

On the Net: College too expensive? Try YouTube

IT might seem counterintuitive to look for higher education alongside Avril Lavigne music videos, but the video-sharing site has become a major reservoir of college content.

The Google Inc.-owned YouTube has for the last few years been forging partnerships with universities and colleges. The site recently gathered these video channels under the banner YouTube EDU (www.youtube.com/edu).

More than 100 schools have partnered with YouTube to make an official channel, including Stanford, MIT, Harvard, Yale and the first university to join YouTube: UC Berkeley.

There are promotional videos like campus tours, but the more interesting content is straight from the classroom or lecture hall. Many schools have posted videos of guest lecturers, introductory classes and even a full semester's course.

In the past five years or so, colleges and universities have been increasingly opening their doors

digitally to the public.

"That Ivory Tower reputation may be even more dated than the advent of YouTube," said Scott Stocker, director of Web communications at Stanford.

In 2002, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology launched the MIT OpenCourseWare (http://ocw.mit.edu) with the plan to make virtually all the school's courses available for free online.

As a visitor, one almost feels like you've somehow sneaked through a firewall. There's no registration and within a minute, you can be watching Prof. Walter Lewin demonstrate the physics of a pendulum by being one himself.

Last December, MIT announced that OCW had been visited by more than 50 million people worldwide. But why would institutions that charges a huge price for admission give away their primary product?

Ben Hubbard, program manager of the webcast project for the University of California, Berkeley, believes it has always been a part of a university's

vocation.

"The mission of the university has been the same since our charter days back in the 1800s," said Hubbard. "It's threefold: there's teaching, research and community service. Probably in the 1800s they weren't thinking of it as the globe, but technology has really broken down those barriers of geography."

In 1995, Berkeley launched its webcasts (http://webcast.berkeley.edu) with video and audio webcasts of classes.

In 2007, Apple created iTunes U, a service that allows schools to make material accessible only internally by students or externally by anyone. Most schools do a little of both.

Tools like iTunes U and YouTube EDU not only benefit the community and those called "lifelong learners" curious for a lesson or two in engineering or economics. But these services are powerful marketing tools that ultimately only provide one dimension of the college experience, schools say.

"We all see that the real value in a college education goes so far beyond the lectures that faculty give," said Stocker. "It's a way for people to get a taste of what the Stanford experience is, but you're not getting a degree and you're not getting direct interaction with faculty." (AP)

Body of Pinay in New York shooting to be repatriated

by JOSE KATIGBAK
Philstar.com

WASHINGTON—The body of Dolores Carbonilas-Yigal, a Filipina who was among 13 people killed by a lone gunman who shot himself at an immigration center in Binghamton, New York, will be repatriated to the Philippines, her husband said.

"This country does not deserve her body or spirit. This country does not deserve the good that Doris was, so there is no reason to bury her here," Omri Yigal said in a telephone interview with *The STAR*.

Yigal said he and Doris, 53, met online and communicated with each other for about five months in 2006 before he visited her in Cebu in September of that year and they got married two weeks later.

But for a brief spell in Binghamton afterward, he spent the rest of the time with her in Cebu until she received her US immigration papers in early 2008.

"I truly loved her and wanted to spend the rest of my life with her. When police told me on Saturday, April 4, she was one of the victims I was deeply, deeply scarred," Yigal said.

He said he planned to have an eternal flame at her gravesite.

Mrs. Yigal was attending an English class at the American Civic Center in Binghamton when Jiverly Wong, an unemployed immigrant of Vietnamese descent, shot dead 13 staff and migrants last Friday, April 3 before killing himself.

In addition to the Filipina the other fatalities

were four Chinese, two Haitians, one each from Pakistan, Iraq, Brazil and Vietnam, and three from the United States.

Yigal said a representative of the Philippine Consulate General in New York City visited him on Sunday and "offered to be very engaged in helping repatriate Doris to the Philippines for burial."

He said he planned to return with her body, which will be buried in Cebu next to her father.

Yigal said his wife is survived by her mother, Christina, sister Paz and brother Dino, all in Cebu. Another sister, Carmen, is in California.

He said Doris always sat in front of the class and speculated she must have been one of the first victims in the shooting.

The medical examiner told him that his wife suffered gunshot wounds to the head and hand, as if she was trying to protect herself, Yigal said.

He said when he is asked how he feels his standard answer is, "I'm fine."

"But the truth of the matter is I had a terrible loss. Doris represented my everything, my universe, and so I lost my universe and I'm in a state of trying to move forward." ■

FCC gets going on national broadband plan

NEW YORK—The Federal Communications Commission is launching its effort to encourage the expansion of high-speed Internet connections in the country.

The FCC was ordered to create such a plan as part of the economic stimulus package passed this year.

At an open meeting in Washington on Wednesday, April 8, the commission put out a request for comments from the public and industry. The FCC will assemble its plan by next February.

During the Bush administration, Democrats and Internet advocates called on the government to take a more hands-on approach to speed adoption of broadband. Internet service providers, meanwhile, have stressed that freedom from regulation gives them incentive to invest. (AP)

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