

# Recruitment on campus: I repeat, do not deploy

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A recent study has shown that military recruitment is most successful in very large schools with mediocre graduation rates and tight campus security. Less so in schools that have a more prestigious record.

"The military is not recruiting the bottom of the barrel by any means. They are targeting the working class," said Charles Morose, sociologist and military expert at Northwestern University.

Of course, that conveniently leaves out the part about how the

upper-echelon private schools are in a position to refuse access to military recruiters, since they are not nearly as dependent on federal funding.

Apparently, many of the students who enlist do so because of reasons that have less to do with wanting to

join the military as being concerned about their educational future. "I don't know if my parents can even afford college" is a commonly heard reason for choosing a career in soldiering.

No matter where one stands on how the military reinforces the

ranks (and according to them they are in great need to do so) - it does point toward the fact that once again it's the less wealthy being targeted to fight the war that will most likely benefit the more wealthy, with loss of federal funding serving as the stick, and... wait. No carrot?

# ASOC: There's always room for improvement

By GABRIEL VILA  
Staff writer

Don't get me wrong. The people in the ASOC (Associated Students of Ohlone College) are some of the greatest, hardest working people you could ever meet. Their dedication and willingness to set everything aside for the betterment of their cause has shown through time and time again this semester, bringing us such excellent opportunities and investments as the China trip and Project Quad, and events like Unity Week. Thrust into an awkward position at the onset of this season, the executive staff and senators of the ASOC have done their absolute best for their school and we should thank them.

They're great people, and I feel honored to have met them, known them and, at times, butted heads with them over the course of the last few months. I have nothing but the utmost respect for everyone in that council and I honestly wish I had the chance to join them as a senator next year.

That said, the ASOC is a removed

organization; an anachronism from the times of high school, which should be reformed and rebuilt to better suit the needs of the general populace of Ohlone College. The vast majority of students on campus don't know anything about the ASOC, nor do they particularly care, and I feel that it is this apathy that cripples the ASOC more than anything else.

In my time here at Ohlone before this current ASOC administration, the council was nothing more than an occasional source of breakfast. I never attended any Unity Week gatherings; I never went to any brown bag seminars. Even now, outside of reporting on the ASOC, the council has very little effect on my day-to-day life as an Ohlone student.

So what does the ASOC actually do?

From my observations, the ASOC provides funding to all the clubs on campus with the go-ahead of ICC, as well as provides funding to a number of other special projects and presentations at the behest of staff. The ASOC also organizes

events for the school. The ASOC somehow whittled down nearly \$30,000 over the course of this last semester; funding speakers, clubs, special projects and events. Outside of my work at the *Monitor*, I never heard a peep about any of it. And why is that?

The answer can only be that the campus just doesn't care about the ASOC. Despite the senators' dedication and effort, no one cares. And why is it that no one cares? Because this is Ohlone College.

There's an old adage around here; you go to Ohlone to get out of Ohlone. This is a community college in the Fremont hills, not high school. We don't have school spirit here; we only care about getting in and getting out with a fresh start on college. We care about saving money and getting in to the schools of our choice. We care about our jobs; we care about our families. We don't care about the ASOC because the ASOC doesn't address those concerns.

I didn't go to Ohlone College to impress anyone. I went to get my general education done so that I

could transfer out to the UC school system. I've been part of the sports program here, and it's fun to be sure but that aside, I know that I'm not going to play sports professionally. I've taken this opportunity at Ohlone to dabble in classes and learn things that I was interested in pursuing, not to hang out with a familiar cadre of friends at school functions.

The ASOC puts money into things that only a small fraction of Ohlone students bother with. The planned delegation to China will affect only a few students, Unity Week had a terrible turnout and the ASOC has run out of funds to give to clubs.

Project Quad is a brilliant idea and a necessary one at that. Outdoor furniture on campus makes all the sense in the world and I couldn't be happier that the ASOC has gone ahead with funding it. But apart from this \$13,000 investment, what does the ASOC really have to show for this year as a mark for all the years to come here at Ohlone?

If I had the opportunity to be a senator, I would push for projects

to help out our student population as a whole, not simply organizing events and hoping for people to turn up. With ASOC funding, we could have faster and better computers on campus, or start funding on solar panels for buildings. Ideas like Project Quad, campus improvement and beautification, it's ideas like that which will bring student appreciation to the ASOC. Forcing clubs to fundraise on campus by cutting ASOC grants couldn't hurt either, creating a much more engaging atmosphere. It also couldn't hurt to get the ASOC name printed and posted all over campus either; that kind of bright and bold propaganda has been proven time and time again to work.

In the end, I'm only one voice. However, the ASOC has seen fit on its own to change its image on campus. Earlier this semester, they created the ASOC Awareness Task Force, headed up by Erik Sanchez. Hopefully, this Task Force will be able to guide the ASOC through future administrations and better suit the needs of the average student here at Ohlone College.

# Can't pass the test? Don't bother trying again

By ANNA NEMCHUK  
News editor

Would you want the doctor slicing your chest open to have "passed" his classes? Or would you want a "summa cum laude" certificate hanging on her or his wall?

What's the point of education, anyway? Doesn't all that book-larnin' tend to go to kids' heads - dub them proud, raise their goals, make them want more from life than just getting along in it?

Well, yes. That, inconsequential as it may be, is the objective. A

hundred years ago, even 50 years, hell, in many parts of the world still, education was a privilege, not a right. The rich and lucky went to school; the poor schmucks who raked the fields and drudged in the factories only dreamed of it. In 2006 in California, it seems the struggle to push students through school is met with resistance at every point: from the kids themselves to their lackadaisical parents to clueless legislators, exhausted teachers and indifferent administrators.

The latest insult is Valenzuela vs. California, filed Feb. 8 by

lawyers on behalf of seniors who had failed the high school exit exam but were asking to graduate anyway. Their main argument was that the substandard schools they attended, their financial difficulties and, for many, international origins, made the exam unwieldy, unfair and ultimately impassable. Oakland Judge Robert Freeman has delayed his decision until Friday because of a technicality brought up by the state's lawyers, but has already stated his sympathy with the beleaguered seniors' plight.

You know, I think I'll move to

France next year and demand I be acceded a PhD in nuclear engineering and French existential literature - if the request is not granted, I'll sue the French government for discrimination; after all, not knowing French or, for that matter, anything about nuclear engineering, is a completely bigoted reason for my inadequacy in the appropriate exams.

"There is a cultural bias on the exam," said James Shelby with the Sacramento Urban League in an interview for CBS Broadcasting.

No. Shit. Sherlock.

We live in America, a country's

whose primary language is English, NOT Chinese, Urdu, French, or, in the words of our great president, Mexican. It would seem painfully apparent that to receive a certificate stating the bearer possesses a minimal knowledge of that dialect one would have to, in fact, have it.

The test does not specifically discriminate against other cultures; it discriminates against anyone not harboring the education it tests for. That is what a test does!

So the next time you fail a test, remember, kids, just sue the teacher for racial discrimination!

## LETTERS

# State Senate elections: Why you should care

**Editor's Note: Usually the *Monitor* wouldn't carry a piece from anyone related to any political candidate's campaign. However, the following letter, written by community college students who are a part of John Dutra's campaign and submitted by an Ohlone student, does not endorse any politician and expresses an opinion that's valid and relevant to Ohlone students. Thus, we are printing the letter but feel the need to remind readers of the piece's original source and that the *Monitor* in no way supports any specific candidate.**

Election Day is coming up on June 6 and one of California's most competitive legislative races is taking place here in the Bay Area. The 10th State Senate District stretches

from San Leandro to San Jose and out to Pleasanton, and includes Fremont and Hayward, the fourth and fifth largest cities in the Bay Area respectively. The open seat for this area is contested by three qualified candidates, all of whom have legislative experience in the State Assembly: Ellen Corbett, John Dutra, and Johan Klehs. In the State Senate, where decisions are made regarding the budget, funding for public schools and tuition at community colleges, the successful candidate in this race will have a significant impact on the future of the state.

Sometimes as college students we forget, or don't even know, how these elections affect the future of California, but the fact is that choosing who represents us in the State Senate will impact our generation

in many ways. The growing budget deficit, for example, which now exceeds \$50 billion, will prove to be a burden for young, college-age students. Addressing this issue is difficult for many politicians; most cannot provide coherent solutions and usually avoid the issue. Unfortunately, avoiding this problem contributes to a growing deficit and continuing budget cuts that will cause further harm to our generation. One striking example of this is what has happened over the past few years at the state's higher education institutions.

Deficit spending by the State Legislature has led to significant fee hikes at community colleges and in the CSU and UC systems. Since 2002, community college tuition has increased 136 percent with the cost of a single unit ris-

ing from \$11 to \$26. The UC and CSU systems have also struggled with a 14 percent fee increase in the past three years, a result of cuts to higher education programs by the Legislature and Governor. In addition to slashing programs and growing class sizes, the tuition increases have left recent college graduates with significant burdens: the average student graduating from a four-year university now leaves with nearly \$20,000 in debt.

It is our generation that will struggle to resolve this debt, both the state's \$50 billion and our own personal debt accumulated to achieve a higher education. Often we think that state legislative races do not affect us because they do not always involve student fees or textbook prices, but it must be remembered that management of the state's fi-

nances will affect the state's future financial health. We should look at the options we have for this State Senate race and take advantage of the power we have as voters. We must vote for the candidate that can best address - and solve - the state's pressing challenges. We must find a candidate with the knowledge and experience to balance a budget. We must vote on Tuesday, June 6, 2006. We must care, our future depends on it.

More information on the different campaigns for District 10's seat in the State Senate can be found on the various candidates' websites, or on [www.SmartVoter.org](http://www.SmartVoter.org), an excellent resource for all local, state, and federal elections.

- Ohlone Student Melissa Esquipulas

# Brown Bag speaks of biomaterials employment

By **OMER AHMED**  
Opinion editor

Following closely after Ohlone's recent Biotechnology Fair and bringing this academic year's Brown Bag seminar series to a close was Friday's Dr. Cheng Li speaking on "Biomaterials and Cell Interaction."

Li is currently vice president of research and development at Menlo Park based In•Cube, Inc, a medical device incubator company. He focused his presentation on medical implants and the materials used in making them. Ohlone's Math Science Coordinator Yvette Nicolls introduced him saying, "He's devoted his career to biomaterials and medical devices."

Li first gave an explanation of what a biomaterial is, describing it as "any material made to interact with human bodies and not be rejected." This includes well-known materials such as silicon for breast implants and other less known materials such as calcium hydroxyapatite

used for artificial hips.

He then began to describe the challenges of working with biomaterials. He said, "The ultimate goal is for the implant to become part of the tissue system." However, Li



Dr. Cheng Li speaks on the benefits of biomaterial research. Photo by Mojghan Mohtashimi.

explained that this goal of creating a substance that the body will accept is hindered by certain conditions having to be met. The surface of a biomaterial has to have properties that allow the attachment of cells and be suitable for growth and health. Ironically, the tissue integration of helpful biomaterials is also hindered by the human immune system. Finally, when a suitable biomaterial is developed, it must be sturdy enough to function for an extended period of time.

Despite the difficulties in creation, biomaterials have come a long way according to Li. He described biomaterials as being developed to their third generation. He said that the first generation were "inert materials" that were not rejected by the body but didn't interact with it such as gold fillings for teeth. "Engineered materials" were the next generation and had been formulated to be compatible with the human body. Second generation materials included specially made titanium for joint replacement. The

latest generation, "bioengineered materials," are specifically made to work with tissues and organs. These materials include artificially created tissues, like blood vessels harvested from lab-grown muscles.

Imparting his knowledge of the industry, Li closed his seminar with a discussion of the future of biomaterials and the job opportunities in

the industry. He said that biomaterials constitute a \$77 billion industry in the U.S. alone and constantly need new talent in form of both scientist and managers.

Ohlone's Brown Bag Science Seminar series is sponsored by the Math and Science Division, given funding by the ASOC and is open to the public.

## Scholarships and ice cream at social

By **THOMAS HSU**  
Correspondent

Wednesday marked the Ohlone College Foundation's first annual Scholarship BBQ and Ice Cream Social.

Flocks of students, staff and faculty stopped at the Palm Bosque, lured by the smells of barbecued hot dogs and the wiles of ice cream under the shade of palm trees.

The festivities came as a celebration for the Foundation's 2006 scholarship recipients, who were welcomed onstage and presented with scholarships. That puts the amount of scholarships distributed by the Foundation this year at over \$25,000.

Ohlone's President Dr. Douglas Treadway and Vice Presidents Deanna Walston and Jim Wright personally served ice cream, to show their appreciation everyone who makes this college happen.

Other "Celebrity Cooks" that came to serve the students included Dean of Fine Arts, Business and Broadcasting Walt Birkedahl, and Associate Vice President of Student Services Ron Travenick.

Many faculty and staff also took the chance to pledge their support to the Ohlone College Foundation, because, as EOPS Sandy Bennett

put it, "The more we give, the more we can give away."

"It was a wonderful way for all the employees here at Ohlone College to show our commitment to our students," said Ohlone College Foundation Director Dr. Josephine Hawkins.

Community members such as Mission Coffee's Gael Stewart also helped coordinate and serve during the Ice Cream Social.

In all, about 300 people came to spend their lunch hour socializing, cheering on scholarship winners, and enjoying food together to the beat of Ohlone College's radio station, KOHL.

The event concluded with a raffle for those Ohlone employees that pledged their support. Four lucky winners walked away with either picnic sets or Oakland A's tickets, gifts generously donated by community members.

The students who received scholarships at the event are (not including those who did not make it to the ceremony): Mona Aflatooni, Meredith Ang, Alena Barlow, Chad Mischoff, Alla Bottler, Heta Desai, Hartej Dhama, Dericka Hayes, Randeep Kaur, Nuwanee Kirihennedige, Jacob Park, Monique Skinner, Roun Tamaki, Lijia Weng and Xeuxin Zhang.

## Computer department splits

By **CHRIS MARSHALL**  
Staff writer

Just in time for the summer session of classes, Ohlone's Computer Studies department is being split into two separate departments: Computer Science and Computers, Networks and Emerging Technologies (CNET).

This move is an attempt to simplify the coordination of all the classes currently in the Computer Studies department, said Richard Grotegut, instructor of Computer Studies.

"During the dot com boom in the '90s, our department grew to be one of the largest on campus, just slightly smaller than the English department," said Grotegut.

Ohlone's Computer Studies department originated in the late '60s and early '70s, when it was conceived by the late Larry Weiner. Grotegut said calling the department "Computer Studies" was quite different from what community colleges traditionally called their computer-related departments. "Most schools had Computer Science departments, but Computer Studies put Ohlone's department under a much broader umbrella."

"The Computer Studies department really started to grow in the '90s; we became one of the big guys," said Grotegut. All of the multimedia classes were originally part of the Computer Studies department, until a new Multimedia program was spun-off in 1999. After, that, Ohlone also grew a separate Networking program, said Grotegut.

Beginning this summer, the Computer Studies department will be no more. In its stead will be the Computer Science Department, consisting of all of the current computer programming courses and the CNET department, which will encompass the rest of the courses, as well as offer new courses.

This summer, Ohlone will offer new classes under the CNET department.

One of the classes, called "How Technology Works," is designed to be a "physics class for non-physics majors," said Grotegut. The other new class this summer, "Robotics and Automation," will teach students about how robotics and automation will make everyday life easier.

"Splitting Computer Studies will also help with the hiring of

teachers," said Grotegut. "In order to teach Computer Science, a person needs at least a Master's in Computer Science, but with CNET, the minimum qualifications are different, so teachers could be easier to find."

Grotegut said the split would make things less confusing for students. "The Computer Studies section of the class schedule was huge, making it hard for students to sort through the classes. This [split] should make things a bit easier for them."

"Most of our current students already have degrees," said Grotegut. "Most of them are interested in retraining for a new career. We have a fledgling transfer program, but we also offer vocational and certification training. The number one interest in certification at Ohlone is with Redhat Linux."

Computer Studies Instructor George Wong said, "People really over-reacted to the dot com burst. Recent studies show that in four years there will be a shortage of workers in computer-related jobs. The dot com industry, all of that didn't go away. We have to start thinking ahead four years, when the shortage is supposed to happen."

## Guest speaker an Ohlone alumnus

Continued from Page 1  
chemistry; a textbook for future Ohlone College students.

But, for now, her sights are set on May 25, the scheduled day for graduation, to be held at the gym, starting at 7 p.m.

The honored alumnus guest speaker is freelance sports photojournalist Brad Mangin, who graduated from Ohlone in 1986. His photographs are regularly featured in *Sports Illustrated*, and he has worked for the *Fremont Argus*, *San Ramon Valley Times*, and *Contra Costa Times*.

Mangin has covered the World Series for Major League Baseball

from 2000 to 2005, and his photograph of Oakland Raiders wide receiver Randy Moss has graced the front cover of the May 16, 2005 issue of *Sports Illustrated*.

As for Ayesha, she's thankful for Ohlone because it has broadened her spectrum of interests and helped her make numerous friends, but confessed, "I'm ready to move on." In fact, after spending a lot of time with deaf students, she has set a new goal for herself: to learn ASL. And being valedictorian does have its perks - her parents will receive special VIP, front-row seats to the ceremony. For a possible future Nobel prize winner, why not?

## Free speech in danger

Continued from Page 1  
is also backing the bill, who aim to push the subject before the Supreme Court.

"AB 2581 is essential in order for student newspapers in California to have the free speech protections they deserve," said Legal Counselor of the Association, Jim Ewert, in Yee's press release.

The bill was completely approved May 9 by the Assembly judiciary Committee on a bipartisan vote of 8-0 and will go before the full Assembly as early as next week.



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