



– Page 5

– Page 6



– Page 5

– Page 2

MOHLONE COLLEGE MONITOR

Vol. XXXVI No. 8

Fremont, California

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Live music to make Quad Wild 'n' Out

By **NOAH LEVIN**
Staff writer

Bands and DJs are being given a new way to show off their talents. Wednesday, March 21, saw the first Wild 'n' Out Wednesday on the Ohlone Campus.

Ideally planned for every Wednesday in the Quad from noon to 1 p.m., the Associated Students of Ohlone College (ASOC) came up with the event in an effort to promote more school spirit.

Performers of all varieties are encouraged by the ASOC members to sign up for the weekly event, with Rami Malaeb, a.k.a DJ Ram, playing an hour-long set this time. An initially sparse crowd soon filled out as curious students made their way from their classes to the booming Quad. There, ASOC members gave out fliers, green bead necklaces and free promotional CDs.

The event is the brainchild of ASOC Representative at Large Carlos Vejar. "This is to give students a chance to showcase their talents," said Vejar. "To do more than go to

school, go to class, and then just go home." The event is part of the battery of new events in the works and already happening around campus in an attempt to boost school pride and spirit. Vejar also commented, "This is my last semester here, and I want to leave my legacy, something positive."

ASOC Adviser Renee Gonzales pointed out that, "It's a new event...[made] in direct response to surveys from the students." The surveys mentioned by Gonzales are the surveys that were given out to students after the Thanksgiving Feast given by the ASOC last semester.

Gonzales and Vejar both noted that there was an overwhelming response from the student body asking for more local bands and DJs to perform during the school day.

"I heard it all the way at the bathroom in Building 2, and it made me curious," exclaimed excited student Sophia Kanety.

The music was so loud at one point, student Janelle Feliciano proclaimed, "I was going dumb in my philosophy class!"



Photo by Jack Husting

Rami Malaeb, also known as DJ Ram, surveys the Quad and students getting out of class while he provides the music for the first Wild 'n' Out Wednesday put on by the Associated Students of Ohlone College.

Darfur crisis film previewed

By **KYLE STEPHENS**
Staff writer

A preview of *Sand and Sorrow*, a documentary by Paul Freedman, who spoke at an Ohlone World Forum on Monday, Nov. 13, was shown, as part of a fundraiser for the Darfur region at Paddy's Coffee Shop in the Old Alvarado district of Union City on Friday Nov. 16 and Saturday Nov. 17.

Freedman himself was not present but some of his associates, as well as a Sudanese man, were there

to present a trailer and give background on the Darfur issue.

The fundraiser, wherein patrons paid whatever they saw fit for their drinks, raised over \$2,500.

The preview featured several prominent figures concerned with the Darfur crisis, including presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama and Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and author.

After the showing, Mamer Ajak, a lost boy of Sudan (a survivor and escapee of the Sudan Civil War) spoke on the nature of the

Darfur conflict. There is much to be said about the Darfur situation, and as Ajak said, "Darfur can't be explained in one hour."

The presenters at the event said that the film would be ready for a larger release in around four to five months when it is finished and a distributor is procured. Ten minutes have been cut off the film and George Clooney is set to provide new voice-overs. The unfinished film has previously been shown on PBS and at events such as the Darfur World Forum at Ohlone.

**Don't come to school next week!
Ohlone has Spring Break from Monday,
March 26 until Sunday, April 1.**

Ohlone success rate higher than CSU, says report

By **OMER AHMED**
News editor

Students at Ohlone and other community colleges in California are earning their degrees and certificates and graduating at a better than projected rate, according to a new study released by the California Community Colleges System Office (CCCCSO).

The study, titled *Focus on Results: Accountability Reporting for the Community Colleges*, comes on the heels of a study by California State University, Sacramento that criticized community colleges for not preparing transfer students for the rigors of four-year universities.

Regarding Ohlone, the CCCSO report states that 60.8 percent of students are graduating with a degree, an 18-unit or more certificate or transferring within six years. The

rate for the California Community College system as a whole was about 52 percent and is believed by educational administrators to be an indicator of how students are being prepared for transfer. It is also comparable to the 56 percent rate at California State Universities.

Some of the other highlights of the report for Ohlone include a year-to-year student retention rate of about 70 percent, 68.1 percent of students completing 30 or more units, with vocational courses at a completion rate of 85.2 percent.

For the Community College system as a whole, there were a number of interesting statistics published. On average, 6.6 percent of all Californians are enrolled at a community college at any given time. More surprisingly, about 35.25 percent of all Californians aged 18 to 19 were enrolled in California community colleges.

Students who earned vocational degree or certificates from community colleges in 2003 experienced an 86 percent wage increase within three years of graduation, from an average of \$25,600 per year to \$47,571.

Additionally, transfers to University of California system schools have increased over the last three years, with over 13,000 transfers in 2006. The report said 52,642 students transferred to CSU schools, which is expected, as community colleges have a high rate of transfer to CSUs. The report also said 15,466 students transferred to in-state private schools and 12,848 students transferred to out-of state schools, both public and private in 2006, but it was undetermined if these numbers were an increase or a decrease, as such transfers have only recently been monitored.

The study released previously in February by Sacramento State,

titled "Rules of the Game: How State Policy Creates Barriers to Degree Completion and Impedes Students Success in the California Community Colleges," criticized community colleges for having low rates of transfer within the expected two-year time. The study stated that community college students often aren't fully prepared for transfer and don't complete their studies in the expected two to three years time.

Community college presidents and administrators across California, including Ohlone President Doug Treadway, voiced their concerns and skepticism regarding the Sac State study. Treadway told the *Monitor* in February that the study didn't take into account the many goals of community colleges outside of student transfers such as remedial education, associates degrees and providing education for anyone who wants to learn.

The CCCSO report has been criticized by Sac State's Institute for Higher Education Leadership & Policy, the publishers of the *Rules of the Game* study, for not holding high enough standards. One of the study's authors, Nancy Shurlock, found the CCCSO report's methodology lacking and spoke to the *Argus* about her view, "This [study] doesn't tell us whether they're doing their job with the toughest students...they look at students who are already successful. I don't want to judge whether a 50 percent success rate means that the glass is half full or half empty. Fifty percent means there is still a lot of work to do."

The report is the first of its kind in California. It was mandated by Assembly Bill 1417, which required that the CCCSO conduct accountability studies regarding how well community colleges fulfill their many goals.