

Teachers protest for more funding

By **FRANKIE ADDIEGO**
Staff writer

What affect will Governor Schwarzenegger's budget proposals have on the future of Ohlone College? How do California educators feel about certain Ballot Initiatives? An education-based organization called Alliance for a Better California will be holding mass protest rallies on May 25, during what they call Action Day.

What this means for Ohlone is if the protesters are successful, there will be more money for education and certain ballot initiatives will not go through.

Among the protesters' concerns is money the governor borrowed from the education budget. Other initiatives these groups oppose include redistricting, pension privatizing and spending caps.

In response to criticism from teachers unions, labor groups and public safety officials,

Schwarzenegger defended his stance by saying that the unions were influencing the masses through persuasion. He claimed that the unions were misinforming the people of the state of California and that he would refuse to be influenced by them. In an interview earlier this year, Schwarzenegger said regarding this issue, "We have a lot of people in Sacramento that are being shooed in and paid off by the unions... I'm not going to be the unions' representative. I'm not going to be the unions' governor."

There will be two protest rallies in Sacramento and Los Angeles, respectively, which will pertain to the state's funding of education, benefits for retirement, safety of patients and the job security of teachers. Public servants, including teachers and professors as well as nurses and firefighters, will lead the rally.

The California Federation of Teachers (CFT) web site says,

"The purpose of the Action Day is to focus public attention on the damage... to public education, to the programs provided to the people of California by state government and to the retirement security of all public employees."

According to the CFT, who will represent only one of the many group present at the rally, the governor's ballot initiatives are unfair towards public employees throughout the state. "The governor's ballot initiatives represent attacks on teachers, nurses, fire fighters, police, and other public employees. Ultimately that means these are attacks on the people of California."

Governor Schwarzenegger has been facing mounting criticism on his handling of the economy, particularly with public office positions such as education and police.

Anybody interested in getting more information can contact The California Federation of Teachers at (510) 832-8812.

Nurse's Day celebrated, scholarships handed out

By **JESSICA LOSSE**
Staff writer

While students socialized in the cafeteria on the other side of room-dividers, dozens of nursing students and staff gathered to honor Nursing Week.

With a table of sandwich fixings, fruit, salad, and dessert, the nursing students of Ohlone College held a celebration, giving out scholarships and having a guest speaker.

Originally planned outside, rain forced the Nurse Day celebration indoors on short notice. Half of the cafeteria was divided off for there use, allowing them to assemble to honor students and staff that made special efforts to achieve high goals.

Kaiser Permanente, the Verle Waters Endowment, and the Mary Furagganan Memorial Fund funded some of the scholarships presented to the unsuspecting students.

"I am living proof that you are never too old to live your dreams," said Tammy Valentine when accepting her award as the 2004-05 Outstanding Graduate.

Awards were also presented for the 40 et 8 Scholarship, which was given to four students from the Fall 2004 semester and two students from the Spring 2005 semester.

Guest speaker, Ester Johnson, an integrative therapist from Pathways Hospice, spoke about holistic nursing. Along with giving more control to patients, Johnson spoke about nurses keeping themselves healthy and happy to better help patients. "I was excited to come speak to the students," said Johnson. "I think it's really nice that the school realized that nurses work hard and need to be recognized."

A raffle was held for the event, prizes ranged from a George Foreman Grill to books on nursing. The raffle raised money to pay for the lunch and to aid the Nursing Club.

The father of Mary Furagganan presented the \$250 scholarship to Abbey Serafino in memory of his daughter, a nursing student who was murdered in February of 2003. "We felt we should keep my daughter's memory alive," said father, Socrates Furagganan.

Theft reported in the finance department, locks changed

By **INEZ BLACK**
Staff writer

Theft and unauthorized activity in the finance department resulted in corrective actions, including the replacing the department's locks and an implementation of stringent restrictions of access to the area.

Less than \$100 was stolen from the cash drawer in the finance department on March 29. Joanne Schultz, dean of business services, stated, "One theft, and some inappropriate kinds of activity [occurred], meaning that there were people in

there that didn't have any reason to be in there"


The suspect(s) have not been caught and the measures taken are only precautionary said Schultz. "I'm not accusing anybody of anything... I just know that the day the money was missing, there were several people in the office, mostly just in there talking. So, it's better that it doesn't happen anymore."

In addition to the theft, some account payable files were reported missing that was returned anonymously through inter-office mail. "We've had files missing," said Schultz. The Department was not aware that the files were removed since they were not signed out in accordance with standard procedure. "We didn't know where they were and they came back to us. We were very lucky that they came back, but we also don't know how many other files might be out there and that alerted us that people are taking them without letting us know."

On May 9, a memorandum notified the Ohlone staff that the finance room doors were changed due to theft and unauthorized activity.

"The one thing I want to be clear about is that the department is very conscientious about everything that we handle, and it upset them a great deal," Finally, she said, said Schultz as she assured that no private information was taken, "None of the student information was anywhere [when] anybody could have gotten to it."

Ohlone Chief of Police, Steve Fajardo stated, "Thefts on our campus and campus offices are very uncommon." He indicated that theft occurs in an office about once a year, typically when a woman leaves her purse out in the open."



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