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# MONITOR

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## Award-winning director speaks about Darfur

By CHEN LIN  
Online editor

Paul Freedman, director of the Peabody award-winning documentary "Rwanda: Do Scars Ever Fade?" spoke on Monday, as part of Ohlone's World Forum series, about the conflict in Darfur and his experiences there making his new film, "Sand and Sorrow."

Freedman, who spent about seven weeks in Darfur, called his efforts "the study of the worst man can do to each other."

Darfur is a region to the west of Sudan occupied largely by African Muslims. Unlike the Second Sudanese Civil War that ended in 2005, said Freedman, the Darfur conflict is not a struggle between a Muslim north and a Christian south. Rather, it "boils down to" an ethnic conflict between Muslims who speak Arabic as a mother tongue and those who don't, said Freedman.

The conflict in Darfur began during the last civil war when the Sudanese government armed local Arab militias, referred to by non-

Arabs as the Janjaweed, triggering civil conflict in a region already suffering from severe ethnic tensions. Combined with years of economic neglect, the government-sponsored harassment was enough to trigger a large-scale insurgency by non-Arab Muslims in Darfur, whose early efforts were met with great success.

Realizing it would make little progress attacking the insurgency head on, the Sudanese government employed a strategy of "draining the swamp to catch the fish," according to Freedman. Instead of combating the non-Arab militia, the Janjaweed, with assistance from the government, attacked and began killing non-Arabic Darfurians, sapping the insurgency of recruits and supplies.

Today, most non-Arab Darfuris are trapped within various Internal Displaced Persons camps under impoverished conditions, encircled by the Janjaweed. When women leave the camps to fetch supplies, the Janjaweed harass and rape them.

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Photo by Chen Lin

**Emmy-nominated and Peabody-winning documentarian Paul Freedman talks during Monday's World Forum on Darfur. A clip from his latest film, 'Sand and Sorrow,' is projected behind him.**

## Shanghai dancers tonight



Photo by Christa Meier

**Shanghai Theatre Academy dancer Cai Ling rehearses for the group's performance tonight. Story on Page 3.**

## Vice President Deanna Walston to leave in June

By ERIC DORMAN  
Staff writer

Deanna Walston, the college vice president and deputy superintendent responsible for bringing the college's finances out of the red following the building of the Smith Center, has decided to resign. She gave family reasons, saying that she wanted to spend more time with her grandchildren and travel.

"My goal over the years has been to bring financial stability to the college," said Walston. "And I feel I have accomplished that."

Walston was hired in 1996 by former Ohlone President Floyd Hogue amid a slew of budget problems for the college. The Smith Center construction was taking longer than projected due to rain and generally bad weather, and the college needed an extra million dollars to finish the project. Furthermore, Ohlone had been placed on California's Financial Watch List after the school's reserves continued to decline.

Walston immediately went to the California legislature, trying

to get a lawyer to lobby and plead Ohlone's case and to try to get the extra funds necessary to rebalance the schools budget.

In order to do this, she had to quantify everything for the state: how much money they had spent, how much was lost because of delays, how much they would need to finish the project, etc.

At last, the state came through, giving the college \$850,000—not the \$1 million the college was hoping for, but enough to get the job done.

"It took two years," said Walston, "but we stuck with it, and we got it done."

Over the years, Walston said her focus has shifted away from financial matters and toward bond measures, such as the measure A bond that is funding the construction of the Newark Center for Technology and Health Sciences.

Furthermore, Walston has been devoting her attention to creating the new Student Services building to be erected in the place of Building 7. The college is expected to

start looking for bids as soon as late February.

Walston also noted how different the college looks now than when she first arrived. For one thing, she said, Hyman Hall didn't used to be here, as it wasn't completed until around 2001.

Additionally, the campus Quad was narrower and there was no road behind the pond. The Quad was widened and the road created in order to give emergency vehicles better access in case of a fire or other disaster.

Also, when Walston first began working here, her office was in Building 20, the Victorian-style house at the bottom of the hill that now houses the campus police and flea market organizers. Walston worked to get herself and others up to Building 1 in the higher part campus.

Walston's resignation, which she announced at last week's Board of Trustees meeting, will not go into effect until next June. She said she is considering going into consulting in the future.