



MOHLONE COLLEGE MONITOR

Vol. XXXVI No. 14

Fremont, California

Thursday, May 10, 2007



Photo by Jack Husting

Black Panther Party co-founder Bobby Seale speaks during Wednesday's Pioneers of the Civil Rights Movement discussion.

Civil rights leaders talk as part of Unity Week

By NOAH LEVIN
Staff writer

“All power to all people” was the central ideal of Wednesday’s activities, at which six pivotal members of the civil rights movement of the 1960s and ’70s were present, including Black Panthers co-founder Bobby Seale. These social activists of 30 to 40 years ago, many of whom are still active, came together at 11 a.m. in the Smith Center’s Jackson Theater to discuss with the Ohlone community the war for civil liberties and how it is still going on.

Sitting on the panel were Joel Garcia, chief executive officer of the Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center of South Alameda County, Dr. Alex Saragoza, teacher of ethnic studies at U.C. Berkeley, Dr. Elizabeth Martinez, a well-known Chicana activist and founder of the Institute for Multiracial Justice, Seale, a co-founder of the legendary Black Panther Party for Self-Defense, Maria Ramirez, a Chicana activist and Ohlone counselor and Dr. Laureen Chew, an Asian-American Activist, author, actress and associate dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University.

Mediating the panel of speakers was Chicano Studies Instructor Mark Salinas. Salinas had gathered together a series of questions, which he presented to the six panel speakers. However, due to the lengthy and often

far-reaching responses from each panel member, only the first and last questions were formally answered.

Before the panel session began in earnest, a representative of the Fremont Postmaster unveiled a new stamp soon to go on sale. The stamp commemorates the influential but often forgotten Mendez vs. Westminster decision of 1947. The case was one of the first victories of the civil rights movement and went on to influence the oft-mentioned Brown vs. Board of Education. The colorful stamp reflects the strong Latino presence associated with the trial.

Salinas began by asking the panel members to draw on their own experiences to describe what defined the civil rights movement for them. The first to answer was Chew, who spoke about how in her youth growing up in Chinatown in San Francisco, she had no idea there was racism outside of her community. It wasn’t until she attended an exclusive, mostly white Catholic school that she was exposed to open racism. “All through high school I felt invisible, silent and angry, and I didn’t know why,” she commented. Having overcome her own fears and anxieties in high school, she added, “Being personal is the first step, and being collective and doing something is the final step.”

Ramirez grew up in Decoto, now known as Union City. The area she grew up in was heavily Latino, a

Continued on Page 5

Student fails to appear in court after arrest

By ANNA NEMCHUK
Editor-in-chief

Farhad Farsi, a 23-year-old male Ohlone student, failed to appear at his arraignment Wednesday morning at the Alameda County Superior Court in Fremont after his arrest on campus Monday, May 7 on two counts of battery and a felony count of vandalism. Judge Keith Fudenna



Farsi

fronted two Ohlone male basketball players, accompanying a female student who attends Cal State East

Bay, near the Building 9 elevator area.

Police said he approached the three and made derogatory racial comments, after which a fight ensued between Farsi and one of the male students, resulting in some physical injuries.

A faculty member who asked not to be named broke up the altercation and “instructed them to go their

separate ways,” according to the police report. Farsi continued the verbal abuse, then attempted to grab the backpack the female student was carrying while walking down stairs; she was yanked backward and fell, suffering minor scratches and injuries.

According to the faculty member, Farsi threatened to behead him and the male student, adding

that he planned to come back to campus. “I’m going to come back and kill you all!” he said, according to the report.

Another faculty member said Farsi broke a window in Room 9305 before heading for his car in Parking Lot O, where Safety Officer Stewart Dawson detained and handcuffed him. Another faculty

Continued on Page 3

Seniors look back on year

By ERIC DORMAN
Features editor

How does it feel to spend your senior year at college? According to a group of 22 students from Newark Memorial High School who spent their year at Ohlone, even better than spending it at high school.

“This experience was a wonderful and challenging step to my future,” said student Melinda Saephan. “I enjoyed it very much.”

As a result of the overwhelming positive response to the program—or 18 students who responded to a survey, every one said they were glad they had taken part—the college plans to expand this program, called “College Connections,” in the Fall, said Vice President of Instruction Jim Wright. In addition to a group of high school students, called a “cohort,” from Newark Memorial, there will also be a cohort

from Kennedy High in Fremont.

In addition to Kennedy next fall, James Logan High in Fremont has also expressed interest in sending a cohort to the college in the 2008-'09 school year.

The current group of seniors began taking classes at the college in fall of last year. Signing up for the program was not mandatory; interested students signed up of their own volition. For the past seven months, the students have taken high school classes on campus from 8:30 a.m. to noon every day, taught by Newark Memorial teacher Jackie Lucero in Building 14. In the afternoon, they are free to take whatever college classes they want, be it English or History of Rock and Roll. They gain college credit for any classes they take.

Still, Lucero’s mornings are not all spent in study. For example, every Friday morning she takes her

students to the weekly Brown Bag Science seminar, a trip that started out as an extra credit assignment and has turned into a “must see” for the students. Lucero has also encouraged her students to participate in other campus events, such as World Forums and Earth Week.

Lucero, who has taught for eight years, said that she has noticed a huge difference between the seniors she is teaching this year over the seniors she has taught at high school. “These seniors, overall, are more self-directed learners,” said Lucero, who chose teaching after 20 years as an attorney. “They have better time-management skills, and they’re more serious about their education.”

Students’ opinions of the class seemed to reflect this. “I would definitely recommend this program to other seniors who really are “way

Continued on Page 7

Student Art Show

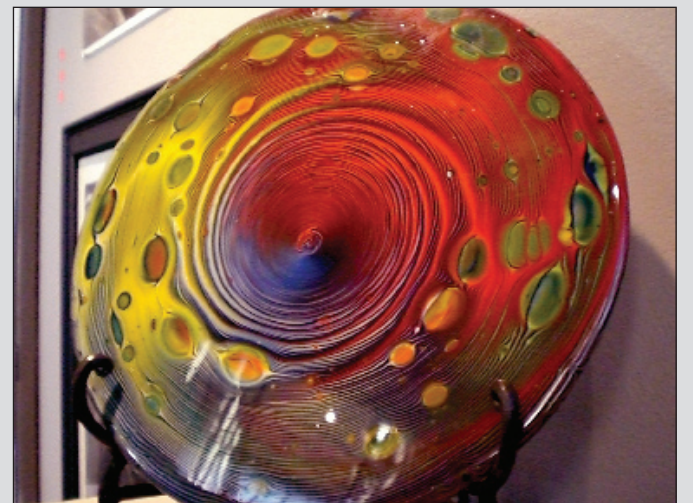


Photo by Kevin Protz

Cosmic Vortex, a glass piece of artwork created by student Mary Patrician, hangs in the Louie Meager Art Gallery as part of the Student Art Show. See story, Pages 6 and 7.