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# OHLONE COLLEGE MONITOR

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Fremont, California

Thursday, April 19, 2007

## Ohlone sends sympathy to VT after massacre

By SANDEEP ABRAHAM  
Staff writer

By now, there are few people who have not heard about the tragic massacre that rocked Blacksburg, Virginia a few days ago. Cho Seung-Hui, a student at Virginia Tech with antisocial tendencies, went on a rampage and with a gun in each hand, shot and killed 32 people before taking his own life.

Be it through phone calls, text messages, instant messages, MySpace or Facebook, the word has spread and people across the nation have come together in a collective sense of compassion for the victims of the massacre. As would be expected, students seem to have shown the most concern and worry over this tragedy.

President Doug Treadway issued a statement in response to the massacre. In it, he acknowledged the senselessness and sheer shock that has echoed around the nation, noting how unreal the whole situation feels. He also called students and faculty to “resolve, each in our own way, to reach the pathways of non-violence, to advocate for responsible legislative actions regarding the availability of guns, and to spend each day in deep appreciation of the gifts of living and learning.”

Two of the more pressing questions in the minds of students are how, if possible, could this tragedy have been averted and how likely is it to happen at their schools. Ohlone’s students are no different. As has been seen over the week, the Ohlone student body has rallied together in a mix of sympathy, fear and sadness. So just how prepared is Ohlone in the event of a shooting and how much more prepared can it be?

Currently, Ohlone has 55 security cameras on campus, monitored by six campus police officers working different shifts. On April 2, the cameras captured the

theft of a student’s car and the Fremont police were alerted. However, said campus Police Chief Steven Osawa, this is also one of the major problems of Ohlone’s campus security. Unlike the campus security of some other community college campuses, Ohlone’s police officers are not armed, thus severely limiting what can be done in the event of a major confrontation. However, Ohlone’s security officers are in close

**‘Resolve... to  
reach path-  
ways to non-  
violence...’**

--Doug  
Treadway

contact with Fremont police, who can respond to the campus within minutes. If a massacre on par or even slightly smaller than what happened at Virginia Tech were to take place at Ohlone, how fast would police address the threat? Virginia Tech, despite having both more armed and more numerous campus police officers, was not able to prevent the catastrophe. Campus police

would have to contact the Fremont police and devise a plan to corner and capture any would-be shooter.

Osawa also mentioned the fact that since the child development center is an entity apart from Ohlone, it doesn’t fall under the jurisdiction of campus security. It is affiliated with the company Kidango, leaving Ohlone with little authority over it. Any safety and preventative measures Ohlone takes might not be enough to protect the children of its students.

George Rodgers, professor of anthropology and Ohlone’s emergency services coordinator, acknowledged the brutally meticulous planning that went into the Virginia Tech massacre. He mused that in times of peace, people forget all about these gruesome possibilities

*Continued on Page 2*

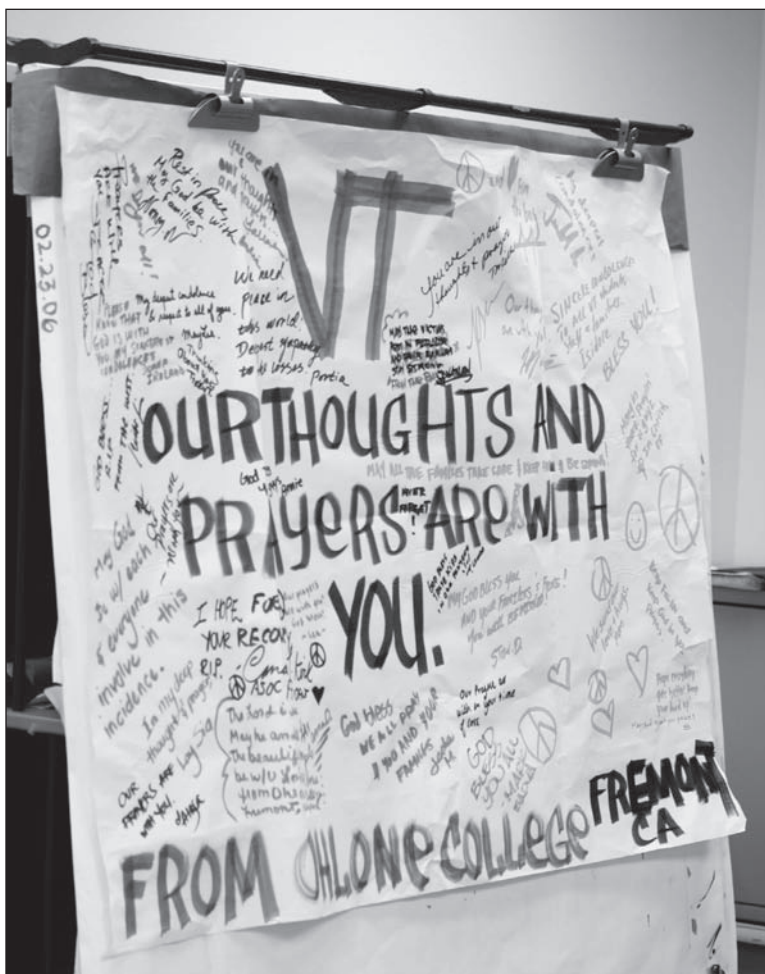


Photo by Kyle Stephens

**In the Quad, the library and the ASOC office, students, faculty and staff signed giant condolence cards to send to Virginia Tech. The card above was in the ASOC office and full of signatures by Wednesday afternoon.**

## Tahmasbi chosen as new trustee

By BRIAN CHU  
Staff writer

The Ohlone Board of Trustees appointed Trisha Tahmasbi to the unexpired term formerly held by now-retired trustee Dan Archer.

Board members were allowed to cast votes for three of the six candidates and Student Board Representative Sahar Yousef was given three advisory votes as well.

The voting results: Charles F. Bellavia, 3; Jan Giovanni-Hill, 3; John N. Kitta, 2; George S. Mathiesen, 3; Trisha Tahmasbi, 5; Robert Tavares, 1.

Trustee Bill McMillin made a motion to appoint Tahmasbi to the vacant board position. His motion was seconded simultaneously by three other trustees.

Board member John Weed attempted to make a substitute motion after stating he disagreed with the method of voting in a new board member, as he was under the assumption that the original method was to narrow down the six candidates into another division of three.

After much confusion over the selection and motioning process,

a copy of *Robert’s Rules of Order* was retrieved and referenced. It was discovered that a substitution motion did not exist in the Rules of Order.

During this episode of frustration for the board, Yousef said, “Can we please take the motion down and for the sake of things going smoothly, just go along with the process and your fellow trustees. This is being stubborn now. I think as adults you can step above that, just a little bit.”

Board President Nick Nardolillo responded with, “Yeah, you would hope. Let’s go get that rulebook.”

The motion passed and the selected voting committee voted 5 to 1 in favor of appointing Tahmasbi, with the only dissenting vote by Weed.

Before the voting process closed, Weed changed his vote from “nay” to “aye” in the “interest of having a unanimous board vote for the new member. Welcome aboard [Tahmasbi].”

Tahmasbi will begin regularly attending the Ohlone Board of Trustees meetings starting with next Wednesday’s normal bi-monthly meeting.

## Students promote Earth Week



Photo by Jack Husting

**ASOC President Candice Kirk, right, paints Vanessa Machuca’s face during the first day of Earth Week on Monday in the Quad. Festivities, including tree-planting and garbage pickup, will continue for the rest of the week. See story, Page 4.**



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OPINION

# Testimony of a veteran from the war in Iraq

By ERIC KOVACS  
Student

As a veteran of the Iraq war, I have a first-hand account of the situation there. The situation is much more complicated than the "blood for oil" that we hear at protests on

the streets. The thing that we need to understand, and that I cannot stress enough, is that democracy is not for everyone. This is a difficult thing for me to say because I took an oath to defend it with my life and, while democracy is no doubt a

good thing for us, it is quite another for the Iraqis. The Iraqi people are quite poor and poor people usually concern themselves with more basic needs such as keeping themselves and their families alive.

I was unique in that I studied a lot about Iraq, and even my family helped by acquiring some 400 pages

of reading material for me regarding the country that I would call home for the better part of a year. I tried to understand the tensions of the whole region and its history leading up to those tensions.

However, by studying the whole, I ignored the human factor. In all the data about chief mineral exports

and terrestrial microwave links (did I mention the report was thorough?), no mention was made of the people other than its population. When I talk to Iraqis, whose major concerns are trying to survive when people die every day as a result of roadside bombs, they couldn't care  
*Continued on Page 3*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# A further response from a devoted reader

DEAR EDITOR,

I'm very sorry that your publication has allowed your Opinion Editor Matthew So to explain his rationale and reasoning as a response to my submission to your opinion section. Since Mr. So feels that the opinion page is a section for debate, I feel it necessary to respond to his points in the April 12 edition of the *Monitor*.

First, Mr. So states that the *Monitor* welcomes letters from readers. How is someone supposed to feel comfortable writing a letter when the editorial staff is going to go to such lengths to justify or counter a letter from a reader? Few professional publications respond to opinion submissions unless there is a clear conflict of interest. I do not represent the electronic publishing industry, the debit & i.d. association,

the association for female athletes nor the professional grounds-keeps union.

Second, I do not blithely expect that the *Monitor* can enact changes to social, economic and gender issues. However, the *Monitor* should recognize that it plays a large role in influencing views and opinions for those who happen to read your publication. The role of mass media and its impact on society is easily reflected in the recent firing of Don Imus. His firing was due in part to his misuse of the powerful medium at his disposal while those without the same medium have no voice. If Mr. So is not clear about the power of the pen, press, television and internet then he should withhold his cutting remarks to my simple opinion submission.

Mr. So also attempts to paint my commentary as a lack of understanding of the demands of the profes-

sional journalism environment. I would like to point out the current precipitous decline in newspaper industry since the advent of on-line journalism. While the decline in newspaper industry isn't necessarily its death knell, it should be acknowledged that the print news media is being forced to publish on-line regardless of the desire to do otherwise. Mr. So shouldn't wait for the newspaper publishing industry to print on-line primarily... it already is. In this case, publishing primarily on-line does not exclude the secondary hard copy that you might see at a newsstand.

Mr. So should recognize that intelligent news and information found on-line probably got its start in the print arena. Now, however, I can have articles from the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal* and *The Economist* sent to me by email by subject or topic. Mr. So's

suggestion that print media is more objective than online or televised media speaks volumes of the lack of critical thinking ability in our society rather than his "ours is better than theirs" stance.

It is interesting to note that, by Mr. So's reckoning, the *Monitor* can adeptly calculate up to a 94 percent usage rate of publication printed. Not even experienced and well established credible newspapers can make such claims. Even as I write this message, I see 4 copies of the *Monitor* on the floor and tables of the computers surrounding me. If Mr. So wishes to take an environmental view on how the *Monitor* is managed, then he needs to understand that reducing the demand for "precious few resources" equals conservation. Simply recycling the *Monitor* doesn't excuse or rectify the problem when there are viable alternatives.

Finally, the very fact that Mr. So responded to my opinion is a shock. I thought the job of a Opinions editor was to act as a moderator, not a mouthpiece. Having said that, the rather condescending manner in which Mr. So opens and closes his response, encouraging people to write to the *Monitor* reduces the credibility of your publication even further. The type of journalism being exhibited by Mr. So is eerily reminiscent of tyrannical regimes which suppress hints of free speech and free thinking.

TOUCALIT BENTON

DEAR TOUCALIT,

Thank you for your feedback.

MATTHEW SO,  
Opinions Editor

## CAMPUS COMMENT >>

# How would you enhance yourself biologically?



**ANTHONY SHOUGH**  
Pharmacy

"I would make myself a better swimmer and join the team."



**CHRIS COBB**  
Sociology

"I would be 6 feet tall."



**MARISA NAVARRO**  
Teaching

"Maybe I can be taller. Oh, and no more split ends."



**BRITNEY LEWIS**  
Undecided

"I wanna see what cops see; have a cop radar or something."



**MONIQUE CLARK**  
Psychology

"My retention skills. I would enhance my memory."

## ASOC election details and candidates' statements

By NOAH LEVIN  
Staff writer

This semester's Associated Students of Ohlone College elections will take place next week on Tuesday, April 24 and Thursday, April 25.

Free donuts and Jamba Juice smoothies will be given away to voters after they cast their ballots.

Voting will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. To help



**Tatyana Hamady**  
Presidential Candidate

My name is Tatyana Hamady and I am running for ASOC President. I would fit this position best because of my love for helping Ohlone students have a fulfilling college experience and because of my familiarity with the school. I began as a senator last spring and was later elected for the '06-'07 terms as vice president. This has prepared me for the significant position of president; it has taught me to find what the students need and perform these needs to the best of my ability. Everything is born through passion. I will make it my duty to translate your passions into my own and see them to fruition.



**Yao-Li Yuan**  
Treasurer Candidate

Hello, my name is Yao-Li Yuan. I am deaf, from Taiwan and moved here in October. I graduated from the California School for the Deaf, in Fremont in 2002 and enrolled in Ohlone College right after.

Why do I want to be elected for ASOC Treasurer? It is because I want to learn and get experience for my future.

voters choose a candidate, ASOC will hold an event titled "Meet the Candidates" today at noon in the Quad.

Running for president are Tauheed Safi and current Vice President Tatyana Hamady. The position of treasurer is being sought after by Yao-Li Yuan; Danial Calloway is running for representative at large; incumbent Sahar Yousef is running for the position of student member of the Board of Trustees, and Ken Steadman, the present representative at large, is running for legislative representative.

The candidates' statements are as follows:



**Sahar Yousef**  
Student Board Member Candidate

Hello, my name is Sahar Yousef and I am running for my second term as the student member of the Board of Trustees. Ohlone College has done so much for me; being involved with ASOC is my way of returning the favor. I am a very strong and passionate person and I truly enjoy all of the new experiences I have been able to have serving the students here. I would like to ask everyone to vote and let me continue representing the students on the Board of Trustees.



**Ken Steadman**  
Legislative Rep. Candidate

Hey, I'm Ken. I am the current legislative representative and would like to continue in that position. This position is responsible for representing Ohlone College's interests at the regional and statewide student senate meetings. I have been involved in this for two years and am well acquainted with the people and situations involved with this position. Last year, I was the vice president of Region 4 of the California Student Association of Community Colleges (CalSACC). Vote for me if you care.

## Ohlone responds to tragedy

*Continued from Page 1*  
and live as if nothing could hurt them. It's only when a tragedy takes place that people panic and immediately start looking for ways to prevent it from happening again.

Rodgers also pointed out that high schools are far more prepared than colleges for emergencies like this because they already have lock-down drills and alarm systems in place. These measures would be more difficult to implement in a college setting because, according to Osawa, it's harder to get adults to go along with them. In high schools, most students are minors and are thus bound by law to follow the instructions.

There are some preventative measures that students and faculty can take. Unlike many other cultures around the world, Americans tend to value their personal space and privacy and are often unwilling to talk to strangers in public settings. Change that - a simple smile, nod, or "hello" might make a world of difference. For those deeply affected by what happened in Virginia, Student Health Center Director Sally Bratton is available for counseling. Simply drop by Building 16 or call (510) 659-6258 to make an appointment. If you notice any suspicious behavior on campus or feel threatened by another student, you need only call (510) 659-6111 to reach the campus police.

Ultimately, Rodgers said, "there really is no [guaranteed] protection...If someone is intent on hurting someone else, they will do it." Some disagree, but almost all agree on one thing: awareness and planning are keys to our safety.

## Iraq more complicated than 'blood for oil'

*Continued from Page 2*

less about the U.S. securing oil from countries outside of OPEC (one of the supposed benefits of the Iraq war) and I wouldn't expect anything else of them.

The truth is, Saddam held the country together, albeit in a sadistic kind of way, and we show up and liberate them, introduce to them the foreign concept of democracy and expect them to show gratitude to the wonderful U.S. liberators. Doesn't this sound a little naive?

What we should have done was oust Saddam and install a leader who actually cares about human rights and could build his country up. What we did was not what

was good for the Iraqi people, but what sounded good to the American voter, who sees our system of democracy as second to none. What our government should have done was listen to the Iraqi people, because they know best how to run their country.

For too long, Americans have been supporting this foreign policy of democracy first and all the other details sometime else.

So now we see the mistake we have made and the hole we have dug for ourselves. I would love to say history doesn't repeat itself, but here we are again in an unpopular war that seems to have no end in sight. Sound familiar?



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IN THEATRES APRIL 27



## Culture Pirate

By OMER  
AHMED  
News editor

## VT killings: an OC risk?

The news media exaggerates when it says that every college student has been affected by the tragedy at Virginia Tech. If you have been watching coverage on CNN, or god forbid, FoxNews, then you have seen the people at the scene, the memorials across the country and the President flying down to VT. Yet I know a lot of people, my friends included, still have a blasé attitude. Whether it is from being too busy in their own lives or the defense mechanism of thinking it could never happen to them, nothing really seems to have hit home. So I want to give a bit of a local history lesson.

De Anza College is a fellow community college about 16 miles from Ohlone. A quick trip on 680/280 will take you there and a number of people from my old high school go there. In many ways, it is another Ohlone. The buildings even look the same.

On January 29, 2001, a De Anza student was arrested for conspiracy to attack the school. He was Al Joseph Deguzman, a 20-year-old Filipino-American who seems to have shared much in common with Cho Seung-Hui.

Many of the similarities are superficial. Both were of Asian descent and were around the same age. Others are not so superficial; both students wrote disturbing works and seemed to be deeply lonely, isolated and depressed.

Both also had the potential to do massive damage. Cho actually went through with it. Deguzman was caught when he had photos of himself with a cache of 54 weapons developed at a local Longs Drugs. It may have been a cry for attention. Whether he was going to do it or not, Deguzman was sentenced to seven years in prison. At Folsom, he hanged himself with his bed sheet.

There is always the potential for someone to go off the handle and attempt a shooting on campus. A number of solutions have been talked about. Some are a bit wacky; others are reasonable. Armed officers on campus isn't the worst idea. In particular, the Ohlone officers I know are people I would trust. However, legislation can't fix what some are calling an epidemic in our schools.

The reality is that the world we live in is not always welcoming and pleasant for everyone. Sometimes a Cho or Deguzman or Kimveer Gill or Eric Harris can get disconnected and disturbed. It is a social problem that transcends race, class and space. It happened at VT, it almost happened at De Anza and it could happen at Ohlone.

I wish I had a fix - everyone does - but the best I can think of is to just be nice to the next person I see looking lonely. We are quite the dicks sometimes.

# Earth Week brings bands, plants to Quad

By NOAH LEVIN  
Staff writer

The Ohlone Quad is the campus epicenter for environmental awareness all this week, culminating with Earth Day on Friday.

Festivities began mid-day on Monday, April 16, with President Doug Treadway addressing the gathered students and faculty on the Quad. President Treadway gave a speech commemorating the first Earth Day, which took place in New York in 1970.

The President's speech was followed by the rock band Who GÄS (short for "Who Gives A Shit"). Front man, vocalist and guitarist Brandon Valatka commented on the meaning of the band's name, saying, "Who gives a shit about what clothes you wear, what car you drive, what god you pray to, or how much money you have. People have been wrapped up in that shit for so long, we feel it's stunting the evolution of the human race's spiritual growth."

The Associated Students of Ohlone (ASOC) were also out in force throughout the week. Monday and Tuesday, the ASOC sold pepperoni and cheese pizza for a dollar a

slice, with Monday seeing the sign-ups for the cardboard-and-duct-tape boat race and Tuesday featuring sign-ups for a basketball tournament.

The LIFE Club was also present through out the week, with club president Mari-Louise Javier working closely with ASOC President Candice Kirk during the festivities. The LIFE Club promotes sustainability and environmental awareness to the students of Ohlone, hosting an art contest on Tuesday with a \$200 prize for student entries and \$100 prize for faculty entries.

Tuesday's music was supplied by Bay Area band Nexus, a reggae/rock/jam band that is entirely self-produced.

Environmental activist Walter Arenstein then took the podium. Arenstein was one of the founding organizers of the very first Earth Day. Arenstein gave a speech addressing the changes in attitude toward environmental issues, as well as the environmental situation in our country and in others.

"Just because America is im-

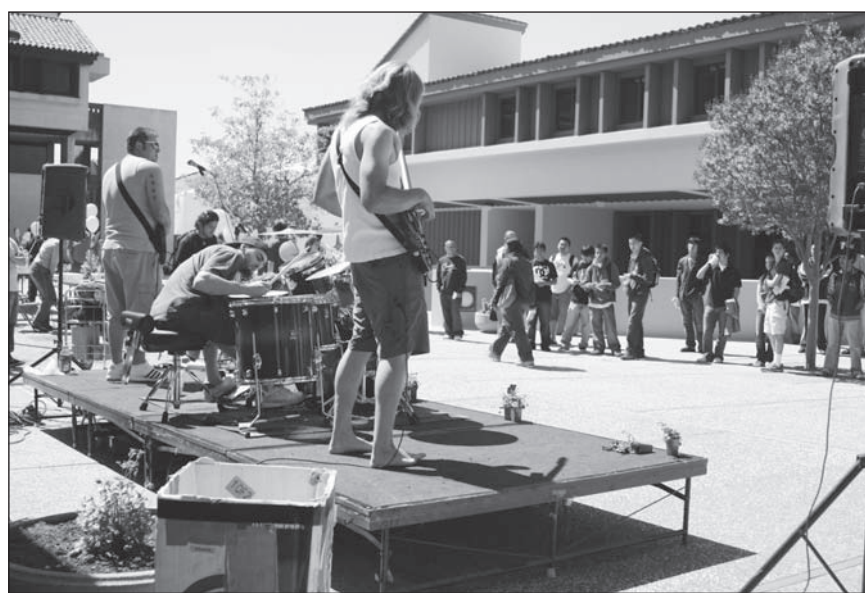


Photo by Jack Husting

**The band Who GÄS kicks off Ohlone's Earth Week Monday. From left, lead guitarist Brandon Valatka, drummer Tom Paxton and base guitarist Dano Porter perform before a crowd on the Quad.**

proving [environmentally], doesn't mean you're off the hook," Arenstein stated. "It is your generation's responsibility to help spread the success to every part of the world!" He noted that while people in America have access to clean water and breathable air, there are over 3 million premature deaths a year in developing countries due to contaminated water.

Nina Rizzo took the podium next. Rizzo works as part of the California Freedom from Oil campaign, which is in turn part of Global Exchange, an environmental and human rights group. "As students, we have a power to... demand our leaders are held accountable," said Rizzo.

Sustainability Coordinator George Rodgers then mentioned Ohlone's efforts to promote sustainability. Rodgers told of the possibility of the school buying a hydrogen bus. The campus police cars are also to be retrofitted to use alternative fuels. Rodgers also mentioned the possibility of discounted BART cards for Ohlone students to help cut back on college emissions.

The Earth Week festivities will continue into Thursday and Friday. A tree planting ceremony will also take place at 1 p.m. at the foot of the stairs outside of Building 1. On Friday, there will be a campus-wide clean-up, in which all are welcome to join.

# Veggies, not gas, fuels student's BMW

By KYLE STEPHENS  
Staff writer

I personally have no issues with paying for gas; I ride my bike to school. But for the rest of you folks with cars, as prices continue to rise, you may begin to wonder about alternatives to the pump.

Ohlone student Nick Conover has already made that leap, by converting his car to run on vegetable oil.

Conover drives a 1986 BMW 324d, a model made in Germany and never sold in the United States. It is essentially the same as the domestically available BMW 325, except that it has a diesel engine.

A diesel engine is required for modifying a car to run on vegetable oil, as diesel fuel is comparable to vegetable oil.

Both are denser than standard gasoline, which lends more "bang" per volume; in other words, less fuel gets you farther. Both fuels also have a very high ignition point, which requires the specially designed diesel engine.

Conover has been running mostly off of veggie power since he converted his car last November. He used a conversion kit from Greasecar.com, which ran about \$800, though prices vary based on make and model of car.

Conover said installation wasn't hard, though according to Greasecar, this, too, varies between cars (installation specialists are available). The kit consisted of the necessary hardware fittings, a separate tank for the vegetable oil, and a heater to warm the otherwise thick, viscous oil in order to make

it flow. The heating system works by rerouting the engine's coolant through a heat exchanger inside the veggie oil tank.

Since the engine needs to be sufficiently warm to run on oil, the car needs to be warmed up for about five minutes running on regular diesel. Conover's car has a switch on the dashboard to switch between fuel sources.

Vegetable oil is very cheap - it can be obtained for free from many restaurants (this has an upside for them, since there is no need to pay for waste pickup of the oil).

"It does require some labor," said Conover, "but when you consider that a 55-gallon drum of veggie oil is worth its volume in diesel fuel, which right now is about \$176... [it's] well worth it."

As said, vegetable oil is comparable to diesel, and as such it has diesel's increased mileage. Conover's BMW gets about 30 miles a gallon. According to Greasecar.com, "There should be no difference in fuel economy between diesel and vegetable oil."

Vegetable oil burns in a way known as "carbon neutral." "This means that for every gram of carbon my engine spews into the air, there are corn, soy, or other oil producing plants absorbing that same amount of carbon to sustain its normal biological functions," said Conover.

There are some drawbacks to vegetable oil, though. "My fiancé hates the smell of the exhaust," noted Conover. "Depending on my source of oil, my car can smell like anything from egg rolls, to tortilla chips to French fries."

There are also road taxes - which pay for the maintenance and construction of new roads - which are exacted when you pay at the pump which Conover avoids by using vegetable oil. Conover says if there was a way to pay such, he gladly would.

Vegetable oil is also not recognized by the EPA as an alternative fuel, so there are no tax or commuter lane benefits as there are with hybrid or electric cars (diesel hybrids are, however, in the works).

Conover noted that economic

reasons propel his car as well. "When I buy diesel fuel, it is made from oil, which means my money is supporting other countries, many of them, such as Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia, who either harbor, or otherwise cannot control terrorist populations.

"By using new vegetable oil, my effort is supporting the American farmer, and therefore the American economy. I take my money away from the grasp of terrorists, and keep it where I believe it is beneficial to America."

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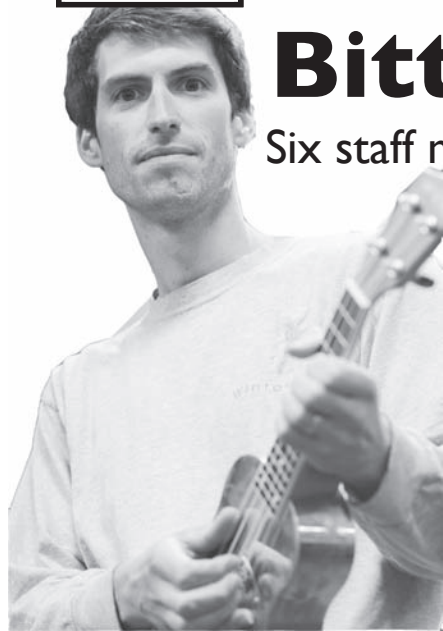
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By **MICHAEL ABURAS**  
Staff writer

The ukulele – it's not just a miniature guitar. The instrument, the English translation of which means "jumping flea," has a detailed history. In 1879, a ship of Portuguese immigrants arrived in Honolulu to work the sugar cane fields. One of the immigrants, a man named Joao Fernandes, decided to play his friend's braguinah, performing his native folk songs. Impressed by the speed of his fingers, the Hawaiians called the instrument "ukulele."

This little flea has bitten many of Ohlone's faculty, especially in Building 1, where the Ukulele Renegades rehearse. The Renegade performance ensemble is composed of three main players: Collections Librarian K.G. Greenstein, Technical Service Librarian Kathy Sparling and Mailroom Clerk Hal Griffin. Students may remember the Renegades' performance as part of the "Friends" component for the Ohlone faculty band "Chalkdust and Friends."

However, it was not "Chalkdust" but a bookstore sale event several years ago with a Hawaiian motif that brought the three main members together.

"I was walking around in a Hawaiian shirt and had a plastic ukulele when we met," remembers Griffin.

Griffin came across Greenstein and Sparling, who were playing

## Bitten by the ukulele bug

Six staff members play the ukulele, Hawaiian for 'jumping flea'

the song "5-foot-2." "They suggested that we get together at lunch time [to practice]," said Griffin. The trio would typically meet for rehearsals on the second story of the library.

Originally it was not intended for the Renegades to play in public, but that changed with Chalkdust.

"Chalkdust had been asking us for a while," said Griffin. "We turned them

down, and finally after some more asking we agreed to play as part of the 'Friends' part of 'Chalkdust and Friends.'

"That's what caused us to have a name, and start and end songs together," said Greenstein.

Coming from a military family stationed in Hawaii, Griffin picked up the ukulele in 1952 while in 8th grade. As part of the curriculum, he took a class about Hawaiian instruments and decided to pick up the ukulele.

Griffin stopped playing in 1954 when he left Hawaii, and didn't pick up the instrument again until he met the players here. Griffin currently owns five different ukuleles.

One of those players is Greenstein, who received her first ukulele from her Hawaiian mother.

The other main member of the Renegades is Sparling. She took it up to become a member of Dodge's Sundodgers, who had yet to adopt the name and was only a trio. Al Dodge was a founding member with underground

art legend R. Crumb, who together formed "R. Crumb and His Cheap Suit Serenaders." After Crumb moved to France, Dodge was looking to start a new band.

Greenstein had known Dodge for a while and thought that Sparling would be a perfect fit for the vocalist position. However, Dodge insisted upon having a singer who could play an instrument. "He didn't want a singer who just banged on the tambourine every other song," said Sparling.

Dodge recommended the ukulele and taught both Greenstein and Sparling, how to play it.

"Kathy Sparling has a magnificent voice. K.G. is not far behind. I'm by far the worst singer and there's some songs I don't sing at all," commented Griffin, regarding the vocal accompaniments in the Renegades.

Another two members who participate in the Renegade's rehearsal are Web Course Technician William "Extreme" Paoli and Library Technician Linda Dickerman.

Dickerman became hooked on the ukulele around three years ago. "K.G. handed me her ukulele and said 'come on, we're going to play,'" she said. Her two favorite songs to play with the ensemble are "Ukulele Lady" and "Little Grass Shack."

Paoli also has about the same amount of experience. "I've been playing guitar for 15 years and I asked if I could play guitar and K.G. said 'No,'" explained Paoli. Paoli described Greenstein as a ukulele enthusiast who introduced him to the instrument.

Another faculty member who does not reside in Building 1 but does play the ukulele is foundation assistant Thomas Hsu. "What I like about the ukulele is that you don't have to play it like a ukulele," said Hsu. "I play it like a guitar and play blues and stuff."

For those interested in ukuleles and the Renegades, they will be performing at the 14th annual Ukulele Festival of Northern California Sunday, April 29, 2007 at the Hayward Adult School.



Photos by Jack Husting

**Ukulele-playing staff strum in harmony, Hawaiian shirts and all. From left: Web Course Technician William "Extreme" Paoli (also at top left), Collections Librarian K.G. Greenstein, Library Technician Linda Dickerman and Mailroom Clerk Hal Griffin.**

## Alumnus publishes third book

By **MANIKA CASTERLINE**  
Staff writer

Fremont native and Ohlone College alumnus Tony R. Rodriguez invokes memories of life in the East Bay through his third book, entitled "Simplicity Regurgitated: Poems And Shorts."

The namesake of the book, in a

twist of irony, conveys abstractly enough how I felt once I set the piece down. The depth of emotions the author was attempting to describe fails to be believable, lacking genuine real-life parallels. Pieces such as "Convuluted" and "The Printed Word" would make a creative writing professor cringe in fear due to the fact that contextually

they are not nothing but mere run-on sentences.

The truly standout piece is "Newark." The poem notes how the location is only notorious via the newswires because of the brutal murder of Newark teenager Gwen Araujo in 2002. He states, "I do hope that that transgender thing made you feel prime, because the

nation will soon forget that appalling, evil crime."

Rodriguez continues by writing that he hopes the nation will never forget. It provides the honest perceptive that while the suburban town has a bland veneer that ceases to inspire one to greater heights, it needs to seek a positive rationale to be known for.

In his short story, "Multiple Scars," Rodriguez tells the contemporary tale of a feuding mother and father. The story alludes to the type of world in which divorce is the common outcome. However, the father does not play the typical male role as the instigator; he plays with the children instead. I enjoyed that this particular piece is a refreshing departure from what is normally spewed out by the mass media. And that instead of a villain, the father character is the child's role model of what to aspire to.

Rodriguez was born on Aug. 22, 1977 in Fremont, CA. He is currently is a teacher at Moreau Catholic high school.



**Devil's Advocate**

By **ANNA NEMCHUK**  
Editor-in-chief

## Web: part of problem

I'm typing this on a monitor hooked up to two PCs, surrounded by several sets of speakers, a printer, a scanner, a DVD burner, countless CD and DVD players, this little blinking thingy that I still don't know the use of and an Internet connection only unplugged when my cats get a little overzealous in their romping. I've known how to use a computer since my father, a gymnast cum software engineer, brought home our first official one when I was nine. (I was disappointed; I'd thought it was a pizza box.) So forgive me if this is a bit hypocritical.

Get off the damn Internet!

This particular horse's just about been flogged to death but the darn thing will not croak and I'm compelled to contribute my tuppence.

Unless that rock you call home is also soundproof, you've probably heard of the Virginia Tech school shootings. The first things to hit me after I heard the news were horror and grief, never mind exasperation. (If you feel like checking out of this world, kindly have the decency to do it without taking innocent bystanders along. They might not share your suicidal tendencies, difficult as that it to believe. Jerk.) The second thing was the ludicrousness of the campus security's response. The more news stories I read about the whole thing, the fishier it seems. Upon finding two dead bodies in a college dormitory, wouldn't it make sense to maybe, oh, I don't know, EVACUATE THE CAMPUS? Apparently, relevant authorities deemed it more appropriate to...send out an email warning kids to stay inside and away from windows. Even admitting the police were sure their original suspect (the ex of the first female victim) was off campus, whatever happened to better safe than sorry when it comes to lives?

Two hours later, surprise! A few more dozen students and faculty dead. Now how much did staying put instead of making like a bat out of hell help VA Tech's student body? The part that happened to check their emails during the two-hour period between the shootings - and didn't think the message was spam.

Could it be possible we've come to rely just a teeny bit too much on technology? It's one thing for a 15-year-old to be obsessed with MySpace - quite another for checking your email becoming tantamount to survival.

Absence of growth signifies stagnation i.e. technology is a good and necessary part of human development. But there's something to be said about doing it the old-fashioned way, the way our forefathers did - yell your head off and run around headless-chicken style.

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# Tagalog language course to be offered in Fall '07

By **KYLE STEPHENS**  
Staff writer  
and **OMER AHMED**  
News editor

The language of the Philippines - Tagalog - will be taught for the

first time at Ohlone in the fall of 2007.

The class, TAG-181A Conversational Tagalog, currently has no teacher but former Ohlone Filipino-American Student Alliance advisor and Ohlone counselor, Wayne

Takakuwa, has been meeting with potential teachers and working on the class. Takakuwa was able to get approval for the Tagalog curriculum last year.

Takakuwa said that there was significant interest in a Tagalog class.

He explained that most universities offer such courses and Ohlone has around 800 students that identify as Filipino, around 7 percent of all students. Ohlone's surrounding cities, Fremont and Newark, also have fairly large Filipino communities.

The course, worth three units, will be transferable to CSUs. Takakuwa plans for it to be UC transferable in the coming semesters as a humanities course; only non-conversation courses are transferable to UCs in the language area.

## New math class for students seeking associate degrees

By **MARGARITA KITOVA**  
Staff writer

Ohlone has a new math requirement for all students enrolled in the 2006-07 semesters and beyond.

The State Academic Senate has passed a resolution that a math course in beginning algebra will now be a prerequisite for all associate degrees.

The board of governors adopted the proposal, and by 2009 all community colleges must have a beginning algebra course.

Ohlone is far ahead as Ron Staszko, mathematics professor, has already developed and is teaching MATH-155: Math for the Associate Degree.

All students must now either take a transfer-level math course or MATH-155.

Staszko and Math Professor Robert Bradshaw have also written a textbook that meets the general education requirement of a mathematics course for beginning algebra.

For a student whose educational

goal is an associate degree, it could be a terminal mathematics course.

However, for those with higher educational goals, the class presents material and develops problem-solving skills that would make it a good bridge between Beginning Algebra, Intermediate Algebra and transfer-level courses.

The MATH-155 course also stresses the usefulness of math. There has been good enrollment for the last two semesters.

The book for the class is called "The Mathematical Collage." The problems and applications included in it are chosen with care to be in the range of mathematical sophistication of a student with a beginning algebra background.

The intent is to develop problem solving skills by actually analyzing and solving realistic problems, such as "How to weigh a fish without a scale," "Math for the Tourist" and "Math and Sports."

The course teaches students about probability as well as how to figure simple and compound

interest and how that relates to credit cards, annuities and loans. It also gives an idea of how math works with barcodes, voting, interest, taxes, tourism, automobiles, cooking, do-it-yourself projects, aesthetics, poker, apportionment, fishing, nursing and the ranch.

Jackie Rich, who's taking the class, said, "Students should take because you learn things you'll actually need in the real world. I will take everything I learned in this class with me after I graduate."

Mindy Lindsay thinks that for students who have not enjoyed math in the past, "this class may restore your hope in your abilities and understanding of the subject, as each chapter focuses on a different aspect of math."

Samplings of current mathematics students show it to be useful, practical and fun. Students are invited to take any or all of the excursions, pack some paper, a pencil and a calculator and enjoy the trip.

## Starving students starve no more!

This semester, The Ohlone College Foundation is offering **\$10,850** in student scholarships!



Find more information and scholarship applications online at:  
**[www.ohlone.edu/org/scholarships](http://www.ohlone.edu/org/scholarships)**

Applications Due by April 30, 2007



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### LOOKING TO HIRE

-- Highway 77 magazine is looking for a part-time graphic and page layout person. Job will also qualify for work study credit. Pay is negotiable. For more info call Louis at (510) 388-5201 or email at either [Lhighway77@yahoo.com](mailto:Lhighway77@yahoo.com) or [highway77mag@yahoo.com](mailto:highway77mag@yahoo.com). Visit [www.highway77magazine.com](http://www.highway77magazine.com) or [myspace.com/highway77](http://myspace.com/highway77) to check us out.

### SEEKING PIANO INSTRUCTOR

-- Looking for a person to take piano lessons from. Must be affordable and in the Fremont area. Must already teach lessons to others. Call (510) 304-2538.

## April

**19 Open Poetry Reading** -- 1 to 3 p.m. in the Library. Come and listen to fellow students and staff read their own poetry pieces, or favorites from a variety of poets.

**19 Men's Baseball** -- 2 p.m. vs. San Jose City College here at Ohlone.

**19-20 Earth Week 2007** -- 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the upper level Quad. Live music, food, environmental info, tree planting, art contest, free giveaways, games, speakers, campus cleanup and much more.

**20 New Art Display** -- Annual Fine Art and Design Student Show. In the Louie Meager Art Gallery. Can be seen through May 15. Students compete in a juried show in all the art and design programs at Ohlone College. More than 200 pieces of artworks are chosen to be in the gallery. Over \$2,500 in prizes and scholarships are donated by local venues and benefactors which are awarded to the outstanding students in each category. Gallery is open Monday through Friday, noon to 3 p.m.

**20 Brown Bag Seminar** -- 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in Room 3201. Topic is Quarks, Leptons, Gauge Bosons, Dark Matter, and Dark Energy: Building Blocks of the Universe. Brown Bag Science Seminars are designed to stimulate interest in and awareness of topics, trends and careers in science. This event is free.

**20 Earth Day Litter Pick Up** -- 2 to 5 p.m. meet in the upper level Quad. Purposes of the event are: To reinforce in a visible way that controlling litter on campus is the responsibility of everyone, assist in the cleanup of litter that has built up over the past year, reinvigorate the recycling efforts of the College, and increase campus community awareness of recycling as an individual responsibility.

**20-21 High School Theatre Festival** -- All day in

the Smith Center. Come watch a variety of performances by high school students. For more information please visit the box office or call (510) 659-6031.

**20-22 Spring Dance Production: Elements** -- 8 p.m. on April 20 and 21, and 2 p.m. on April 22 in the Smith Center. Explore the four elements: earth, air, fire and water - with the Ohlone College Dancers. To purchase tickets or get more information about the show visit the box office or call (510) 659-6031.

**23 Transfer Event: UC Irvine** -- 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. by appointment in the Transfer Center. Come meet with a representative to talk about transferring. To get more information or to make an appointment call the Transfer Center at (510) 659-6241.

**23 M.E.Ch.A Meeting** -- 1 to 2 p.m. in Room 14A. Come check out the M.E.Ch.A club. This club meets every Monday and everyone is welcome.

**24 Travel Abroad** -- Ex-

ploratory Meeting: Sydney, Australia in Fall 2007. 6 p.m. in Room 5209. Check out what all the excitement is about and how you can be a student of the world in Fall of 2007. Curious? Want to know more? Many questions are answered in the Frequently Asked Questions.

**25 Transfer Event: San Francisco** -- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. by appointment in the Transfer Center. Come meet with a representative to talk about transferring. To get more information or to make an appointment call the Transfer Center at (510) 659-6241.

**25 Travel Abroad** -- Exploratory Meeting: Sydney, Australia in Fall 2007. 5 p.m. in Room 5209. Find out how you can be a student of the world and travel in Fall of 2007. Curious? Want to know more? Many questions are answered in the Frequently Asked Questions.

**27 Comedy Sportz** -- 8 p.m. in the Smith Center. Spontaneous comedy erupts onstage as the audience participates in creat-

ing the show. Always new, never boring. Tickets are \$15 for students and \$25 for adults. They can be purchased by visiting the box office or calling (510) 659-6031.

**27 Raza Recruitment Day** -- 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. College can be expensive and confusing. Transitioning can be overwhelming. To help with this transition, Ohlone is hosting Raza Day. Will present information about the admission process, financial aid options and more. To get more information or reserve space contact Stephanie Ramos at (510) 659-6493 or [Sramos@ohlone.edu](mailto:Sramos@ohlone.edu).

**27 Book Club Meeting** -- 2 to 3:30 p.m. in Room 1307. Will discuss Temple Grandin's book, *Thinking in Pictures: My Life With Autism*. For more information, go to the Book Club web site at: <http://www.ohlone.edu/org/bookclub/>

**27-28 Bookstore Closed** -- Bookstore will be closed on these days for inventory purposes.



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The Monitor invites your comments. Letters should be 250 words or less and include your name and relationship to Ohlone. Letters become property of The Monitor and may be edited for spelling and length. Campus Events listings are free for college-related events.

To have your event added or to place an ad, contact Danelle Meyer at (510) 659-6075 or e-mail [monitorads@ohlone.edu](mailto:monitorads@ohlone.edu)

## Ortega cuts loose as softball takes first

By NICK ZAMBRANO  
Sports editor

It was the bottom of the sixth inning when freshman first baseman Cassandra Ortega stepped into the on-deck circle. She cheered as she watched teammate Tiffany Chan connect for a double, but it was now her turn to swing away. She was 3-3 prior to the at-bat with a triple, a double, three runs scored and four RBIs and was just a home run away from the cycle.

Nothing extraordinary, really. But with the score 9-2 in her team's favor, and only a run needed to put rival Chabot away via the eight-run mercy rule, Ortega knew what had to be done.

"Yeah, I did know I was a home run away from the cycle," Ortega said with a slight laugh.

Although she didn't get the home run to complete the cycle, she did manage to push Chan over to third with a single. "I actually found out after my at-bat," said Ortega. "But I don't try to think about hitting like that, I just try to make contact."

The hit would prove costly as Chan scored on a wild pitch to Danielle Cameron to make the final score 10-2 and also sent Chabot back to Hayward.

"I just tried to focus on having a team at-bat," Ortega said. "I was just sitting back and waiting for my pitch; that's my focus for the rest of the season, even though we have four more games."

Ortega opened up the Ohlone floodgates in the first with her two-run single to score Jessica Soderholm and Kassy Winger.

The rest of the Lady Renegades would soon follow her up. Valerie Briones contributed her part on the base paths, collecting three steals and a run scored, while Chan was 2-4 with a double and a triple.

Starting pitcher Isabel Ramos helped her own cause with an RBI double in addition to giving a strong six-inning performance.

The win gave Ohlone a 32-8 overall record, a 17-3 conference record and a share of first place in the Coast Conference with the College of San Mateo, which made the match-up between the two powerhouses on Tuesday even more important.

On Tuesday's battle for first against San Mateo, the Lady Renegades drew first blood in their half of the second inning.

After a two-out walk to Kassy Winger, Danielle Cameron stepped to the plate. During the at-bat, Winger stole second with ease and put herself into position for Cameron to drive her in. Cameron continued her battle with the San Mateo pitcher but struck out swinging on a nasty wild pitch that landed in the dirt. She quickly scooted her way to first safely. It was at that time Winger sprinted around third and beat out the hesitant from San Mateo's first baseman to give Ohlone a 1-0 lead.

San Mateo would quickly respond.

In the third, Ramos hit a rough spot. With two down and a runner on a second due to a double, Ramos was tagged for a shot into right field. One run would come across home plate but the batter was a little greedy and



Photo by Nick Zambrano

### Danielle Cameron and Tiffany Chan get strategy help from Coach Donna Runyon.

was thrown out at third, trying to stretch a double into a triple. The threat that could have been even more tragic was averted.

In the seventh inning, Ramos found herself in trouble once again. With the score still knotted up at 1-1, Ramos had runners on second and third with two down, as she held Ohlone's shot at first place in her right hand. It was definitely time for a conference on the mound.

Ohlone head coach Donna Runyon gathered her troops and talked strategy with her star pitcher.

"I said 'you know what, you've picked us up so many times, the defense is going to pick you up this time, so just throw strikes,'" said Runyon. Well, Ramos threw strikes and her defense did indeed pick her up.

Ramos delivered a strike that bounced its way to right field, and

it looked like San Mateo had finally broken the tie.

Enter right fielder Danielle Yee.

Yee and her quick instincts shot a line back to first base to get the hitter before she could reach first, ending the inning and preventing a run to come across the plate. Another crisis had been averted.

In their half inning, Ohlone made their last stand. With Ramos on third and Yee on second, San Mateo opted to intentionally walk Valerie Briones.

The bases were now loaded for Jessica Soderholm. She didn't have much success at the plate but this at-bat she wouldn't even have to swing the bat. Soderholm brought in the winning run when she was hit by a pitch. Ohlone won 2-1 and slipped into first place in the Coast Conference on a HBP.

## Ohlone baseball flops to third place

By TOMAS ORTEGA  
Staff writer

At the start of the day Tuesday, the Ohlone Men's Baseball team held onto second place in the Coast Conference, ahead of West Valley College by one game.

By day's end, Ohlone gave up that honor and slipped to third after losing 6-1 to College of San Mateo.

Early in the game, the Renegades took a 1-0 lead playing "little ball." Unfortunately, that lead didn't last long, as San Mateo took back the lead in the top of the 3rd, scoring two runs.

In the top of the fourth, with one out, San Mateo hit a groundball to short, but shortstop Derek Heleni's throw ended up bouncing away from the first baseman, allowing the batter to reach second. The next batter flew out to right fielder Jermaine Collins.

Following the fly out, the next batter for San Mateo hit a "Texas leaguer" to shallow right center, where nobody could get a clean glove on the ball. Jarred Berrier tried for a backhanded dive but couldn't come up with the catch. The runner on second scored, giving San Mateo a 3-1 lead over Ohlone.

Ohlone never got the one clutch

hit they needed for the rest of the game.

They did have a few opportunities to score, but their bats seemed to go dead when it mattered most.

Sophomore pitcher Kevin Ricketts took the mound for the Renegades and went five innings. While he did pitch well, he threw too many pitches just to keep himself in the ballgame.

Succeeding him was freshman reliever Jeff Lusk. Lusk pitched the remaining four innings of the game.

With the loss, Ohlone brought their record to 13-5 in conference play and 22-14 overall which, as

mentioned earlier, dropped them to the number three slot in the Coast Conference behind Chabot and West Valley, both in first and second place respectively.

The remainder of all three team's schedules feature six conference games to round out their seasons before the playoffs begin.

Ohlone will face Chabot in Hayward this Saturday at noon and finish the season against West Valley on May 3.

The Renegades are going to be forced to win out their next six games to help their chances to get into the Nor Cal and State Championships coming up in May.

## Renegades' upcoming schedules

### BASEBALL

Thurs., 4/19/07: vs. San Jose City College, at 2 p.m.

Sat., 4/21/07: at Chabot College, at noon.

Tues., 4/24/07: vs. Southwestern College, at 2 p.m.

Thurs., 4/26/07: at Hartnell

College, at 2 p.m.

Sat., 4/28/07: vs. Gavilan College, at noon.

Tues., 5/1/07: vs. Skyline College, 2 p.m.

Thurs., 5/3/07: vs. West Valley College, 2 p.m.

### END OF SEASON

### SOFTBALL

Tues., 4/24/07: vs. Foothill College, 3 p.m.

### END OF SEASON

### SWIMMING

Sat., 4/21/07: Nor Cal Diving in Modesto, at 8 a.m.

Thurs-Sat., 4/26-28/07: Coast Conference Championships at Ohlone, at 10 a.m.

Thurs-Sat., 5/3-5/07: State Championships at Ohlone at 10 a.m.



Let's go Hokies

By JEFF WEISINGER  
Sports editor

## VA Tech moves on

There is no question that after September 11 the sports world would be called upon to help rebuild a nation. The NFL and Major League Baseball took about a week off in wake of the 9-11 attacks. But when it came time to return, the country returned even stronger than ever.

Now, we are back to that same situation.

Just a couple days after what was the deadliest shooting rampage in modern U.S. history, in which 33 people were killed, Virginia Tech decided to make a couple changes to its spring sports programs in the midst of the recent tragedy.

Most of the spring sports teams will go on as scheduled.

The Virginia Tech baseball team will host the University of Miami this weekend for a three-game series after canceling their game against William & Mary on Wednesday. The softball team cancelled their matchup against East Tennessee State, but will play Maryland at home on Saturday and Sunday. The lacrosse team will play Maryland at home on Saturday. All of these games will be the first sports events played at VA Tech since the tragedy, with the baseball game against Miami being the first game to kick off the recovery in Blacksburg.

The five teams that are scheduled to compete in their respective conference championships (golf, men's and women's track and field and men's and women's tennis) will go on as scheduled.

However, the one event that draws in the crowd will not be continuing this spring.

The Virginia Tech football team will not continue spring practice and will not have the annual spring football game as scheduled for this Saturday.

Head football coach Frank Beamer decided to call off the rest of spring football because of what happened, even though none of his players were hurt.

"There's things more important than football right now," he said after attending a somber convocation. "There's a lot of grieving families here and there's going to be a lot of grieving families here Saturday. I just thought it was the right thing to do."

After Tuesday's congregation, English professor Nikki Giovanni led the crowd to the chant of "Let's go Hokies!" And it got louder and louder.

I can guarantee that the same chant will be yelled at all the games in Blacksburg this weekend. "Let's go Hokies!"