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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

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

‘Resolve... to reach pathways to non-violence...’

--Doug Treadway

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

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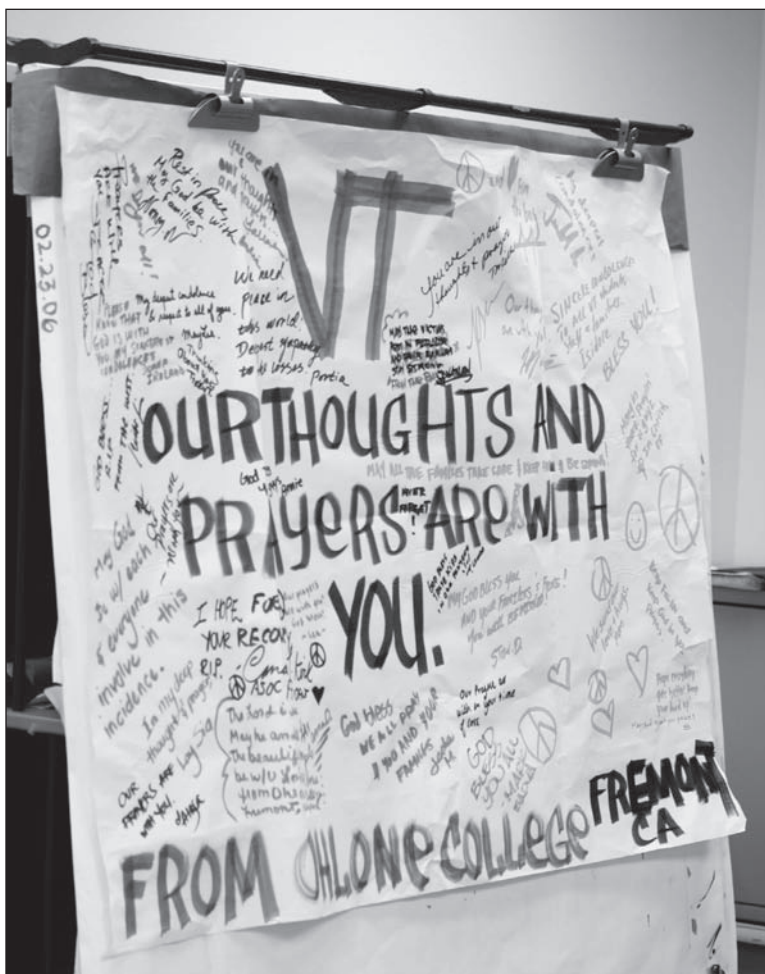


Photo by Kyle Stephens

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.