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Transfer Day crowd



Photo by Jerome Engelberts

Like a big educational bazaar, students shopped for schools, and schools tried to sign up students during Ohlone's Transfer Day Tuesday in and around Building One. See Page 3 for story.

Faculty okays 16-week semester

By OMER AHMED
Staff writer

At the College Board of Trustees meeting Wednesday night, Faculty Senate President Barbara Tull gave the results of the vote that decided whether Ohlone will have a 15- or 16-week semester next year.

The Faculty Senate voted 82 percent in favor of the 16-week proposal plan. The issue has been open to voting since the afternoon of Thursday, Sept. 22. Wednesday was the last day to vote. All active full-time faculty and part-time faculty teaching at least eight units were allowed to vote.

The Faculty Senate had already voted on the move away from the current 18-semester length in 2002 with 93 percent in favor. Both the Faculty Senate and the United Faculty of Ohlone have endorsed the new 16-week plan.

"This is really a data-driven decision," Tull said. The shorter semester is expected to attract more students and may help address recent enrollment shortfalls. The change will bring Ohlone onto the small semester model that is followed by all the major four-year universities in the area and 37 other California community colleges.

The new schedule would result in 10-minute longer class periods and an additional three hours of class time over the term. There would also be no school during the entire month of August, allowing students a longer registration period and the college more time for buildings and grounds work.

The next step regarding the compressed calendar is for the Board of Trustees to approve the proposal. If it passes, it'll be sent to the California Community Colleges Chancellor for final acknowledgement.

3 Ohlone students killed in Union City car crash

By AMAN MEHRZAI
Editor-in-Chief

Three young women died, including two Ohlone students, in a single-car, high-speed accident Sept. 20. Another young woman, also an Ohlone student, is in critical condition in a Castro Valley hospital, according to the Union City Police Department.

The three Ohlone students along with a friend were carpooling home from a night class they were all taking at Chabot College. According to police, the driver lost control of her vehicle while southbound on Union City Boulevard near Whipple Road.

In a press release, Capt. G. Stewart said the vehicle was nearly cut in half due to its impact with a tree on the middle divider.

Ohlone student Saprina Sidhu was found dead at the scene after being pulled out of the back seat by firemen who had to use the Jaws of Life. Chabot student Vibha Sharma was also pronounced dead at the scene after being ejected from the front passenger window of the car. The other Ohlone students, Dhanwant (Niki) Madar, who was also in the back seat, and Amanjot Thiara, the driver, were found alive at the scene and transported to Eden Medical Center Emergency Room in Castro Valley. Early next morning, Thiara died, leaving Madar as the sole survivor, where she remains in critical condition.

Police said eyewitnesses indicated that the victims' vehicle was speeding with another car closely speeding along with them. The driver of the second vehicle

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Depression screening set

BY JEROME ENGELBERTS
Opinion editor

On Thursday, October 6th Ohlone College will have National Depression Screening Day. The main purpose is to create an opportunity for people who feel "anxious and overwhelmed by life's daily demands."

According to the Ohlone web site www.ohlone.edu/org/healthctr/#depression: "People say college is supposed to be 'the time of your life.' You meet friends, and have the freedom to do what you want.

BUT, for many, college life can be difficult, because there is so much to juggle. Many students are left feeling stressed, anxious, disconnected and alone.

Ohlone College is on a campaign and joins National Depression Screening Day to educate everyone that help and support are available. No one needs to suffer in silence or alone."

Depression can take many forms, from mild sadness or anger to complete lethargy - and it's not at all uncommon among young people. Many factors add to stress and anxiety

in daily life. If the nation's amount of advertising for sales of anti-depressants is anything to go by, depression is much more pervasive than one would think.

Everyday pressure factors tend to increase as people get older. If a child's main worry in kindergarten is whether or not they're going to track play-doh all over the carpet after they get home, by the time they hit college they can add: will I be able to keep my (part-time) job? Will I be able to afford gas to drive to campus? Am I getting good

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Yesterday's ride



Staff photo

This beautifully restored Packard convertible materialized in the Quad Monday like a message from America's glory days of big cars and cheap gas. Like the Packard, those days are long gone. But the cars still look great.