



Problems with math? New software may help

By **OMER AHMED**
Staff writer

Now there is some digital help for Ohlone students who are struggling with algebra.

Mathematics instructor Tania Munding has started using a software package called MyMathLab to help her students learn what two x equals minus 22 over 10 is all about. Munding said, "All over the U.S. we have a problem with algebra."

The learning success rate for algebra classes is reportedly about 46 percent, but many educators be-

lieve that figure to be too high as students are often passed without fully learning the skills. The reason that students don't always retain their abilities in algebra, according to Munding, is a lack of practice.

"They need to work out their 'muscles'," she said, and with the MyMathLab software, Munding plans to give students a workout. So far the results have been promising. This semester, the first class to use the software averaged a 90 percent on its first exam.

Last year Munding discovered the wealth of software available to assist teachers and students in math

classes and set about researching and testing the different packages such as Alex, Eduspace, Ilearn and MathZone. She said she chose MyMathLab because it was user friendly, easy to understand and provided the maximum possible help for students.

The software has a number of features that benefit students and teachers alike. The software can create and assign homework from a textbook and automatically grade it. This gives the students enough practice to really learn and doesn't let them fall into the belief that the teacher will give points for any

homework turned in regardless of quality. Tests can be timed and monitored. Also, several ways of teaching students are provided by the software including multimedia examples such as video lectures and animations.

The class is convenient for teachers as all the homework and tests can be recorded in a grade book program that allows for weighted scores and quick calculation of individual and class averages.

The software can be difficult to set up as it requires that the instructor take their whole semester length class and digitize it, but once the

class is fully created, the entirety of the course can be copied and used by other teachers. E-mail and Instant Messaging tutoring can be available to students.

MyMathLab comes with a number of Pearson Publishers textbooks and has also been adopted by DeVry University.

While only one class uses the MyMathLab package at the moment, Munding is working on adapting her Calculus C course to work with the software. She has also shown the software to other math instructors and would like to hold seminars on it.

600 miles by bicycle to raise funds for AIDS

By **DANELLE MEYER**
Staff writer

The thought of traveling from San Francisco to L.A. via a bicycle may seem like an impossibility for most of us, but for Corie Howell, current Ohlone student, a 600-mile bike ride became not only reality, but an accomplishment she will never forget.

A massive group of 2,000 people began this vigorous journey on June 5 to help benefit the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center.

"I found out about the event when my company sent me to the bakery to pick up donuts," Howell said. On the counter was a brochure for the ride.

"I had always been interested in getting involved in fundraisers and trying to do my part to help out. I signed up for it the next week, even though everyone thought I was crazy."

The ride was a weeklong event with camp-out points stationed along the way in cities such as Paso Robles and Ventura. "We rode from 60 to 100 miles a day," Howell said.

Each of the riders were required to raise a \$2,500 donation, and given a list of mandatory items to pack.

"We were limited to one 70-pound bag that had to include our sleeping bag, detergent, shower stuff, sleeping necessities, snacks, PJs, biking clothes and street clothes," said Howell.

Since Howell's friends and family didn't think she could do it, she only wanted to finish the trip that much more.

"Having no one believe in me hurt a lot, but gave me more strength and passion to do it - not only for the good cause, but to show myself, and everyone around me, that I could do it," said Howell.

Because she hadn't ridden long distances before, Howell didn't have the kind of equipment that the professional bikers had.

"All the other riders I spoke to thought I was insane for not having clip peddles or the right shoes...By day 2, I was so sore I could barely walk."

The route took the riders through back roads, cliffs and the end was along Highway 1.

"The last leg of the ride though and into LA was scary because we were riding on the side of Highway 1, with cars speeding past us on the left and cliffs with the ocean below on the right," said Howell.

Among the many riders were a group of HIV

positives that were riding to fight for the cause.

"I made friends with a man on the Positive Peddlers. He had stopped along the trail because he was tired, so I stopped and we spoke for a while.

"He had a big stuffed rabbit tied onto his bike and was so upbeat and happy, even though he was sick and exhausted. He completely made every negative thought about the ride vanish from my mind, and gave me the courage to keep going."

On June 11, with a "Giant OCR road bike" equipped with no specially added pieces, Howell proved she could beat the odds even when it seemed everything was against her. She finished the 600-mile bike ride right along with everyone else.

At the finishing point, all the riders were greeted by tons of people cheering them on. "At the closing ceremonies I was so happy to have made it, but devastated because it was over. It was probably the hardest physical thing I've ever done, but at the same time the best experience and most rewarding.

"We were all so happy to have done the ride, to have been a part of something that was so amazing and unforgettable...I'd do it again."



Photo by Devina Deo

Corie Howell



Photo by Daniel Kwan

Beth Victorianos is at the controls of the newly-reopened coffee stand in front of Building 1.

Building 1 coffee stand is back

By **JEROME ENGLEBERTS**
Opinion editor

The coffee stand is back in business! For all of us who pray to the Goddess Caffeina or just simply enjoy a frothy cappuccino, there is reason to rejoice.

The stand is now owned and operated by Bay Bridge Coffee.

We spoke with owner Dave Bernath, who also runs a Bay Bridge Coffee shop on Fremont Street in San

Francisco (right off the...Bay Bridge, you guessed it). He is a coffee connoisseur and proudly states that they emphasize all natural drinks, shade grown organic free trade coffee, roasted by local coffee roasters. Prices are very much in tune with what you'd pay at the big chain coffee places.

Dave Bernath won't be the one who will be managing the stand though ... You'll be asking Beth Victorianos to brew you a cup, or make you a smoothie. As of last Tuesday, they're open for business.

Deaf News Corner

By **ANNIE UTTER**
Features editor

The Ohlone College Deaf Center (OCDC) opened in 1972 to just 30 deaf and hard-of-hearing students. That number has grown to more than 200 each fall every year. The question is, why is there a deaf program at Ohlone? What makes this place so special?

It goes way back when The California School for the Deaf in Berkeley was to be moved into the current site of Fremont in 1980. The college wanted to educate the public about the deaf world, so they offered American Sign Language (ASL) classes, deaf culture and classes for the deaf and hard-of-hearing so they could be ready for the new community in 1980.

Ohlone College Deaf Center is one of the largest Deaf programs on the community college level in

the U.S.A., signs Tom Holcomb of Deaf studies.

Currently, there are about 150 deaf and hard-of-hearing students enrolled. Half of the students are from the California School for the Deaf in Fremont (CSDF) and the other students come from mainstream schools from all over California, as well as other states.

There are also a large number of foreign students coming from Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, and Africa. The main reason why students are coming from so far away is that the majority of community colleges do not provide a variety of services like Ohlone.

Joe McLaughlin is the Dean, Deaf Studies & Special Services. There are eight staff that teach and sign in ASL and half of the staff are deaf. The interpreter staff currently has seven full-time interpreters and 15 part-time interpreters and are still hiring for more.

Ohlone also provides an Interpreter Preparation Program (IPP). For more information about courses check out http://www.ohlone.edu/instr/div_deaf/ipp/

The Ohlone College Deaf Center is located in Room 5305 over the cafeteria. You can check the website at http://www.ohlone.edu/instr/div_deaf/



De Young Museum to reopen on Oct. 15

By **JEROME ENGELBERTS**
Opinion editor

The de Young will celebrate its re-opening in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco with a 31-hour museum marathon, which is free to the public.

The museum will be open continuously from 10 a.m. on Oct. 15 until 5 p.m. Oct. 16. The opening weekend program includes music, dancing, food and a full schedule of performances by local groups throughout the museum grounds. To memorialize the occasion, a photo opportunity station will be located near the historic sphinx sculptures.

Special events are planned for the opening weekend including:

Members of the San Francisco Symphony Brass;

Performances by San Francisco Opera & San Francisco Ballet; Hatshepsut: From Queen to Pharaoh;

Golden Gate Park Band; Leland Stanford Junior University Marching Band; a special Poetry, Music and Art program.

Poet Laureates to read original poems dedicated to the grand opening of the new de Young Museum, among with others former San Francisco Poets Laureates Janice Mirikitani, and Lawrence Ferlinghetti; the Hot Club of San Francisco and many special attractions.

The previous deYoung museum was damaged beyond repair during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake and the buildings were torn down. The design of the new museum has been controversial, and the reopening has been eagerly awaited by the Bay Area arts community.

For a complete program, please visit <http://www.thinker.com/deyoung/visiting/index.asp> or call the De Young museum's hot line at (415) 863-3330

ASL variety show classes

By **SARA KWAN**
Staff writer

There will be two ASL Variety Show classes, ASL-213B and DEAF-213D for the nine-week semester starting Oct. 17.

The classes will put on a variety show, featuring deaf and hearing ASL students during finals week in December. The purpose is to connect the two worlds of deaf students and hearing students.

For information about the class, go to the the Ohlone website using WebAdvisor, www.ohlone.edu.

Students will be interacting with each other in a variety of performances that will include ABC's and number stories.

If the Ohlone theater is not available for the performance, then the California School for the Deaf in Fremont will be willing to host this event.



Photos by Daniel Kwan

Josh Snedigar, above, fans a deck at last Friday's poker tournament at Ohlone. Below, organizers break out the chips.

Poker craze reaches Ohlone

By **GABRIEL VILA**
Staff writer

Imagine 50 young men and women together in a room, clustered in small groups around tables where cards are thrown down and bets are placed, the rush and excitement of winning and the bitter taste of defeat.

No, we're not in Vegas ladies and gents, we're at the Gamers' Association's Texas Hold'em Poker Benefit Tournament, held last Friday in the cafeteria.

Josh Snedigar, president of the Gamers' Association, was proud of the event. "Our treasurer came up with the idea, and we ran with it." Really, the club is for all forms of tabletop gaming, ranging from the classic board game Risk to more esoteric card games. So when presented with an idea for a fundraiser, Texas Hold'em, being the popular choice from television and in general a great game was an obvious choice.

"We only expected 30 or so people to show up," Snedigar said. "But 54 people signed up in advance, and we actually have people coming in from outside the school."

The poker tournament was held to raise funds to go toward assisting hurricane Katrina survivors, in addition to helping out the newly founded Gamers' Association. "About 15 percent of the proceeds go toward victims of Katrina," Chris Nguyen, treasurer of the club said. "People just keep showing up." The event had a \$5 buy-in for people who signed up in advance, and a \$7 buy in for people who turned up at the door.

Although the event started an hour late, everyone seemed to be having a good time. Nick Comendant, a pre-med major, thought it was a great idea. "I heard that the tournament was for the hurricane, and I love poker, so I signed up."

But it wouldn't be poker without something to win, would it? To that end, the Gamers' Association got John T's to donate prizes. First place, Marty Stroschein, won a deck of



official plastic cards and a deck shuffler. Second place, Nelson Than, took two decks and a set of poker chips. Third place: Kyle Meiers, won two decks of cards and a World Poker Tournament Rules book.

From all indications, the tournament was a success, in fact, the only complaint voiced (besides the groans of painful defeat) was that it was poorly advertised. Most people heard of the event only a day or so in advance.



Jessica Losee

Hickies, how to get rid of them

Hickies. Getting them is fun, getting rid of them is hell.

I was recently trying to purge myself of one of these little maladies. I was desperately hoping that I could do so without having to resort to taking my skin off with a cheese grater, claiming that aliens had attacked me the night before with a new, messier alternative to their signature laser.

I realized while looking online that many people do not even know what a hickey is.

A hickey, according to one website, is a number of small broken blood vessels under the skin - basically, it is just a small bruise. Certain areas of skin do seem to be more prone to hickies than others, including the area surrounding the neck and shoulders, as well as the inside of the elbows and knees.

Most hickies are caused by over-passionate blood-suckers attaching themselves to a victim's neck. Other times, you can accidentally apply them to oneself if you happen to suck on your arm for a while. There are also rare cases of people being attacked by their vacuums while cleaning their rooms. It's been known to happen.

There are many ways suggested online using everyday items to remove hickies, including pressing on the area with the back of a cold spoon, using a highlighter or lipstick cap and "blot" the area using a small amount of suction, heating the area with a warm spoon to break up the small clots of blood, putting vinegar on it, as well as hundreds of others.

One article from Wiki.ehow.com suggests using a toothbrush and brushing the area: "Using the toothbrush method reduced my hickey in seconds, and after about an hour, it was gone!"

The method I used worked fairly well: icing the area for a few minutes, then taking a comb and combing the blood vessels back down. It did not get rid of the largest ones, but after about 10 minutes there were only three or four small red spots on my neck.

After you try your home remedy, if it does not seem to be working, one can always try to cover the area with make-up, which the cheap stuff can be purchased for only a couple bucks at any local drug store or grocery store. I recommend that when applying the make-up over the blood-darkened area, blot it on to ensure the make-up is thick enough to cover the hickey.

If all else fails, one can resort to lame excuses. I personally favor putting a bandaid over the area and claiming it is a pimple. No one will want to look at such a monstrosity. You can also buy a neck brace and say you were in a car accident.

In the end, you can wear a turtleneck, although it is a bit obvious if one wears a turtleneck in 75-degree weather.