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KOHL battles hawk 'attack,' weather

By **KYLE STEPHENS**
Staff writer

The Ohlone Radio Station, 89.3 FM KOHL, went offline Wednesday from about 2 a.m. to 2 p.m., according to Radio Station Technician Matthew Graf. The cause was found to be normal weathering of the antenna, exacerbated by hawk excrement. This is the longest KOHL has been off the air in more than 20 years.

Though there were plans to replace the antenna anyway, Graf and Director of Radio Operations Bob Dochterman were forced to take action when a ceramic insulator between the antenna proper and the tower cable

finally was irrevocably damaged by weather Wednesday morning. A new, sturdier antenna was installed by Dochterman and Graf several hours later.

Though was the storm that proved to be the antenna's final demise, most of the weakening was caused by a different agent: hawk excrement. The ceramic insulator

on the antenna, a popular perch for red-tailed-hawks, was finally eroded away by the substance.

In addition to the new equipment, a special timed bird repellent device was attached to deter future damages by the hawks. The appliance is made of plastic, as not to interfere with the radio signal.

Technician Graf discovered the loss of transmission Wednesday via a system he has in his home,

wired to a modified smoke alarm.

The station being offline "affects everything," said Graf, from students doing on air labs, to paid underwritten public service announcements, to the listeners themselves. Ohlone broadcasting students hone their skills in on-air settings for KOHL. In absence of a means to transmit, being

on the air is moot.

The station gets supplemental funding via paid public service announcements; as a public radio station, they are not allowed to run commercial advertising as per FCC regulations. And many regular KOHL listeners have nothing but static to listen to while the antenna is being replaced.

The antenna is a custom-built piece of hardware, something too

expensive to "just have one lying around the shop," said Dochterman. The exact parameters need to be calibrated to give the signal a defined range, as not to interfere with other radio stations and other communication signals. KOHL is especially boxed in due to other local stations sharing the 89.3 frequency like Pioneer High School's KMTG, and other college radio stations such as San Jose State's KSJS and Foothill College's KFJC.

The transmission facility is located remotely atop one of the hills surrounding the Ohlone campus. The weather as of late, including rain the morning of the failure, was cause for difficulties in reaching the site. Graf and Dochterman were only able to get halfway by truck, and went the final leg on foot. "This is what makes this job interesting," said Graf.

**'This is what
makes this job
interesting.'**

—Matthew Graf



Photo by Eric Dorman

Director of Radio operations Bob Dochterman prepares to install a new antenna for Ohlone's radio station. The old antenna's demise was partly due to a hawk.

**Station one of first to test-drive
'Personal People Meters'**

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College sees increase in Chinese class enrollment

By **MARGARITA KITOVA**
Staff writer

"Chinese—not English—is the most widely spoken language of the world," according to The Chinese Program at The Pennsylvania State University. It turns out it is also the most popular foreign language class at Ohlone.

A total of 199 Ohlone students are currently enrolled in 101A, 101B, 102A and 102B Mandarin Chinese classes this semester, the

largest enrollment total to date, said Dean of Humanities, Social Sciences and Mathematics Mikelyn Stacey. This total is up from 163 last semester.

When 50 students signed up for a single section of Elementary Mandarin, it became necessary for two sections of Chinese 101A and one of 101B to be added on the weekend, said Stacey. The college offers a total of 16 Mandarin classes.

Ohlone also has nine more classes offered between Mission San Jose and Irvington

high schools. Altogether, the 25 Mandarin Chinese classes show the increasing demand for international language studies by the local Bay Area communities.

Stacey also noted that a company based in San Francisco was interested in training its employees through Ohlone's Chinese Program, but their offer was turned down by Ohlone as this was the area of the San Francisco City College.

All of the college's Mandarin classes are taught by native speakers, and most of the

students who attend them speak Mandarin at home and rely on school for the development of their reading and writing skills.

Another explanation for the high demand is the strategic role of China in the global community. The Chinese-speaking world is one of the fastest-growing economies in the world today. Ohlone's Chinese classes also educate about the economic, social, cultural and political system in China. According to Ohlone's Chinese Program, classes are

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Speaker to discuss India, Silicon Valley relations

By **LILA SALINAS**
Staff writer

The relationship between India and Silicon Valley will be explored this Tuesday, Oct. 16, in the first World Forum of the semester, entitled "The Changing Global Profile of India and Dynamics of USA-India Relationships." It will be held from noon to 1 p.m. in the Epler Gymnasium.

Guest speaker B.S. Prakash is the Consul General of India (San Francisco) and head of the United Nations division in the ministry of the external affairs of the government of India.

Since 1975, Prakash has led

Indian delegations in discussions and conferences on a number of political issues. In his presentation Tuesday, Prakash will cover the current dynamics between India and the United States, with emphasis on Silicon Valley. The topic is timely, as this year marks the 60th anniversary of India's independence.

The Ohlone College World Forum was first introduced in spring 2005. The World Forums are designed to deliver information about important global issues that concern and affect our community.

The next World Forum will be entitled "Deaf Culture: An International Perspective," and will be held Nov. 14.

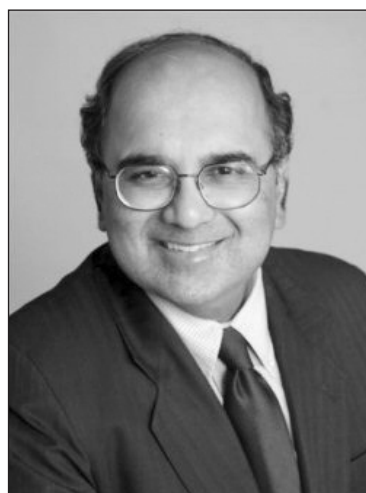


Photo courtesy <http://cgisf.org>
**B.S. Prakash, India
consul general**

Math Club pulls off battle of numbers

By **JEROME NEPACENA**
Staff writer

"It was a very exciting event; I could tell people really had a good time." These were the words of math club adviser and Ohlone math teacher Geoffrey Hirsch after a very competitive day of Sudoku last Friday.

According to Hirsch, Novy Tjokro was able to take an early lead, but made a few mistakes and ended up placing fourth overall in the competition. The winner of first place and the \$50 grand prize ended up being Algebra 2 student Jesse Carvalho, while trigonometry student Danielle Yee placed second

and Tony Wu came in third.

"Sudoku isn't just a game for math geniuses; it's a game anyone can be good at," explained Hirsch, who also advises the Math Club.

The structure for Friday's competition was an hour and fifteen minutes of working on the Sudoku test, with pizza and soda afterward, before the winners of the competition were announced. The entry fee for the event was \$3.

Sudokus have recently seen a rise in popularity. A sort of crossword puzzle with numbers, the object of the nine-by-nine square puzzle is to fill in all 81 squares while ensuring numbers in the rows and columns add up to nine.