



Associated Collegiate Press /
National Scholastic Press Association
All American
1984 1985 1986
1987 1988 1989
1990 1991 1992
Regional Pacemaker
1988
Journalism Association
of Community Colleges
First in General Excellence,
Northern California
Fall 1994
General Excellence
Fall 2000
General Excellence
Fall 2004

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The *MONITOR* is funded by the district, by the Associated Students of Ohlone College, and through advertising revenue.

The *MONITOR* is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, Journalism Association of Community Colleges, Community College Journalism Association, California Newspaper Publishers Association, College Media Advisers and Society of Newspaper Design.



OPINION

Hurricane Katrina is a wake-up call for the Bay Area

By **GEORGE RODGERS**
*Assoc. Professor,
Anthropology/Geography
Adjunct Emergency Preparedness
Planner, City of Fremont*

Throughout history, there have been times of tragedy and devastation which have severely tested the human spirit.

Presently, we are witnessing the horrors of the most destructive hurricane to ever strike the United States.

We watch from the comfort of our homes real-time images of the suffering, despair and utter hopelessness of thousands of our fellow Americans along the Gulf Coast. Our hearts go out to them, our dol-

lars will help in the recovery process and some of us may even be mobilized to aid in the clean-up efforts.

However, their suffering and shattered lives have touched us here in California in another way. What's going on down in New Orleans, Biloxi and Gulfport should act as a giant wake-up call for all of us.

We must be prepared to deal with disasters. I'm not talking about the federal, state or even the local level. I'm talking about the personal level.

Each one of us must take the responsibility to make sure that we have the necessary emergency preparedness skills and supplies to cope when a disaster strikes our area.

We may not get hurricanes here in Northern California, but we do live in earthquake country. The are two dangerous myths about earthquakes: "It won't happen here," or "It won't happen for years." Don't kid yourself, it could happen tomorrow.

Major earthquakes are inevitable in California. As a matter of fact, the United States Geological Survey had determined that there is at least a 60 percent probability of a damaging earthquake hitting the Bay Area in the next 20 years.

In addition, the Hayward fault which runs through Fremont, (less than two miles from campus), is considered one of the most dangerous faults in the country. ARE

YOU PREPARED, or are you like a lot of us and become complacent and think it will always happen to the other guy.

Do you think that our emergency responders will come find you or deliver food and water to your neighborhood.

Don't count on it. As a matter of fact, we teach in our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes to prepare yourself and family to be self-sufficient with enough water, food, and supplies for a minimum of 72 hours. Was three days enough for the folks in New Orleans? You can answer that question for yourself.

Let this ongoing tragedy along

the Gulf Coast be a lesson to us all. Let's get prepared so that individually we can help our families, neighbors and community cope when the dreaded disaster strikes our area.

Remember it's not a matter of IF, but WHEN an earthquake or other disaster strikes.

BE RESPONSIBLE! BE PREPARED!

I will be conducting a number of Personal Emergency Preparedness (PEP) classes during this and next semester here on campus. These three-hour classes will be open to all members of the college community.

Please email me at grodgers@ohlone.edu or call 659-6257.

Why are there so many unanswered questions in the world?

By **JESSICA LOSEE**
Staff writer

I want to know why....

Why does the school have so many soda vending machines and so few water fountains?

Why is there no feminine hygiene product dispenser in the girls bathroom in the cafeteria, but they have a condom dispenser?

Why are they charging 50 cents for a single condom when you can

get a bunch for free at the Student Health Center?

Why does the condom dispenser in the girls' bathroom not work; and if there is one in the boys' bathroom, does it work?

Why do the fountains not work, and if they do, why do we not use them?

Why is there a hose that takes water from the fire hydrant to refill the pond?

Why are there so many wasps by the pond and why can't they leave

people and their lunches alone?

Why do the guys still giggle when someone says "clitoris" or "penis" in the Biology of Sexual Reproduction class?

Why are there so many ground squirrels on campus and do they ever come into classrooms to listen to lectures?

Why is there only one bookstore where we can buy our books and why are they so EXPENSIVE?

Why are there teachers who lecture badly and put students to sleep?

Why do we not force these bad lecturers to watch their lectures on video and then see if they fall asleep?

Why is it so WRONG to sleep in class? Why can we not have napping classes?

Why do people put up bulletins on the boards near the bookstore and the cafeteria and then forget them?

Why does the bookstore buy our used books back at a lower rate than what we paid for them and then sell

them again at the original price we paid for them? Why is that not considered robbery?

Why does the cafeteria charge so much for their food? Why are there so few places to eat aside from the cafeteria?

Why does the sun shine so hot on Ohlone's hills when it is still foggy over the rest of the bay?

Why is the world so scary, unfair, and horrible and why is it that at the same time it is also extremely beautiful, awesome and mysterious?

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

What would you take first in an evacuation?



TROY LUCAS
Political Science

"Bible and water and all the money I can get."



CHRIS TRAN
Business

"I would have to take a computer."



JANIS GROVE
English

"My family and animals, anything living."



CLAUDIA VILARDY
Technical Theater

"Probably my photo albums."



DREW RABOY
Theater

"Probably take my cell phone, to make sure my friends are safe."