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MOHLONE COLLEGE MONITOR

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Enrollment reaches record highs

By **BARRY KEARNS**
Staff writer

The number of Ohlone College students has reached an all-time high, with a head count of 9,965 students, up 2.3 percent from last year, according to Vice President of Student Services Ron Travenick. Enrollment of new students had seen increases in 2006 as compared to the previous two years due to changes in tuition costs, but the amount of new students coming to Ohlone college is something never before seen.

“We’re really set to notch one of our highest enrollments,” said Travenick.

The most notable increase of enrollment is the number of Full Time Equivalent Students (or FTES), which rose 5.1 percent or an addition 177 students from the previous fall semester. To be counted as full-time, a student must enroll in 12 or more units for two semesters. This is in contrast with the college’s total head count, which includes those taking less than 12 units and also includes high school students attending Ohlone.

The growth or decline of enrolled students was compared to the fall semester of the previous year. There was a decline in the number of FTE students as the deadline to drop classes passed

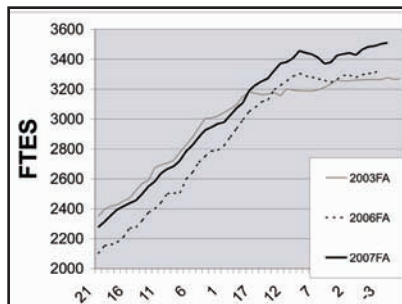


Photo by Daniel Yuan

Students line up for an event Tuesday. A graph, inset, shows the college’s spiking enrollments over the past several years.

16-week semester period in an effort to better accommodate students.

One of the biggest factors in the increase in enrollment is WebAdvisor’s waitlisting feature, which allows students to gain immediate entry to a class if another student has dropped it. While the convenience of this automated process is a factor of the growth in student numbers, another feature of the waitlisting system is that it lets the college know to add more classes when a large number of students desire it. This year more than 14 math and English classes were put together to meet the demand of waitlisted students. Students filled the 14 sections that were created by noon of the day they became available. There was also an increase in the number of students enrolled in online courses and the number of online courses available.

The high number of new students enrolling also presented some challenges to the college and the administrative staff. During the first three days of the fall term, over 500 new students came to

Ohlone to apply and enroll in classes. The influx of new students led to a lack of parking spots and taxed the shared database system to the point that new licenses for the software had to be purchased. The high number of new applicants also put a substantial load on the counseling and assessment offices that processed the students and determined their prerequisites. These difficulties were also exacerbated by the rolling blackouts that occurred during the first week of school. Despite these difficulties, the staff and faculty did their best to accommodate and lend assistance to students, said Travenick.

While empty seats in classes and parking spaces are becoming scarce, development of the Newark Ohlone Campus and the new student services building will add more space. When the new student services center is completed it will also open up 213 parking spots previously unavailable. Between 500 to 700 students are projected to attend the Newark campus when completed in the spring of 2008.

**Foreign student
enrollment up
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on Sept. 4 but the number of FTE students rose after that to 3,465. These figures signify that while there is a higher number of students at Ohlone, there is also an increase in the number of classes they are taking.

The increase in student enrollment appears to be based on several variables, the first being the reduced tuition costs, which slashed the per-unit price from \$26 to \$20. Ohlone also pushed the start date of classes to Aug. 27 and moved to a

Students, college reps mingle at Transfer Day

By **KATHY SUNG**
Staff writer

Students and representatives from about 40 colleges flooded the Building 1 lobby for Transfer Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Tuesday. A wide range of colleges were represented, from big-name universities such as U.C. Berkeley, U.C. San Diego and San Jose State to the private schools, including the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising and the Academy of Art.

The Associated Students of Ohlone College (ASOC), student body, several ambassadors and counselors mingled with the rep-

resentatives of the schools. Ohlone had its own Transfer Center booth run by ambassadors and assorted volunteers.

According to Transfer Center Director Diane Berkland, Transfer Day is a great way for students to “shop different schools.” Although the Ohlone Transfer Center and counselors provide an abundance of information, it’s still a good idea to meet directly with representatives from the school to gather more detailed information. The school representatives can give a better idea of specific requirements like GPAs, or major classes required for transfer.

Although websites such as assist.

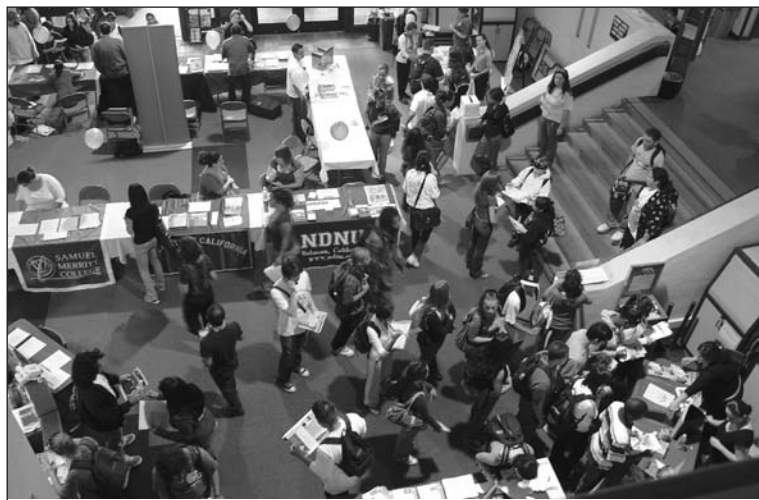


Photo by Daniel Yuan

Students stroll through the booths of more than 40 colleges during Transfer Day Tuesday.

org help students figure out which classes to take, representatives from the school can recommend additional activities the schools are looking for.

For example, an admissions officer from UCSD explained that high school transcripts and essays

for transfer students are not taken into consideration. Instead, transfer students are admitted mostly based on GPA and outside activities.

Informational tidbits like these will ultimately help students decide where to apply for school in the

Continued on Page 6



Photo courtesy of NASA

**Astronaut Janice
Voss will speak of her
space travels at the
college Oct. 3.**

From space to Ohlone

By **ANDREW CAVETTE**
Staff writer

In space, no one can hear you scream. If you make it back to Earth, however, you might speak at Ohlone. Dr. Janice Voss, who has traveled into space on multiple Space Shuttle missions, will be speaking Wednesday, Oct. 3, from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Jackson Theater as part of one of this semester’s ongoing NASA Science Night lecture series.

According to the Science, Engineering and Technology coordinator Yvette Niccolls, the success of NASANights has grown during the six years since its inception. “At first we were so happy because we got Jackson Theater half full,” Niccolls recalled, “And then last year there were 200 people too many.”

Voss is currently the science director for the Kepler Spacecraft, a single-instrument space observatory being developed by NASA. The craft will search about 100,000 stars over the course of four years with the hopes of finding Earth-like planets outside of our solar system. Voss coordinates the operational abilities of the spacecraft with the scientific requirements of the mission.

When she was in 6th grade, Voss was inspired to become an astronaut while reading her favorite childhood book, *A Wrinkle in Time*, by Madeleine L’Engle. Later she went on to receive a bachelor’s degree in engineering science from Purdue University in 1975, before earning both a master’s degree in electrical engineering and a doctorate in aeronautics/astronautics from M.I.T. Voss fulfilled her childhood

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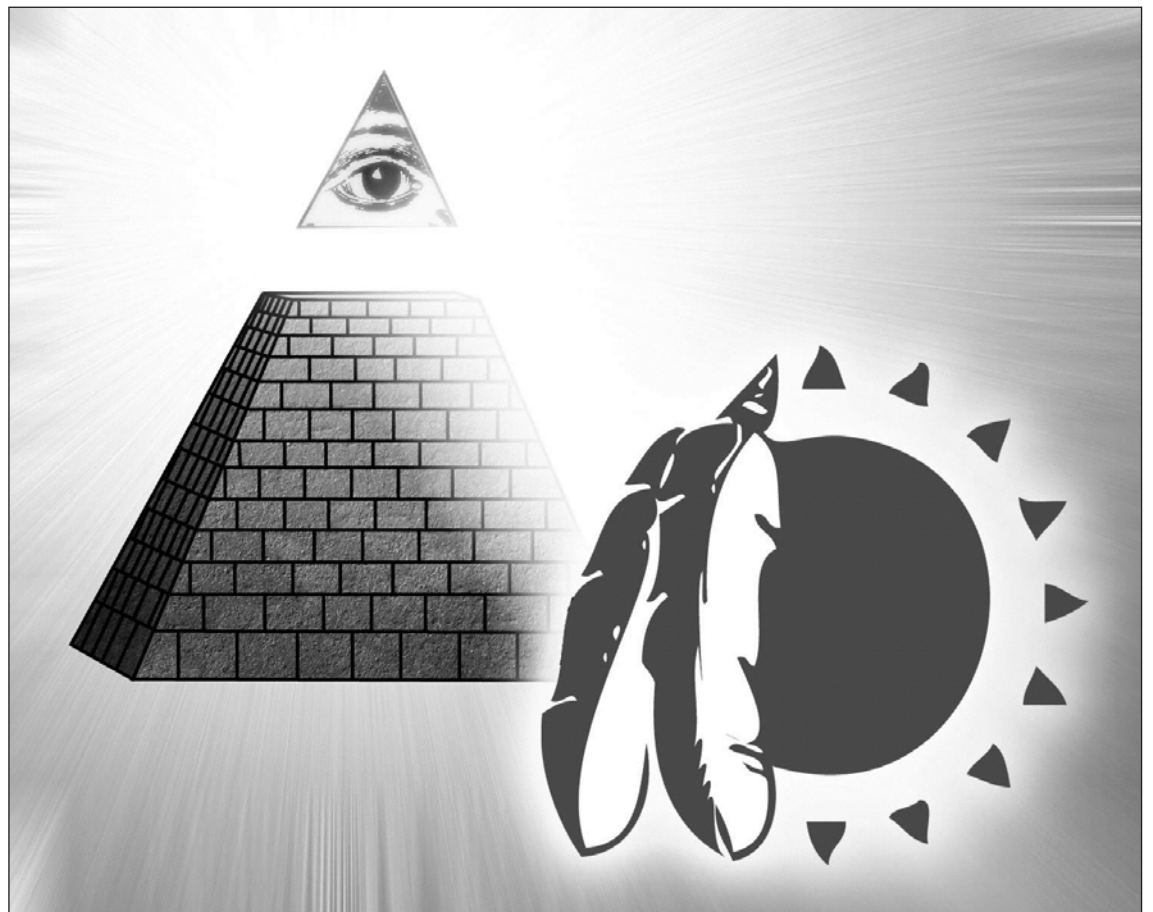


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OPINION

Ohlone's all-seeing VOOPS surveillance cameras

By KAISER MEER
Staff writer

Keywords for this week's opinion piece: Ohlone College, safety, security, surveillance - do I have your attention? The last word is somewhat tricky but, at the same time, is it?

We all want to feel safe. I know this is what I want. Video cameras are supposed to make you feel safe.

But while video cameras watch protectively over us, I don't want Big Brother to watch my every move in every corner in every el-

evator, snack room and bathroom. Most people would agree with that, and, luckily, that is not what we have on campus.

What we do have, in 27 or so buildings and approximately 10 parking lots, are something like 10,000 students watched - but not 100 percent of the time.

While I understand that our leaders are trying to balance between freedom and security, I still don't like the government phone tapping policy. On the other hand, there's Video from Ohlone's Operation Protective System (VOOPS) which I would say is not as invasive.

Having national security agencies secretly tapping phone lines is a scary thought, yes, especially if you are the one in the limelight. But we are not talking about that, we're talking about VOOPS.

A lot of people don't realize that no one constantly watches the running feed from the several dozen strategically placed cameras around the campus. Now, in the event of teenage mutant ninja graffiti or car thievery or any other god-forsaken unauthorized activity occurs, data can be pulled resulting in perpetrators revealed and dealt with accordingly.

In my opinion is, that kind of power is what we need and with the advent of technology, the resolution on those cameras should be high enough to be a huge help.

VOOPS proved its usefulness last January. A staff member's vehicle was stolen from the faculty parking area, during daylight hours, no less. Campus police said that from the video they were able to get the time of the incident as well as identify a second vehicle involved in the bad behavior. This information was passed to the police department and they are still looking for the car.

There are plans to add to the dozens of cameras already on campus, especially in the halls and elevators, but that won't happen for a while. Campus police can't be sure when that will be, either, which is fine because I am happy with the system as it is.

When they do add more cameras though, my opinion will probably change. But for now, I am reassured that our security cameras are doing their job.

I will not need to worry about any unknown weird happenings occurring without being seen by VOOPS.

Bill Belichick, Nixon: cheaters in sports, politics

By RICHARD KILLEEN
Staff writer

It did not take long for Bill Belichick, head coach of the New England *Patriots*, to be compared to former President Richard Nixon.

Belichick has been convicted of stealing defensive signs; it's enough to draw comparisons between the two and bring an overly proud coach back to reality.

Commissioner of the NFL Roger Goodell came down on Belichick and the *Patriots* for violating NFL rules by sending an assistant to videotape the New York *Jets* defensive signals as they were relayed onto the field.

The *Patriots* were fined \$250,000 and Belichick was penalized for \$500,000. Perhaps their most important loss will be their draft picks for next year. However, just because they were punished does not mean it's over. Not only is this slowly

killing Belichick's reputation with fans, it's also making other teams around the league wonder what the *Patriots* have tried to pull in past games.

Many Philadelphia *Eagles'* players questioned how the *Patriots* always seemed to know what defensive packages they were in during Super Bowl XXXIX.

Cheating has always been part of sports, whether it's a hitter trying to steal a catcher's signs, or a pitcher throwing a spitball.

The New England *Patriots* are far from the first team to attempt to cheat during a game. However, for as long as signs have been stolen, there has been an ethical code for it.

Attempting to steal signs during a game from the opposite side of the field, or by watching film of the game is one thing. But to actually send cameras to the opposing sidelines to steal defensive signals is a whole new ballgame. If you're not a hardcore *Patriot* follower,

you have to question Belichick's supposed brilliance - is he a genius or a fraud? Prior to this incident, Belichick was a sure fire lock for the Hall of Fame.

The situation, appropriately dubbed "Videogate," may end up haunting Belichick and his *Patriots* for some time. There's only one way for it to completely disappear - that would be for the *Patriots* to make a run at the Super Bowl. Still, Belichick may have his name permanently compared to Richard Nixon.

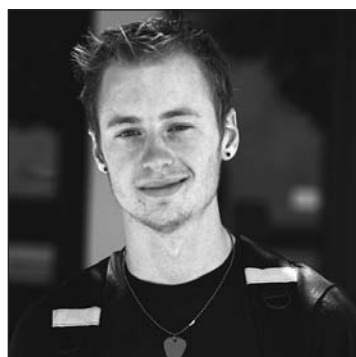
CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

Do surveillance cameras make you feel safer?



TAYLOR LYONS
Liberal Arts

"Cameras really don't bother me. I've always felt safe on campus."



TOMMY JERNIGAN
Programming

"Yeah. If I ever get anything stolen, they can go over the tapes."



ANH NGUYEN
Art

"I guess they make me feel safe, but they make feel nervous, too."



KALYAN DURVASULA
Engineer

"Yes, because the cameras provide surveillance."



VIVIANA VENEGAS
Undecided

"Actually, not really, because I don't know where they are."

Students bring robots to life in Hyman Hall

By **ANDREW CAVETTE**
Staff writer

Move forward and stop. It's a simple task for most of us, but for a robot, that simple task takes a lot of programming and even then there is no guarantee.

Instructor David Patrick pressed a button on his laptop and looked over his students to the back of the room. Nothing happened. After a short delay, one of the many robots that lined the back of Room 120 in Hyman Hall spoke. "I am turning left," it explained and then, to prove a point, it did.

"I'm pleased when anything works in this place," Patrick said in amused displeasure.

Introduction to Robotics and Automation (CNET-115) is not about robot construction; it is an introduction to JavaScript programming, put together by Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) also helps fund the program at Ohlone. Students meet either Monday-Thursday at Irvington High School or in Hyman Hall on Fridays. The course was first offered in the Fall of 2005 and continues to satisfy the Physical

Science General Education requirements of the college.

The course is a first step in what will ultimately develop into a Robotics Program at the newly completed Newark Health, Science and Technology campus. According to a summary of the December 2004 Robotics Planning Meeting, the Robotics Program is seen as a potential flagship for the Newark technology programs because it employs skill sets that are applicable across many other technologies.

The robots are an enticement for the students. Patrick picked up one of the round, white machines, "Robots are a very visual way of seeing how a program works," he remarked. Having also taught the intermediate Linux course, Patrick joked, "You can only get so excited about drawing answer squares on the screen."

Ted Long is a student who already has some programming experience, but said he is taking the course because he wants to get into the field of robotics. The Friday class has only met three times this year, and so far Long has been learning the programming code

which allows the robots to speak. "I want to build one," Long said. He plans to buy a robotic kit available at places like Fry's Electronics.

The robots, which use the iRobot Create platform, cost about \$550. They are assembled ahead of time by Patrick with help from Professor Margery Segreaves.

All of the robots have names: Harry, Ron, Hermione, Malfoy, Voldemort among them. "One of the advantages of teaching the class is you get to name the robots," Patrick said with a smile.

The company, iRobot, is most famous for creating the robotic Roomba vacuum cleaner. The robots in Hyman Hall look similar to those self-propelled vacuums. According to the manufacturer, the iRobot Create platform also has an open cargo bay and a 25-pin expansion port which allows the user to add sensors, wireless connections, computers or other hardware like web cams.

The robots have some limited, built-in programming. "It can check out the wheels and (also) see if the power is low," Patrick noted. The complicated programming is done



Photo by Andrew Cavette

Computer Studies Instructor David Patrick holds 'Malfoy,' one of the many robots being programmed by Ohlone students in Hyman Hall this semester.

by the students utilizing a Linux-based central processing unit called QWERK. The robots in Hyman Hall are controlled through a USB adapter, which is wirelessly connected to a router in the classroom. The robots can be controlled from anywhere within the range of the wireless connection.

This is the first semester the iRobot Create platform has been used. Previously, the students worked with the LEGO Mindstorm Robot Invention System. Professor George Wong, who worked with

the LEGO system, is donating the Mindstorm robots to the Engineering department for use in Introduction to Engineering (ENGI-101).

If all goes well with the student's programming, Patrick hopes to have the robots compete in an obstacle course by the end of the semester. As a glimpse of what may be in store for the robotics program, the 2004 meeting summary also states Ohlone may be developing curriculum which will incorporate a model of the Mars Rover on loan from NASA.

International student enrollment doubles

By **MARGARITA KITOVA**
Staff writer

Ohlone is quickly becoming more popular among students from other countries. The current international student enrollment has doubled - from 63 to 135 since last year.

"International students" are the holders of F-1 visas with student status. Ohlone also has many students from other countries who

have legally immigrated to the U.S. and have Permanent Resident (Green Card-holder) status. Students come from more than 20 different countries. The countries with the most international students are China, India, Taiwan and Vietnam. We also have students from Africa, South America, Europe and Canada. There is even an applicant for the Spring 2008 semester from the Middle East—Baghdad, Iraq.

Most of the students are living

with local-area relatives, part of the large immigrant communities from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, India, Pakistan and elsewhere in Fremont and the Bay Area.

International students now pay \$183 per unit in addition to the Enrollment Fee, which comes down to \$203 per unit and, as holders of F-1 student visas, they are required to take 12 or more units. For example, if an international student is taking 13.5 units for a semester

at Ohlone, they have to pay \$2,766. Even though prices have gone up, students from different countries are interested in studying in the US.

One thing that explains the increase in international students enrollment is Ohlone's new English Language Institute (ELI). The ELI is a program designed for non-native speakers of English, who wish and/or need to improve their English skills prior to enrolling in Ohlone College degree studies. Last

semester was the first semester of the program, and Ohlone had 12 international students in it. This semester, there are 27 students.

Foreign students are also happy with the freedom they have to choose the classes they wish to enroll in, which is different from the educational system in other countries. Sahir Nasir, international student from Pakistan said, "I really like the way the teachers here are involved with the students."

ASOC kicks off year with first meeting

By **BRIAN CHU**
Staff writer

The Associated Students of Ohlone College (ASOC) discussed plans for the coming year at the first meeting of the semester Tuesday.

The meeting opened with the ASOC reaffirming their mission statement, which was to meet the needs and concerns of the student body.

Various topics of student interest discussed included the cafeteria food, cell phone reception, the upgrade of the WebCT and WebAdvisor computer servers, the creation of a culinary arts division, the graffiti on the bathroom walls, the availability of wireless internet on campus and a better communication system between the ASOC and the student body, which included suggestions of weekly meetings and online forums.

The creation of a student union was also discussed, as well as more effective ways to advertise ASOC. "We should survey students for information and input and help people become more aware of what is happening and how we have a say in matters," said new ASOC senator Dan Zhou.

The most anticipated topic was

the news on the near completion of the new Newark campus. It will be the first college campus in the nation to achieve total "green" certification, adhering to the highest standards of ecological safety.

Ken Steadman, the ASOC representative at the Ohlone Board of Trustees, reported on the board's activities. He stated that it was important that the ASOC give the College Board of Trustees their input and assist it with their plans involving the frontage property. The Board plans to rent out the frontage area to develop property on it. Ideas included are upscale bookstores, restaurants and student housing. Proposals are expected to be in by Dec. 12. In the meantime, the ASOC, as well as the College Board of Trustees, welcomes any student input as to suggestions for the frontage property.

ASOC currently has three executive officer positions still open. They are as follows: legislative representative at large, secretary and treasurer. To qualify, an applicant must hold nine units, have a 2.75 GPA, answer a questionnaire and present a small speech to ASOC.

Along with positions open in the ASOC, Steadman plans to re-initiate the currently dormant Region

4 student government legislative zone, of which Ohlone is part of. He plans to create a legislative committee and has executive positions open with a possibility to translate to executive positions in the Region 4 student government legislation zone.

In regards to money requests, the men's basketball team, represented by coach and Physical Education instructor John Peterson, made a funds request to assist in the start up of fundraising efforts to help support their yearly costs. The Math League club also made a request for prize money for one of their sudoku challenge events as they prepare and train for state and national math competitions. "We aim to increase intellectual activity as well as the image of Ohlone in the Math and Science departments," said math

club representative Jun Fang.

At the end of the meeting the members of this year's ASOC student council, including executive

officers as well as senators, were sworn in by President Tatyana Hamady. "I'm looking forward to an exceptional year," said Hamady.

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Weighing Anchor

By ERIC DORMAN
News editor

Changing our habits

Old habits die hard, and new ones are difficult to produce. It's a simple fact, but seems to be a devilishly difficult one for organizers and lawmakers to comprehend, to the detriment of their creations.

Take last Saturday, the 23rd annual California Coastal Cleanup Day. According to the California Coastal Commission, 50,000 volunteers swarmed to more than 700 cleanup sites around the state to rid our coastline of debris.

Sound like a success story? Well, yes and no. While it may be a success in terms of bringing trash-reducing volunteers to the coastline every year, it's a failure in the sense that every year, the volunteers have more trash to pick up. It may have altered the habits of a few individuals to pick up trash once a year, but it has done nothing to alter the habits of the offenders—those who neglect to tie down the loads on their pickups on the freeway, dump trash in the wetlands to avoid paying the fee at the dump, and those who drop their cigarette butts and Coke bottles wherever they feel like it. And sadly, no matter how hard those 50,000 work every year, it will always be the offenders, not the volunteers, who define the success or failure of the program.

Does this mean we should hold Coast Cleanup accountable for the litter polluting our coastline? Certainly not. However, we should not expect once-a-year events like this to change the public's larger habit of using coastlines as surrogate dumpsters.

Another example of a program designed to change a habit, but flawed in design, is the Bay Area Quality Management District/Metropolitan Transportation Commission decision to fund free public transit for up to three Spare the Air days per summer to reduce pollution. The program is designed to encourage people to use public transportation in the hot days of summer.

While this may be an ambitious undertaking, the program's \$3.9 million price tag is hardly money well spent. For example, on one of last year's free ride days, BART carried 28,000 more riders than usual. The next day, the ridership was back to usual. The single day of free rides did nothing to change the habits of the majority.

What's the moral of this? The simple answer is that no one-two- or three-day event is going to change the way the majority of us live our daily lives. In order to change our habits for the better, programs need to reach into our lives on a day-to-day basis. Only once this understanding is reached will programs such as Coastal Cleanup and Spare the Air become successful.



Staff Photo

Photo by Andrew Cavette

Students gathered in the lobby of Building I for Club Day, staged to introduce students to Ohlone's extracurricular offerings.



Club Day exhibits new offerings

By INSIYA GINWALA
Staff writer
and ANNA NEMCHUK
Editor-in-chief

The first of the two Club Days, Wednesday Sept. 19, saw the Building 1 lobby crowded with students, members, faculty and

advisors. Nearly a dozen clubs were represented, among them the Psychology Club, the Biology Club, L.I.F.E. Club, the Speech Club and the Game Developers Club.

Ohlone is usually home to more than 20 diverse clubs: some focus on social issues, such as the Psychology Club, some on academics, such as

the AGS (Alpha Gamma Sigma) Club, some on ethnic issues, such as the MEChA, and some on more technical endeavors, such as the Pre-Pharmacy Club, the Math League and the Business Club.

Clubs are considered by most counselors to be an effective way to demonstrate extracurricular interests

to prospective four-year universities as well as simply making one's time at school more interesting and involved.

Club Days will continue on Thursday, Sept. 20 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Building 1 Lobby.

Club Days are sponsored by the ASOC.

Ohlone employs environmentalist

By BARRY KEARNS
Staff writer

Narinder Bansal is a congenial man who is quick to smile and discuss his passions; he has just been hired to work full-time as the instructor for environmental sciences and technology at Ohlone College.

Bansal always greets people with a smile and, occasionally, the offer of some candy. His hospitality conveys the sense that he is aware of all environments, including his office, and strives to make one feel comfortable there. There are picture of locations and art from various cultures posted on his office walls. They are pictures, he feels, that ultimately represent our world, a world that, in his own words, he is very much in love with.

Bansal was born in England and moved to the United States in 1980 when he was 11. He remembers facing a sense of culture shock when exposed to the more lax system of discipline in American public schools where there were no school uniforms or corporal punishment. He graduated from American High School in 1988 and immediately went to Chabot College where, after studying for a year, he decided that he might not be ready for college and went to work. Later, he came to Ohlone College as a student and took a class in physical geology taught by George Rodgers.

"That's the class that turned me on to the environment," Bansal said. "It provided a lot of the holistic approach that I needed."

Bansal attended Ohlone College from 1991 to 1993, as a passion for the environment ignited within him. He then went to Cal State Hayward, now University of California East Bay.

"So I took an introduction to environmental studies class and that was it; that's where I got turned on

to the environmental studies movement. Again, in the 1990s it was a big movement. So I was in the right time to explore that kind of 60's and 70's kind of environmental ethics and that kind of fun stuff."

Bansal also spent many of his early years traveling the world and has been to places like Canada, India and England. There he gained a "different perspective of life." Countries like India and Mexico allowed Bansal to gain an appreciation of, and analyze, their landscapes and to view first-hand the similarities and differences of developing and developed countries.

"The travels awakened me," Bansal said.

George Rodgers recalls noticing Bansal standing out in his class "first of all, for his enthusiasm for school and for life." Rodgers also commented that while Bansal was working on his Master's, he had been an adjunct professor at Ohlone and was one of the best the college has ever had. When asked how it felt to have a former student work alongside him, Rodgers said that he is please to see what has become one of his former students.

He added, "It makes it all worthwhile."

Bansal teaches classes in physical geography and geographic information science. Physical geography is the science that attempts to understand the natural environment and the systems that comprise it. Geographic information science is the discipline that captures, compiles and analyzes geographic information with the aid of computers, which can then be used to extrapolate spatial relations and features of the earth. Certification in GIS is available and can be used in a variety of fields ranging from marketing to city planning. Bansal breaks his course into three classes: introduction, advanced and a special project.

What did Ohlones eat?

By VANESSA BAUMAN
Staff writer

Have you ever wondered what the Ohlone Indians ate? Or how they survived when they got sick or got infections? If you are interested in finding out about this and actually tasting some of what the Ohlone Indians ate, then you should consider going to the next Brown Bag Science Seminar.

The seminar will be held tomorrow afternoon, Friday Sept. 21, from 1 to 2 p.m. in Room 2133. Dr. Gessica Johnston, a biology teacher at Ohlone in addition to being a medical doctor, will host the "Wild Edible Plants" Seminar.

"I will have samples of acorn meal to taste, and there will also be some discussion of medicinal uses of plants you might not think of, such as poison oak," explained Johnston.

This seminar's main focus will be on the discussion of what exactly the California Natives ate and used for medicine, but it will also explore the various types of edible plants that grow in the wild and the different plants, nuts, berries and even insects that are edible as well. Johnston anticipates that this week's seminar will be very interesting and informative. You never know when you might get lost in the forest somewhere and need something to eat.

IT ALL JUST CLICKED IN THE NATIONAL GUARD

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Photo courtesy of Janel Tomblin-Brown

Ohlone dancers pose for photo while touring Chinese city. Bottom row, from left: Morgan Lindstrom, Janessa Wong, Janel Tomblin-Brown, Adrian Rios, Michele Leonard; top row, left to right: Onel Higginbotham, Michelle Frye, Ashley Bogue, Danny Mendoza, Caroline Quindoy, RJ Navalta, Taylor Rivard, Wendy Chan, Kyle Meiers, Jasper Gong, Nicole Vandenburg, Sarah Aronson and Sergio Suarez.

Ohlone dancers travel to China

By INEZ BLACK
Staff writer

Two of the four Ohlone dance companies traveled to China in May – Footnotes and Beatz n Pieces. Janel Tomblin-Brown’s cultural exchange dance group totaled 20 students – three theater technicians and three Beatz n Pieces dancers, with the rest coming from Footnotes.

Tomlin-Brown said, “We were in China for eight days. We met Dr. Treadway there. He was part of the exchange that invited my dancers and me to go as dancers, as dance has no language barrier. Dr. Treadway had previously invited the Shanghai Dance Troupe to come to Ohlone College and perform as part of the cultural exchange, and so, in May 2007, we reciprocated.”

She continued, “Included in Footnotes were jazz, lyrical, tap, contemporary, modern [dances]. The Beatz n Pieces are break dancers... First, the exchange dance was

at the Shanghai Dance Academy, Shanghai, China. The second was at Hangzhou and it was so beautiful there. The companies were very well received, more so at the second arts college in Hangzhou, China.

“Our performance was very different from theirs. It excited the Chinese students and they were yelling and giggling. Their dance training was phenomenal – well beyond our level – but we were able to make something fun. We did a ‘Dream Girls’ dance, which I thought was a little cheesy, but they loved it, yelling and clapping... They were so appreciative and wanted our autographs.”

Tomblin-Brown explained that the difference between the Chinese troupe’s performance and atmosphere, and the Ohlone companies’ was “the difference between attending an opera and a rock concert.”

“The food was great,” she continued. There was really no difference between breakfast, lunch and

dinner, but it was all good. It wasn’t until the sixth day that the students went looking for McDonald’s. There was a McDonald’s, KFC and Pizza Hut.

“Traveling to a developing country can be a culture shock for anybody and I think it gave our students a great sense of appreciation for all that we have here in our culture that we may otherwise take for granted,” she added.

She said that the exchange planted a seed that needs a lot of watering and nurturing, “I think that our dancers have a greater appreciation for the ability to dance at a level that affords them an opportunity for travel and cultural exchange. They were able to do this with dance being the language with no barriers. There are words to the music, but when [the audience] doesn’t understand the words, the performer really has to dig deep to further express a language with no barriers.

“We are trying to set up an exchange in the Philippines. The

Beatz n Pieces just came back from their tour from Aug. 14 -28. The four performers had concerts in Manila, Thailand and Malaysia. They are looking at going back with Footnotes next August.”

Tomlin-Brown’s Footnotes are visiting nearby high schools for recruitment by performing and are targeting dance and PE programs.

Footnotes and Beatz n Pieces aren’t the only dance groups on campus; several other groups are planning events to take place at Ohlone this semester.

Bliss - a woman’s contemporary dance company - will be teaming up with Illusion for performance in the Nummi Theater on Nov. 29-30 and Dec. 1. Illusion is an all male contemporary dance company. Cassie Begley, artistic director for Bliss Dance Company, said, “Because we are a group of women dancing about women’s issues, it just feels right. The fact that every rehearsal we laugh and connect with each other is just an added bonus.”



Devil's Advocate

By ANNA NEMCHUK
Editor-in-chief

Drink. Not drunk.

“Want to get smashed tonight?” “Nah, I’ve an early class.” “What about a glass of wine?” “If I don’t get drunk, what’s the point?”

I’ve encountered that conversation many times. Granted, I was raised in a household where dinner without wine is like eating with your feet - but explain to me why it has to be all or nothing?

True, when you’re 14...err, 21, that is...and stealing your first sips of bad beer gone flat in the back of your cousin’s pick-up only to end the night contemplating the beautiful pearly shade of your mother’s immaculate toilet as you desecrate it with everything you’ve even thought of consuming during the past two years, alcohol is a four-letter word. A sweet, sweet four-letter word.

But with age, maturity and a job comes the opportunity to enjoy one of the world’s oldest pleasures: strong drink. Unfortunately, today’s attitudes toward alcohol seem to render it a black and white affair; either your parole officer expects you at the AA meeting every Tuesday or your yearly consumption consists of a liquor cherry Aunt Frida pushes on you every Thanksgiving.

For thousands of years, in almost every culture, alcohol, along with other intoxicating substances, has been a medium for socialization, a liquid lubricant for human interaction. While it’s true that many of those partaking partook a bit too freely, it’s also true that for as long as people have been building bridges, they have been falling off those bridges. This means neither that you shouldn’t cross a bridge until you’re a certain age nor that you should somersault off the railing. Just cross the damn bridge.

As H.L. Mencken, in his “Portrait of an Ideal World” said, “The harsh, useful things of the world, from pulling teeth to digging potatoes, are best done by men who are as starkly sober as so many convicts in the death-house, but the lovely and useless things, the charming and exhilarating things, are best done by men with, as the phrase is, a few sheets in the wind.”

Student trip to N.Y. planned

By SANDEEP ABRAHAM
Staff writer

Although they may be a few days shy of a white Christmas, 25 Ohlone students will get the next best thing as they celebrate New Year’s Eve with hundreds of others watching the ball drop in Times Square.

Drama instructor Mark Nelson will be organizing a trip to New York City on the cusp of the New Year from Dec. 29 to Jan. 6. It will be part of Nelson’s Theater Appreciation class, TD105.

Students will have the opportunity to see a Broadway performance such as *The Lion King*, *The Color Purple*, and *Mary Poppins*, each of which are currently playing, as well as tour the famed Radio City Music Hall where they will get to see a holiday performance by the Rockettes, one of New York’s prominent dance groups.

The trip will cost about \$1,200 for students who choose to share a hotel room with three others and \$1,400 for students who wish to board with only one other room-

mate. These deposits will also cover airfare, tours, some meals and subway passes. Students will have a high degree of freedom to explore the city and broaden their horizons on their own time, though there will be an optional agenda and a few preplanned mandatory events.

There will be informational meetings throughout the semester for the purpose of briefing registered and interested students on the trip. All deposits are due by Dec. 3. For more information on the trip, email Nelson at mnelson@ohlone.edu.



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Ohlone Community Forum discusses green plans

By ELISE LEON
Staff writer

The second Ohlone Community Forum was held at the Newark Hilton last Thursday. Among the topics brought up at the meeting were plans concerning the Newark Center for Health Science and Technology and Ohlone's Student Center, which will be opening late next year.

The new campus, claimed to be the greenest in California, will be largely powered by solar energy. The buildings will also have water conserving fixtures, photovoltaic solar panels and high efficiency lighting. A 449-kilowatt array of solar panels will produce approximately 30 percent of the building's energy. The use of geothermal energy will result in another 25

percent improvement in energy performance. This will be used to heat and cool the buildings. The conference also stated how furniture that will be used in the new facility will be 60 to 99 percent recyclable. The Newark Center will be saving 40,900 barrels of oil as well as removing enough CO₂ from the atmosphere to be the equivalent of taking 900 cars off the streets

per day.

Many of the people who attended the forum participated with their opinions and feedback on how to add more assets to the campus, including bricks that are going to be sold for donations. Available are three sizes of bricks (see below) starting at 4" by 8" at \$150, 6" by 12" at \$350 and 12" by 12" at \$700. Every table came up with at least

three new ideas such as fundraising done through the students and facility departments as well as a contest through sports and clubs to get as many bricks sold as possible.

President Doug Treadway ended the seminar discussing how proud and excited he was for the new buildings by stating, "Out of the years I've been a part of Ohlone, I am very happy to be a part of

Astronaut to speak on space

Continued from Page 1

aspiration in July 1991, becoming an astronaut at the age of 34.

Voss has traveled into space four times in her career; once aboard the *Endeavor* in 1993 and twice in 1997 as the Payload Commander for the Space Shuttle *Columbia*.

When she visits Ohlone, she will speak about her most recent trip aboard the *Endeavor* in 2000 when, for 11 days, she was one of four mission specialists assigned to the multinational Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM). The SRTM captured high-resolution, digital, topographic images of Earth and obtained close to 1 trillion measurements of Earth's topography. The images are widely used by geographers around the world.

NASA Science Nights were first initiated by student James A. Laub, who became Deputy Chief of the Fluid Mechanics Lab at NASA. Laub grew up in Oakland and was

in Ohlone's original graduating class of 1976 and, though officially retired, he is now working at NASA analyzing moon dust.

Laub has also served as the liaison between Ohlone and NASA for the last five years, bringing eminent speakers to the campus. The college initially contacted Laub because he thought an ongoing relationship would be good for the college and would lead to a number of opportunities for both students and staff including internships, fellowships and possibly jobs. Dr. Voss will be the first of six NASA related speakers coming to the campus this semester.

Seating will be limited to 400 guests. Tickets are free and available at the Box Office, or can be obtained by e-mailing boxoffice@ohlone.edu. Ticketholders are advised to arrive 15 minutes early, as any seats not taken by them will be made available.

Got bricks?



Photo by Tomas Ortega

Director of Business Services Joanne Schultz holds up two inscribed bricks. Bricks like these will be sold by the College Foundation over the weekend to raise money for the Newark Campus, where up to 5,000 of them will be placed. Should one's brick be lost among the multitude, an on-campus monitor will allow users to locate their brick.

The basic brick plan - one 4 by 8-inch brick - costs \$150; other available bricks include a 6 by 12-inch for \$350 and a 12 by 12-inch brick for \$700. To buy a brick, contact Schultz at jschultz@ohlone.edu.

Students explore transfer options

Continued from Page 1

long run and where more effort should be placed.

In regards to the information provided, many students were disappointed. One student, Nicole Cousins, found Transfer Day, "a little bit discouraging," because she was not able to find a school that would allow her to major in sign language. Humboldt would allow her to minor in sign language with a major in teaching. Another student, Selena Sin, heard about Transfer Day from the various ads posted around school and research she did on the Ohlone website. Sin believed that the representatives "[did] not give very detailed information" regarding specific programs and it was better to research the programs personally.

However, most representatives have a plethora of information on their hands. The school representatives can give the most popular majors at their schools and various statistics that counselors may not have access to. Natalie Rodriguez, an Ohlone counselor, mentioned that the representatives have more "expertise in [their] own individual college[s]." The representatives have good background knowledge about their school and how the transfer process works. Counselors can-

not "know every detail" about every school, so Transfer Day is a good way to gather brochures stocked with specific details. One student, her arms stacked full of brochures and notes, was "very happy at all the schools that showed up" because she was able to determine that she was qualified for the honors program at her dream school.

The amount of information at Transfer Day can usually be found in condensed form at the Transfer Center located in Building 1 down the hall from the Counseling Offices. Frances Fon, the transfer center assistant, Berkland, or a volunteer is always there to help.

At the transfer center, students can obtain information about Transfer Admission Guarantee programs and IGETC. The Transfer Center and the counselors at Ohlone work hand in hand to bring students at Ohlone the best information possible. Counselors can help students sign a transfer agreement in the first year they begin to attend Ohlone.

People who would like to volunteer for next year are welcome to apply inside the Transfer Center. All interested students are welcome to go help out.

Inside the Transfer Center, students will find many brochures and lists of things that need to be done

in order to transfer. In addition, students should go to the Transfer Center to determine which classes need to be taken and sign transfer agreements a few weeks after they first start school.

Transfer Day is a helpful way to explore the endless programs and possibilities at different schools. It is also a place where students can ask questions specifically tuned to their dream school. Students

may want to know about Berkeley where they "give course credit for AP" but "high school work is not valid" or they might want to know about the social environment of Montana Tech. The goal of Transfer Day is to be helpful and informative by providing a way for students to explore the possibility of transferring to another school.

Transfer Day will not occur again until September of next year. In the

meantime, the Transfer Center is always open to drop-in students. Whatever your reason - whether to pick up a couple of brochures of schools on the coasts of pretty beaches or to ask several questions - Transfer Day does try to find solutions. Whether it is political science or an English major, the representatives and counselors at Transfer Day are always willing to lend assistance.

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Photographed by Jonathan Show

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September

20 New Art Gallery Exhibit -- Available to view until Oct. 26 in the Louie Meager Art Gallery. This exhibit is "Beneath the Surface" by Karen Luk. Luk is an illustrator who paints with chalk pastels and watercolors. Her diverse work encompasses subjects ranging from Adam and Eve to social commentary to comics. She is a graduate of the California College of Art and Ohlone. The gallery is open Monday to Friday from noon to 3 p.m.

20 New Library Exhibit -- Summer English 101B class was given an assignment to visually interpret pieces of poetry. Their artwork can be viewed in the library throughout the rest of September. Come and see how they showed their sense of the poem through an artistic and creative medium.

21 Partners in Success Workshop -- 2 to 4 p.m. in Room 8205. The workshop

will provide information on the four secrets to college life success. Guest speaker will be Clint Pardoe. Learn and implement new strategies, learn tools that can change your life. Sign up for this event at the EOPS office in Room 1140.

21 Psychology Club Meeting -- This club will meet every other Friday at 2:30 p.m. For more information and to find out where the club will meet, please visit: <http://OhlonePsychology-Club.blogspot.com>.

21 Last Day To Petition To Complete A Class On A Credit/No Credit Basis -- This is the last day to petition to complete a class on a credit/no credit basis.

21 Brown Bag Seminar -- Wild edible plants or what did the Ohlones eat? Presented by Gessica Johnston, Ohlone professor, from 1 to 2 p.m. in Room 2133. Free refreshments, admission is free. Check the Ohlone web page for upcoming Brown Bag seminars.

21 Men's Soccer -- 4 p.m. vs. Napa Valley College here at Ohlone.

21 Women's Volleyball -- 6:30 p.m. vs. Chabot College here at Ohlone.

22 Men's Water Polo - all-day tournament here at Ohlone.

22 Performance: Fremont Symphony Orchestra: Classical Top 40 -- 8 p.m. in the Jackson Theatre. For more information or tickets, visit www.fremontsymphony.org.

25 Women's Soccer -- 4 p.m. vs. Cañada College here at Ohlone.

25 Fast-A-Thon -- Ramadan observation. Ohlone cafeteria, Room 5209, 6:30-8 p.m. Speaker Sidi Usama Canon. Sponsored by the Muslim Students Association.

25-29 Sidewalk Sale -- 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in front of the bookstore.

26 Information Night: Explore China Summer 2008 -- 6:30 p.m. in Room HH-208. Ohlone College has organized, in conjunction with ACIS Educational Tours, a Chinese language and culture immersion trip that balances study with sightseeing. Earn credits and have fun while doing it. For more information,

contact Mikelyn Stacey at mstacey@ohlone.edu.

26 Reception and Artist Talk -- Meet Karen Luk, the artist featured in the art gallery, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in the Louie Meager Art Gallery.

28 Performance: Complete Works of Shakespeare (Abridged) -- 8 p.m. in the Jackson Theatre. Tickets are \$20 for students and \$25 for adults. For more information, or to buy tickets, visit the box office or call (510) 659-6031.

28 Women's Water Polo -- 3 p.m. vs. Laney College here at Ohlone.

28 Women's Soccer -- 2 p.m. vs. Chabot College here at Ohlone.

October

2 Women's Soccer -- 3 p.m. vs. West Hills College here at Ohlone.

3 Women's Water Polo - 3 p.m. vs. College of San Mateo here at Ohlone.

3 Men's Water Polo -- 4:15 p.m. vs. Solano College here at Ohlone.

3 Women's Volleyball -- 6:30 p.m. vs. West Valley College here at Ohlone.

3 NASA-Ohlone College Science Night -- 7 to 8 p.m. in the Jackson Theatre. Presentation will be by Janice Voss. Dr. Janice Voss became an astronaut in July 1991. She has completed numerous space missions. Most recently she served on STS-99. This was an 11-day flight during which the international crew aboard Space Shuttle Endeavour worked dual shifts to support radar mapping operations. Ticket Information: Advance tickets are recommended. Tickets are free. You may get advance tickets online at boxoffice@ohlone.edu or in person at the Box Office.

4 Last Day To Apply For Graduation -- this is the last day to turn in the paperwork necessary to

apply for graduation or a certificate of achievement. All day.

5 Brown Bag Seminar -- Molecular Flash Photography: Following Chemical Processes in Real-Time. Presented by Dr. Jose Cabrera, Stanford University researcher and chemistry professor at Ohlone, from 1 to 2 p.m. in Room 2133. Free refreshments are available prior to event and the event is free. Check the Ohlone web page for more information on upcoming brown bag seminars.

5 Men's Soccer -- 4 p.m. vs. Hartnell College here at Ohlone.

9 Women's Soccer -- 2 p.m. vs. City College of San Francisco here at Ohlone.

9 Men's Soccer -- 4 p.m. vs. Skyline College here at Ohlone.

10 National Depression Screening Day -- Screening all day in the Ohlone health center, Building 16. This event is free.

10 Women's Water Polo -- 3 p.m. vs. Cabrillo College here at Ohlone.

10 Men's Water Polo -- 4:15 p.m. vs. Cabrillo College here at Ohlone.

10 Women's Volleyball -- 6:30 p.m. vs. San Jose City College here at Ohlone.

12 Women's Soccer -- 2 p.m. vs. Skyline College here at Ohlone.

12 Men's Soccer -- 4 p.m. vs. Evergreen Valley Col-

lege here at Ohlone.

13 Super Flea Market -- 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in parking lots E and H. Vendors sell a variety of things like jewelry, food, tools, gift items, toys, household supplies and collectibles. Flea markets are held on the second Saturday of each month. Parking is \$2 per vehicle and admission is free. All proceeds support Ohlone College programs.

13 Teresa Walters, Concert Pianist -- Performance in the Smith Center at 8 p.m. For more information on this event, or to buy tickets, please visit the Box Office.

13 Third Annual Early Childhood Conference -- 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Ohlone Kidango center. Topics include: Infant-Toddler, Working with Children with Challenging Behaviors, Curriculum, Taking Care of the Personal and Professional Self, Family Child Care, Child Health, and much more. Register early. Space is limited and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. The registration fee is \$20 and includes breakfast and lunch. To register visit the Kidango center or call Janice at (510) 979-7496 for more information.

14 Ohlone Chamber Orchestra: Fall Concert -- Performance in the Smith Center at 2 p.m. For information or tickets, visit the Box Office.

16 Men's Soccer -- 4 p.m. vs. Mission College here at Ohlone.

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

Fremont council discusses A's stadium

By **RICHARD KILLEEN**
Staff writer

Tuesday night at the Fremont City Hall was yet another in what seems to be an endless progression of city council meetings with the Oakland Athletics.

As the council members and managing partners of the Athletics went back and forth with concerns and proposed answers, you got the feeling that seeing the Fremont A's, Oakland A's at Fremont, or any other combination of the names actually in Fremont was still very far off.

One of many big hurdles the

A's face in getting their franchise moved to Fremont is the trouble with transportation.

With BART being a mile and a half away from the stadium site and no real plans to extend it in to the Warm Springs Area, many residents expressed their concern with the transportation and traffic issues.

A member of the Sierra Club had this to say: "BART is one and a half miles away, the transit plan is inadequate."

Although there are some concerns, the majority of residents and council members are all for getting a Major League Baseball team in

Fremont. The belief is that bringing a team to the city will stimulate local business and profit.

Whether this is true remains to be seen. Cindi Moseti a life long resident of Fremont said "Community benefits have to be considered, what the A's can do for the city and the people of the city will be great."

The A's have a long and windy road ahead of them, they are a tremendous franchise and not many outside of Fremont want to see them leave Oakland.

However Fremont appears to be the A's last hope to stay in California.

If the A's come up with progressive answers to these many questions, there should be no reason they cannot work out something with the city.

One thing in this ordeal is certain, and that is the desire appears to be there on both sides. The A's would like to be in Fremont, and the city of Fremont would love to have the A's.

It may take many more of these tedious meetings but do not be surprised if some time in the distant future you are sitting at your seat in Cisco Field chanting, "Let's go Fremont!"



Give 'n Go

By **VANESSA BAUMANN**
Staff writer

Volleyball improving

The Ohlone Women's Volleyball team hosted their third pre-season game last Friday night against Skyline College. Though the Renegades lost their third consecutive game, the team has grown stronger, and has improved. "The team is progressing and getting a lot better, we just need to keep working and get ready for our upcoming games," said coach Jaime Cortez.

Though the Renegades lost Friday, it was an exciting and entertaining game. The team played with a lot of heart and motivation. There was a lot of communication between the players and the coaches.

Throughout the first period, Ohlone remained only a few points behind. At the end of the first period, Ohlone fell short 21-30, giving the first frame win to Skyline. In the second period, Ohlone started off a little slow. Skyline had the first serve, where they scored, but then Ohlone got right back into the game. They came back strong and had some perfect serves, hard spikes and nice blocks. At the end of the period the score was in Skyline's favor, 30-23. The third period was the most intense and thrilling. The Renegades fell behind Skyline after two consecutive points, until they fought back and tied it at 10 apiece. From there on out, the Renegades were tough. The game rallied back and forth, and Ohlone stayed ahead by one point throughout the rally. Both teams played with a lot of determination, which got the score back at a tie, 28 all. Skyline took the third period win with some good serves, ending the game at 30-28. Though the final outcome didn't favor Ohlone, the Renegades played well. "Skyline is a top team, and we played awesome," said coach Cortez.

Ohlone's Jackie Acuri and Demi Wilson had very strong performances. Together they repeatedly blocked Skyline's attempts to score. Overall, the Renegades had some very nice set plays, and they worked well together to try and take the win.

The team's improvement and performance has really pleased the coaches. The games are very entertaining and fun to watch. The team would love to have more fans to come and watch their games and support them. "We would really appreciate more fans, the team really enjoys the support," said coach Cortez.

The next Women's Volleyball home game is Friday, Sept. 21, at Ohlone College, against rivals Chabot College at 6:30 p.m.

Oden out for '07

By **JEROME NEPACENA**
Staff writer

The Portland Trailblazers and their fans were met with some disappointing news recently when No. 1 draft pick Greg Oden underwent knee surgery, sidelining him for the 07-08 season.

Injuries and health problems have been an issue for Oden since his days as Ohio State's star center. The wrist injury he suffered during his freshmen year at Ohio State caused the right handed Oden to play mostly left handed. However this did not stop him from leading the Buckeyes to the national championship game where he scored 25 points and grabbed 12 rebounds before falling to the Florida Gators.

After being drafted by Portland as planned Oden struggled through a few summer league games and underwent a tonsillectomy in July.

Now after suffering the knee injury and undergoing arthroscopic surgery Oden's career has taken a big hit.

However, at 19 years old, Oden is still a very young player and should be able to recover through physical therapy and rehabilitation through the next season.

A comforting fact for fans of the Blazers is that Phoenix Suns center Amare Stoudemire had microfracture knee surgery done back in '05 and returned last season with no problem.

Still with an injury like this and the '84 draft fresh in the Blazers' minds this loss is a devastating blow for the whole Blazers franchise.

Oden's injury and Kevin Durant's potential as the Seattle Supersonics' new star has led to comparisons to the infamous '84 draft when Portland chose center Sam Bowie over shooting guard, Michael Jordan.

We'll have to wait another season to see Oden face off against NBA stars such as Tim Duncan, Shaq and Yao. Now we can only hope that Oden recovers from knee surgery as successfully as Stoudemire did be hopeful he shines in '07-08.

Water Polo's Gill leads in scoring



Photo by Tomás Ortega

Ohlone's Water Polo Team has not started off so well. But Freshman Nate Gill is leading the team in goals after scoring 9 of the team's 18 total goals. The men's next tournament is this weekend, here at the Ohlone pool.

Home run ball could orbit the Earth

Answer numero uno and numero dos. Either of these have my vote for the decision on Barry Bonds' record home run ball.

Mark Ecko, owner of the popular clothing brand Ecko, bought 756 from the New York kid, Matt Murphy, who ended up catching the record-breaking ball.

The sick part, me being a Giants fan and all, is that the guy was just passing through the Bay Area on his way to Australia. And he wasn't even a Giants fan.

Well, Murphy basically needed to sell the ball or else he'd have to pay a boatload of tax money just to keep it. So he decided to auction it away and split the earnings with a buddy of his.

Now before he ended up shelling out \$752,467 for the ball, Mark Ecko decided to make a website to get a feel for what the general public would want him to do with the ball.

His website vote756.com listed three different options for people to vote on: a) send the ball to Cooperstown b) brand the ball with an asterisk and then send it on to Cooperstown or c) strap it to a rocket and blast it into space.

Now the last one seems like it may win just because the thought of sending a "tainted" record breaker



Triples alley

By **TOMÁS ORTEGA**
Staff writer

into space and eliminating it from the third rock may do the sports world some good (not to mention lighten the mood a bit on the whole subject).

Of all the different record-breaking memorabilia and hall of fame inductees that have cropped up the last decade, the decision to allow the fans to choose what is right for this piece of memorabilia is appropriate.

To get things started, Ecko voted for the ball to be sent to Cooperstown free of any embellishment.

He also stated on the website that he "bought the baseball to democratize the debate over what to do with it."

Like most journalists, Ecko believes those who care about the game most, the fans, should rule the fate of the baseball. Ecko also said that "the idea that some of the best athletes in the country are forced to decide between being competitive and staying natural is troubling."

When it comes down to my vote I may have to flip a coin to either decision a or b. For sure, the ball belongs in Cooperstown. There is no doubt about that.

The whole reason behind Cooperstown is to tell the story of baseball. Ty Cobb sliding into a base with spikes high and sharp, Gaylord Perry spit-balling his way to a great career and the 1918 Black Sox throwing the World Series for money.

All the above are some of the most talked-about stories in the history of this game, and yet none are ignored in Cooperstown.

Since telling the story of baseball is the whole purpose of the place, then the ball definitely belongs there. Even among the choices, you could see the importance of sending it to the Hall. Two of the options have the ball heading to Cooperstown.

Ecko obviously understands the importance of getting it there, which is why he even voted for it to go in the first place.

If it is labeled with an asterisk and goes to Cooperstown, then the ball will in great detail paint a picture of what transpired in the steroids era.

The asterisk on the ball will get fans 50 years from now asking why

the ball was marked, and someone will be able to fill them in about the situation that baseball turned a blind eye to.

Now, with an available choice like blasting the ball into space, there is the chance of a ginormous group of people getting together to rid of the ball entirely. But I don't realistically see that happening.

Another thing to think about. If you take a look at the position players who were voted to start this years All Star game, the same folks who voted them in will be the same people voicing their opinion about the ball. So there is also a chance that the people choosing may make a terrible decision.

Barry Bonds, though he said he didn't care what the guy who caught the record breaking baseball did with the ball, did have a comment on Mark Ecko. Bonds was quoted as saying, "he's stupid. He's an idiot."

Alas, the voting will not drag on for too long. Ecko says a decision will be made after voting ends Sept 25.

Please folks, put the ball where it belongs. Whether it be marked or not, put it in a glass case in New York, not on "I used to be considered a planet" Pluto.