

Saint Mary's College Dance Company will present works of substance in *Fragments*, the annual fall concert running December 2nd through the 4th.

Traveling high on the prestige of last spring's performance as invited guests to the National College Dance Festival at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, five senior students will premiere new work.

Program Director Catherine Davalos came to the department 14 years ago. There was one dance major," she says, "now, there are 40 dancers in the company, and the number of classes has gone from 2 to 40. Our next challenge is how to house all this growth!"

Participation in local and national showcases has "raised the bar of the technique of the dancers," according to Davalos. "Last year, we won our conference title," she says, borrowing from sports lingo, "that's how you get to the Kennedy Center."

With plans to attend the 2011 conference and a number of gigs in

the Bay Area, Davalos is committed to plugging her dancers into as many opportunities as possible. She is particularly proud of the work premiering at the LeFevre Theatre in December: "We attract—and keep—a higher caliber of dancer to our program now."

Zhe Jerry Lin's *A Time When the World was Silent* promises a personal statement about human devaluation. Drawing from the Nanjing Massacre of 1937, a brutal conflict between the Japanese and Chinese people and a story Lin was told countless times by his parents and grandparents, Lin says the solo has allowed him to explore human values and emotions.

Hailey Yaffee, will dive into matters of faith with *Pardon the Spiritual Minds*, a group piece with original music by E.J. Youngblood. "We had many phone conversations to listen to the sections of music he created and from there we would figure out what worked and what didn't," Yaffee explains. "He also attended some of my dance rehearsals. In the end, I described the

emotions I wanted my dancers to feel while dancing and he created a theme that fit that motif."

Lauren Rose O'Leary's *green, blue, brown, hazel*, is a dance focused on unleashing the deepest personal traits of each dancer.

Melissa Weik, a Communication major with a minor in dance, is combining the two disciplines in *infectious ripple (are you happy now?)*. Reflecting Weik's global outlook, four dancers, searching for bliss, find it through a fifth, central character.

Tali Stevens is a Lafayette native who studied at the California Academy of Performing Arts in Moraga. Stevens dares to address fear in *All There is, is in Your Mind*, allowing the emotion to fill the stage, before the dancer at the center of the storm breaks free and conquers the dark shadows.

Lin and Yaffee, who had the opportunity to speak about SMC's dance program, praise the department's intellectual training, as much as the physical rigor. Per-

forming at the Kennedy center was a highlight for both dancers. "The Kennedy Center has such an incredible history of hosting talented performers and to be a part of that legacy was unreal. It will forever be one of my fondest memories," Yaffee says. Lin describes the opportunity as "breath-taking," and "a true honorary experience."

Saint Mary's College Dance Company's "Fragments"

LeFevre Theatre
December 2-4, 2010 at 8pm
A feedback discussion with the choreographers will follow the Friday performance on December 3rd.
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"The Squire" Publisher Found

By Cathy Tyson



John Mustard Photo provided

with \$500 and a vision, but unfortunately no business plan. The independent newspaper originally began in Moraga, according to Mustard; his two main advertisers, grocery stores in Moraga, encouraged him to branch out to Lafayette.

The first edition of the newly expanded paper was born the week of the election – when Lafayette first incorporated. "The entire five years – we careened from one financial crisis to another," said Mustard. He describes it as a "constant struggle," some of the employees had to wait for paychecks. In the end he declared bankruptcy, "Which has been weighing on me all these years."

"It was a fun job," said Dian Overly, former graphic artist for The Squire. "Even when we had to move several times, as I recall, from office to office (probably part of the financial problems); and from the Squire experience, I moved on to the Leshner organization.

Mustard explained that the final straw was the butcher strike against supermarkets. Overnight he lost one-third of his revenue when the grocery stores stopped advertising. He recalled that at the time local stores had their own butchers, but chain grocery stores wanted to consolidate butchering to a central location. In addition Dean Leshner, owner of the Con-

tra Costa Times, was buying up quite a few of the smaller local papers and allegedly putting pressure on advertisers.

After the paper shut down, Mustard worked for a while for the *Montclarion* selling advertising, "that didn't work out too well," he said.

Then he purchased, with the help of a partner, the *Claremont Press* where he did all the production work. He moved on to the *Tri-Valley News* where he was Editor and General Manager of the Danville office.

Following that, he heard of a new paper through an acquaintance that was opening in southern Oregon. Because he wanted to get out of the rat race and find good schools for his kids, it seemed like a good opportunity. When the recession came along the never stellar economy of southern Oregon dried up as did that paper. The local fire chief was a good friend; he suggested doing a newsletter for the fire district. "That was a huge hit, everyone loved it," Mustard commented.

In 1984 he moved to the Midwest and is retired now, although he enjoys his hobby - model trains. Prior to retirement, Mustard had a job as an Information Technology Recruiter.

As he looks back to the days of the newsroom on Golden Gate Way he's disappointed, "I was never able to deliver a quality product." In retrospect he calls it a "Wonderful experience. I still love Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda."

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