



ASOC plans to refurbish campus

By GABRIEL VILA
Staff writer

Imagine a campus filled with people at all hours of the day, talking and laughing as they enjoy a friendlier and more picturesque Ohlone College.

Certainly not what we have at the moment, but with the help of ASOC's Jackie McCulley and Ken Steadman, this dream could become a reality. For the past two weeks, these two ASOC Senators have been assigned to "Project Quad," a campus beautification and improvement committee detailed to one purpose - to acquire and deploy benches, tables and chairs all around campus.

"The tables we're looking at are these Plastisol dipped tables," said Ken Steadman at last week's ASOC meeting. "It's this sort of wire mesh table that's been dipped in plastic to make it really durable."

The sort of tables and benches that the ASOC has been looking at are prevalent in schools and parks.

These Plastisol-coated tables have the benefits of being as durable as concrete tables at a fraction of the weight, making mobility and shipping both easier. In addition, the tables will come with holes which could accommodate umbrellas to provide shade and shelter.

"For the umbrellas...we were thinking about getting them customized," Jackie McCully said during the committee's meeting Tuesday morning. "We'd have to go through

the ASOC to get them, but we could get them in the school's colors. It's a possibility."

The tables and benches will come in a plethora of designs. From circular tables to elliptical, from square to the traditional rectangle, these tables will eventually adorn the campus at all levels. Many of these new tables will be wheelchair friendly, having extended tops and bench-less sides. The selection of this outdoor furniture will, of course, be affected by the ultimate color choice of the Ohlone campus. Refitting the buildings has already been well under way, as one can note from the wheelchair access points at the bottoms of Buildings 4 and 6. Re-painting the campus will begin as early as this summer, and possible color palettes have been selected.

These color palettes will be on display in the ASOC room at the bottom of Building 1 sometime this week.

The cost for this venture could run quite high. Estimates as high as \$50,000 have come out of the ASOC room; however, this money could come from any number of sources, not the least of which would be state grants. The ASOC could potentially fund only a fraction of the overall cost.

"There are many projects going on to make our campus more appealing," said Heta Desai, the ASOC treasurer. "This will help students to hang out or to stay at school, and it will feel more like an active campus."

Videogames fail

Continued from Page 2

the PS2 proved to be another example of the heights videogames can achieve. On top of being a good game technically, the story has a literary edge. Drawing from Herculean myth and twisting it darkly, *God of War* presents Kratos, a protagonist that is not a hero and barely an anti-hero. He is a murderer and a sadist. The player only feels sympathy for Kratos when his history is revealed but it is still obvious that the man was evil and power-hungry before his misfortune. It is

left unanswered whether Kratos should be hated, pitied, loved or possibly forgiven.

The ambiguous nature of Kratos is created so masterfully that one cannot help but be reminded of Faulkner's *Light in August* or Shakespeare's *Richard III*.

Videogames, on average, don't have the same artistic integrity as other media, but with constantly evolving technology and the occasional truly wonderful title to learn from, games might one day be a really worthwhile medium.

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UC Berkeley Freshquest survey offered at Ohlone

By IRA LAZO
Staff writer

There have been many flyers and posters pasted around school, boasting about winning a free Apple iPod if a student would complete a survey on such and such website dot com. What's going through students' heads is that maybe it is a scam, a scam to get their email in order to fill it up with unnecessary spam and other such junk mail.

However, such is not the case with the flyers posted around Hyman Hall and the Ohlone library. This survey is legitimate. The University of California in Berkeley has actually decided to survey the students of Ohlone College to see how they use technology like iPods, cellphones, blogs, and email both in and out of school.

The Freshquest project is aimed specifically at students aged 18 or 19 and in their first year in college, in order to see how they integrate new and old technological devices into the way they live their lives.

This survey is being funded by the MacArthur Foundation and is meant to help both educators

and software design companies to redirect and regroup ideas for educational and computer programs. The objective is to find a way to make learning exciting again, by incorporating the ever-expanding world of media along with public schooling.

The questions will range from what students think work to what does not or what could be improved with technology, from the way people surf the internet, chat on the web and email each other, to the way big companies such as Apple or Microsoft design their programs. Students at UC Berkeley took this same survey last spring and the results will all be stored in a database with strict confidentiality.

It is hardly uncommon for anybody to have an iPod anymore and, if questioned, most students either have one or have something just like it. Imagine a world where lectures made by one's teacher could be downloaded from the Internet, directly into one's iPod and listened to at the student's discretion.

This, and so much more could change if the survey is completed and the results implemented. It is

completely confidential and the researchers who will be accessing the survey will know the student only through a code - no names, addresses or other such junk in one's mailbox.

One upside to filling out a 15-minute survey would be the chance to win an iPod in the raffle after the survey is complete; the prize is completely legitimate, and is NOT a scam. The other benefit is if the student is contacted to participate in a focus group or an interview, he/she will be paid with a \$40 gift certificate.

The survey has no specific deadline; however, to have a better chance at winning that lucky iPod and or a gift certificate, the survey must be completed before the end of March.

Still not convinced? Check out <http://groups.sims.berkeley.edu/ikids/freshquest> for more information on the main objectives of the program or visit <http://ohlone.notlong.com/> to take the actual survey. More information can be found at the Ohlone library and the bulletin board at Hyman Hall. Good luck and good surfing!

Student burned by acid

By FRANKIE ADDIEGO
Staff writer

On Friday, March 3, a bottle of nitric acid burnt the hand of Minh-Tran Nguyen, a lab technician at Ohlone. The incident took place in Room 2310, which Ohlone uses as a chemistry lab. The acid splashed onto Nguyen's face and chest when it landed in the sink. While Nguyen's injuries were not fatal, the laboratory staff scrambled to ensure her safety and summoned emergency workers.

In addition to her normal chores, Nguyen was performing the tasks of another lab worker, Ai Nguyen. Lead lab technician Van Nguyen was the only other worker there.

According to the accident report, the head lab worker, "immediately took Minh-Tran to the eye wash nearby...and helped Minh-Tran rinse with copious amount of water." Some sodium bicarbonate was also applied to the skin. Meanwhile, instructor Maria Grant arrived from a nearby room to help Nguyen wash her face, including her right eye, which was affected by the 70 percent nitric acid HNO3. Grant also helped remove articles of clothing that may have been contaminated by the chemicals.

The accident report said that, "they had been rinsing for almost 15 minutes when the emergency workers from the fire department arrived." Nguyen and Grant were

successful in decontaminating the lab worker's eyes.

The chief lab operative tried to take Nguyen to the emergency room. Unfortunately, it was closed. Math, Science and Technology Executive Assistant Irene Benavidez notified security soon thereafter. A fire truck arrived about 10 minutes later, according to the accident report.

Nguyen was taken to Washington Hospital in Fremont, where a Dr. Omerberg examined her. According to his diagnosis, there was a possibility of temporary blisters forming on her skin, though no permanent damage was done. She was prescribed ointment and Vicodin for any pain.

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