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Club Day in the Quad



Photo by Daniel Kwan

The Muslim Student Association passes out literature on Club Day Wednesday in the Quad. From left are: Sabbir Sattar, Huda Shreim, Hamzah Hararah and Azim Mogaddedi.

Semesters may get shorter; faculty to vote in 2 weeks

By AMAN MEHRZAI
Editor-in-Chief

In an attempt to attract more students, Ohlone is considering plans to shorten semesters from the current 18 weeks to 15 or 16 by next fall.

Faculty Senate members voted overwhelmingly Aug. 12 to move ahead on plans for a compressed calendar, and most hope to do it quickly.

Mike Bowman, director of enrollment and curriculum management, said, "Plans for scheduling next fall start this November and comes out by February of next year. So if we want to get this to work by fall of '06, then we have to work quickly."

Ohlone currently has 18-week semesters that many students and faculty feel is too long. "It drags and students get burned out or lazy by mid semester," said Ekta Patel, ASOC legislative representative. "It's better for us to become more like the real world and other universities with shorter semesters."

The entire Bay Area has been affected by a shortfall in student enrollment for the past two semesters, which is driving administration and faculty to come up with new ways to make Ohlone more compelling. "Having shorter semesters will make Ohlone more attractive, much like some of the career colleges like Bryman," said Ohlone President Doug Treadway.

"We wanted to know what made these schools more attractive and why students would pay more than community colleges when they could get the same thing here. Time may have been the factor there, that they had shorter semesters."

Ohlone center helps New Orleans refugees

By ANNA NEMCHUK
News editor

Nine Katrina refugees from New Orleans walked into Tina Dodson's office at Ohlone's One-Stop Career Center in Newark Tuesday at 10:30 in the morning and asked for help.

First it was a shock to Dodson to find out her center was a federal disaster agency, and then came the reality of helping four adults and five children who needed basically everything.

Jennifer and Michael Pham with

kids, Jonathan, 14, and Jasmine, 6, along with Jennifer's sister-in-law Tuyet Pham, husband Khuong Tran and kids Kevin, 14, and Alex, 11, were looking for Cong Pham, the brother, who lives in Fremont, who had offered them refuge through the storm.

The group left New Orleans last Saturday voluntarily as soon as the evacuation alerts sounded.

"My husband called me, I was cleaning; I thought he was joking. If they let us go back, we would like to go back to our house, just to see...that's our house, we've been

living there so long," said Pham.

They drove to the Houston Astrodome, a 400-mile trip, but decided not to stay there. Then they contacted Cong Pham, and after another 2,300 miles, arrived in Newark.

Pham said FEMA gave them the wrong address, so they ended up in the One-Stop Career Center.

The center, which regularly provides various job and business-related search services for the community, is funded by the Department of Labor and the State of California. The revelation that it

was a part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency came as a shock to the staff.

"I thought yesterday was going to be a slow day," said Dodson. Excited and frustrated, but not sure of how to help them - the family needed both basic staples like toothpaste and towels as well as food, housing and health insurance - she contacted the Red Cross Office in Oakland as well as Family Resources in Fremont and put together a care package, anticipating future refugees.

"How they found us, I don't

know, it just amazes me. I expect we'll be seeing a lot more. When you see it on the news, it's different," Dodson said.

A main concern was placing the children back into school and though obstacles abounded at first, due to the combined efforts of Dodson and the family, Kevin and Jonathan will begin attending Irvington High Thursday, while Jasmine and Alex were accepted into Harvey Green Elementary Wednesday.

"Nothing, nothing done yesterday," Dodson said.

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Health service cut way back

By OMER AHMED
Staff writer

Community college students in need of health care are in danger of losing many of their benefits, according to State Assembly member John Laird.

Ohlone's Student Health Center has cut or reduced many of its services, despite being the primary healthcare provider for many students. Due to a lack of funds, the health center had to cut back on its hours and services for this fall's semester and beyond.

Since the beginning of the school year, the center cut back its operational hours to Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Last semester, the clinic was open an extra hour as well as Fridays. In addition to the reduced hours, the number of staff was cut in half, from eight employees to four.

Sally Bratton, director of the health center, said the remaining staff will no longer be offering HIV tests, health education seminars, blood drives, or other extended services due to the shortage.

The Health Center's budget problems are a result of increased tuition fees and more students receiving financial aid, said Laird.

As the cost of tuition has gone up, so has the number of students who apply and receive the BOG, or Board of Governors, Fee Waiver. These students, in turn, don't pay the student health fee that constitutes the main source of funds for the center, and as a result, the Health Center's budget has fallen from \$290,000 to \$190,000. The student health fee has been raised from \$12

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Our animal friends

By OMER AHMED
Staff writer

Last Friday, the Science and Technology Division presented its second Brown Bag Science Seminar of the fall semester, "Living With Urban Wildlife."

Juliet Hoffman, wildlife educator, conservation biologist and previous Brown Bag speaker, spoke on the topic, which was particularly relevant for Ohlone students as the 2,999-acre Mission Peak Regional Preserve is directly behind the school and reports of animals on campus are very common.

The seminar consisted of an informative slide presentation, a question and answer session and a chance for the audience to come in contact with a selection of taxidermic animals they

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