

No simple route for wheelchair-bound

By **ANDREW CAVETTE**
Staff writer

The Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) will begin working this week to better illustrate wheelchair accessible routes through campus. The DSPS currently has a map that indicates where all of the campus elevators are located (and how to reach them), but a map showing efficient ways to use them does not exist.

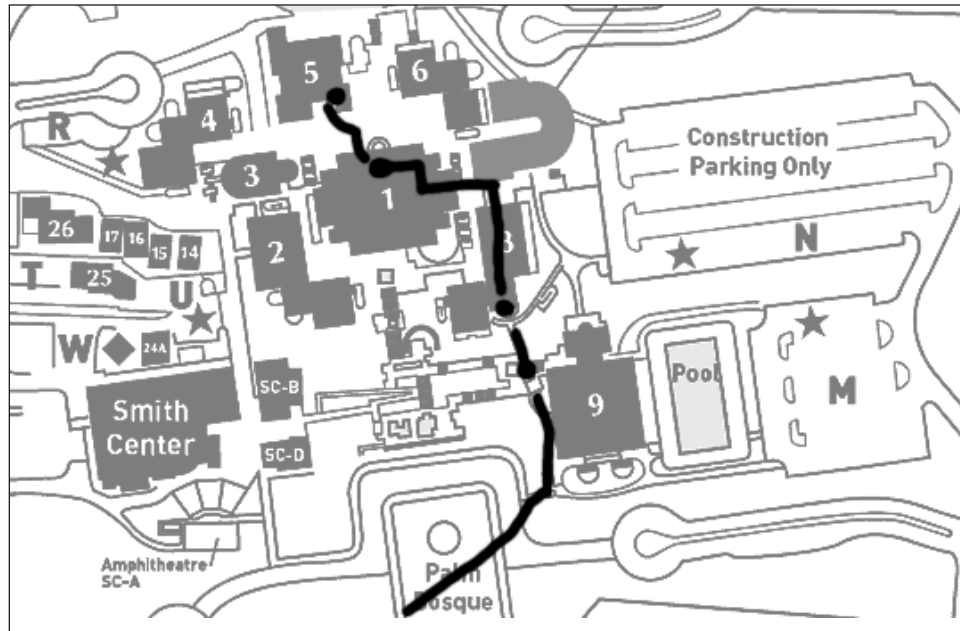
The routes through campus are not intuitive and often involve multiple buildings. Wheelchair-bound Alternate Media Specialist Kevin Kirk, who works in Building 4, explained, "I have to go through four elevators to get to the bus area. I'm not necessarily complaining - it is accessible - but I don't think a lot of people realize it's like a rat that has to go through a little maze."

"I've been working here for about six years and I think I finally know all the routes... If the person is new here, they wouldn't know."

Kirk and DSPS Director Ann Burdett toured the campus this week to collect information for a new map. They are working on this new map for students and staff with disabilities, but also for the facilities staff to use when they are doing maintenance. When any of the normal routes are blocked off, they would be able to use the maps to indicate alternate routes. "They do tell us when the elevators are out," said Kirk, adding that alternate wheelchair routes are not listed.

When a student with disabilities first comes to Ohlone, the DSPS provides them with mobility orientation that includes a personalized tour of the campus. According to Burdett, people vary about how much of the campus they want to know. Some only want to know the location of their classrooms, while others also want to know where important buildings like Building 1 are located.

Still others want to see every part of



The best way to get between Hyman Hall and Building 5 (which houses both the DSPS office and the Monitor) is to use the paved incline on the east side of Hyman Hall and take the ramp along the north side of the Gym (Building 9). Take the elevator to the top floor and make your way to the ground floor elevator in Building 8. Get off on floor 2R in Building 8 and travel east through it to the second floor entrance of Building 1. Follow the posted sign left to the second floor elevators. Go up to the third floor and then through to the Quad area. From there, Building 5 has an elevator to the right of the Bookstore. This distance can also be covered by alternate routes through Building 2 or through the Smith Center.

Ohlone. Burdett explained, "We physically walk them through [campus] and show them whatever it is they want to see. If they want to see the whole campus... Great!"

Some parts of campus are inaccessible by wheelchair. For example, the two entryways to Room 6203 are cut off by a flight of stairs and an unpaved gradient, respectively. Pro-

fessional Development Coordinator Janice Fonteno, who works in Room 6203, said if anyone needed to meet with her, she would make accommodations in another office. Burdett was not immediately aware of any specific issues regarding Room 6203, but said that the accommodations Fonteno described are standard practice.

She added, "because of how the campus was built so long ago and with the various constructions going on... people are more accommodating in that way." Burdett said that more ramps will be built for the Student Services Building, and possibly other places.

Kirk noted that the paved path leading to Hyman Hall on the grass near the front palms can be difficult to use. "Right where you get on that path there is a cut in the sidewalk. If you don't take it at a good angle, it can tip you," said Kirk. "They need to take out the sidewalk there and smooth it out."

He also noted that no curb-cut has been made on the sidewalk at the end of the ramp on the north side of the gym. "You have to go all the way around the front of the pool in order to get off the sidewalk," said Kirk. He believes that the cost of additional ramps and other ADA modifications would be minimal. "I've asked the bond people about this and it's not necessarily on their list right now," said Kirk. In response, Director of Business Services Joanne Schultz wrote, "It is recognized that there are more ADA [modifications] need than we can fund, although there has been progress. The bond has been used to fund several large ADA projects. The ramps outside Buildings 4 and 6 and the new wheelchair access doors that are in most buildings are examples."

Vice President of Administrative Services Mike Calegari added, "Every project that we submit to the state for funding goes through an ADA component that considers what impacts the project has on accessibility and mobility to make sure no adverse impacts occur." Calegari also noted Ohlone "will soon be embarking on a project of preventing underground water intrusion into some of our buildings. As sidewalks and walkways are excavated for prevention measure installation, obstacles and barriers to mobility [will be] remedied when the new sidewalks and walkways are poured."

Graffiti on campus up greatly from last year

By **BARRY KEARNS**
Staff writer

Graffiti complaints have risen substantially this semester over past years, said Ohlone Police Chief Steve Osawa. However, the reports of vandalism have tapered off slightly this week.

Since the start of the Fall semester, there have been 75 incidences of graffiti on the campus, which has cost the college \$7,500, according to Ohlone Police Chief Steven Osawa. The graffiti has been reported by custodians, staff and students in various locations around the cam-

pus. The size of the graffiti pieces have ranged from two feet by two feet to some much smaller appearing in the grout of the tiles.

The cost to the school for every piece of graffiti is roughly \$100, which includes a police report, an investigation and a notice to the Buildings and Grounds department. The Buildings and Grounds department must then sand, prepare and then paint over the area. The money to pay for the restoration comes from the Buildings and Grounds department.

The Ohlone Police have spoken to some people regarding the mat-

ter but there still appears to be an expansion of the tags. The graffiti appears in various areas including the men's and women's restrooms as well as the elevators and benches; the vandals have used ink markers, pens and pencils to leave their mark on the various places.

It is believed by the police department that the vandalism started with one person and has since spread to several repeat offenders. Often times the graffiti appears with both the same initials and the same script indicating the same person is responsible. The nature of the graffiti is not picture or sentence

based but instead a "tag" of the person defacing the property. The custodian who primarily cleans up and repaints the vandalized areas was not available for comment.

Osawa views the vandals as "little dogs" and said that "they are just marking their territory until a bigger dog comes along, at which point they hide."

Osawa has been conducting an investigation into the graffiti and is asking for the help of students and faculty, in identifying the culprits. Anyone who wishes to report an incident can do so anonymously by calling (510) 979-7997.



Photo by Andrew Cavette

A tag in the stairwell near Building 6.

Chinese language classes gaining popularity

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guided by the "five C's" principles of the National Standards for Foreign Language Education: Communication, Cultures, Comparisons, Connections, and Communities.

The modern Chinese language curriculum aims for a quality program that emphasizes the achievement of language competence in listening, speaking, reading, and writing while gaining cultural knowledge through a holistic approach that begins from basic, concrete, and functional communication and progresses through abstract, topic-oriented academic exchanges that are closely integrated with real societies.

There are two main dialects in China: Mandarin and Cantonese.

The Chinese term for Mandarin, "Putonghua," literally means "the common language." Mandarin is the official language in Mainland China and Taiwan and is used by most of the Chinese schools, colleges and universities and in most of the TV programs, movies, and radio stations all over the country. Mandarin is also one of the five official languages in the United Nations.

Cantonese, on the other hand, is mainly spoken in Guangdong (where Guangzhou/Canton is the capital) and Guangxi provinces and most of the overseas Chinese communities in Australia, Europe, North America and other parts of the world. However, the number of Mandarin-speaking overseas

Chinese people is increasing rapidly in recent years as more Taiwanese and people from Northern China emigrated and have been playing a more active role in the world economy and culture exchange.

For those interested in putting their Chinese language skills to use, Ohlone has planned a cultural

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exchange program for 11 days to China in June 2008. The program fee is \$3,589 per person and

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