



World Forum set for Feb. 22

By NOAH LEVIN
Staff writer

The first of this year's World Forum events is fast approaching. Presented by University of the Pacific Professor of Law John Sims, the forum will use the National Security Agency (NSA) warrantless electronic wiretapping as the basis for his discussion on checks of power.

Sims' presentation, titled "What the NSA's Warrantless Electronic Surveillance Program Can Teach Us About Separation of Powers," will focus on the controversy of the NSA/FISA (Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act) electronic surveillance of U.S. citizens. In 2005,

it came to the attention of the public that the NSA, under the expanded FISA, was tapping the phones and intercepting the e-mails of U.S. citizens and foreigners, without their knowledge or warrants to do so. The public's outrage was palpable when it also became known that the secret surveillance has been in effect since 2001, after becoming allowed by the USA Patriot Act. The constitutionality of these actions is believed to be questionable at best and making many paranoid for the safety of their privacy at worst.

Though the powers granted to the NSA are meant to protect the American people from foreign threats, explicitly those from terrorist cells within the U.S., many fear abuse of

these powers and discrimination against U.S. emigrants from the Middle East and Asia.

On Jan. 18, Attorney General Alberto Gonzales said the NSA had worked out an agreement with the FISA courts to give the wiretapping program "the necessary speed and agility" to operate. No details were given about the "innovative court order."

Sims' presentation will focus on the implications of the wiretapping powers being given to government intelligence groups and also how to regulate the NSA's electronic surveillance of U.S. citizens.

The forum will be held in Epler Gymnasium on Thursday, Feb. 22 from noon until 1 p.m.

Brown Bag seminar postponed

The Brown Bag Science seminar set for Feb. 9, UC Berkeley Astronomy Professor Alex Filippenko's "Dark Energy and the Runaway Universe", has been rescheduled to Mar. 9.

The next Brown Bag will now be Dr. Paul K. Park's "Bioterrorism - Food Defense Challenges in California" on March 2 in Room 3201 from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

Admission is free and refreshments will be provided before the seminar.

Funding shuffled

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dependence on them and the amount of money these agencies collect on defaulted loans. Yet, because of cuts to the Perkins program, most colleges and universities are forced to dip into their own funds to provide loans for students. Much of the money comes from prior borrowers, but as the price of higher education rises, this money is gradually becoming more and more inadequate.

By channeling the saved money into the Pell grant, the Bush administration hopes to ensure that students get as much of the federal money set aside for student loans as possible. However, the Perkins program is an important source of money for students because it is self-sufficient, using the money paid back by students to fund the education of even more students. It is also important to note that Perkins loans are available to graduate students while Pell grant awards are not. The flexibility of the Perkins loans makes it a valuable resource.

The Coalition of Higher Education Assistance Organizations (COHEAO), a partnership of over 300 educational and commercial members, is encouraged by the plan to increase the Pell grant, but feels that this should not be done at the expense of the Perkins program. COHEAO plans to take its case to Congress and petition for full funding for the Federal Capital Contribution to the Perkins program.

Rodgers gets sustainability job

By KYLE STEPHENS
Staff writer

George Rodgers, anthropology professor at Ohlone, was recently appointed the Environmental Sustainability Coordinator by President Doug Treadway.

Rodgers, a long-time environmental advocate, who also teaches geology and geography, said he has "a very humble and daunting task" as coordinator. Many ideas and programs are awaiting implementation, though their exact application and execution await consideration by the Environmental and Sustainability Task Force committee.

The managerial duties of coordinator include pursuit of efforts for "sustainability" as the title suggests. Sustainability entails several facets: "conserving natural resources and avoiding negative long-term environmental effects, maximizing environmental quality, use of renewable resources, energy efficiency and energy use, facilitating use of alternate forms of transportation, fuels, and systems, designing all major new building and renovation projects to meet nationally recognized standards for environmental design," according to the Ohlone Newark Center for Health Sciences and Technology's website.

Currently, an environmental taskforce is in the process of being assembled to address campus issues such as promotion of recycling programs and implementation of green expendable goods. Other efforts include converting the Ohlone vehicle fleet to greener engines.

Many of the sustainability efforts to be put into effect will first be seen at the new Ohlone Newark campus. The still-in-construction campus will feature energy conservations efforts by way of solar power (the campus will feature the largest in the Silicon Valley), geothermal heating and cooling, and air filtration and transfer via enthalpy wheels.

The campus, as well as future Ohlone renovations, aim to achieve LEED (Leadership in Energy and

Environmental Design) certification, which entails "recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health."

Environmentally oriented classes (which will be offered at the new campus) won't be the only courses to promote sustainability. An underlying penchant of the sustainability campaign is to extend its principles inside the very classroom, giving the curriculum a "green tint."

In a speech after a showing of Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth," Rodgers effectively summed up the goals of coordinator, "(Sustainability) not for us, but out future generations - that's what [it] is all about."

Alliant International University Presents: "Alliant Transfer Seminar Series - Spring 2007"

A special invitation is extended to Ohlone employees, prospective and current Alliant transfer students

Topic for February's presentation:

Discovering the Secrets for Achieving Your Educational & Career Objectives

Tuesday, February 27, 2007

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Library room 1307 (Video Conference Room)

Dynamic guest speakers and lite refreshments will be served

RSVP to Angela Jemmott, Alliant Transfer Coordinator
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