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OPINION

# It's a free country, so don't forget to vote

By **ANDREW CAVETTE**  
*Opinion editor*

In an election year with the California primaries approaching on Super Tuesday next week, how many Ohlone students registered to vote by the final cutoff date of Jan. 22?

Whatever the number may be (even if it is rather high) it is too few. It does not make any sense, with the ease of voter registration, with the increasing importance of each election and each piece of legislation, not to have every col-

lege student – who would otherwise meets the requirements – registered to vote.

In a progressive world (spelt brave), voter registration would be a prerequisite for student enrollment at any state or community college.

While this would call for more paperwork, and thus more bureaucracy for Admissions and Records to deal with, it would no doubt increase voter turnout among young people and this could only be a welcome occurrence.

In fact, not only should it be a

requirement for college admission, but voter registration should become an across-the-board requirement for all citizens who reach the age of 18. You blow out the candles and send in your card.

According to the 2006 U.S. census report, there are 21,324,000 people in the U.S. between the ages of 15 and 19. Even if you nominally divide that figure equally among the five ages, it means we have roughly 8,500,000 people of voting age. If all of them were registered to vote, it would be like having the combined population of Arizona and Iowa

entirely comprised of 18- and 19-year-olds ready to vote.

Whether or not a citizen chooses to vote in a particular election should be left up to the individual, but the ability to vote should be gently forced upon us all. Just as it is done now, if you vote in each election, you would still be automatically reregistered. If you opt out of enough elections (oh come on) and become unregistered once again, you would simply be required to register again.

Yes, it would be a lot of work, but good things always are. Yes,

it would involve the government sticking its nose into how you live your life, but they do that anyway and for reasons far less noble.

My own Machiavellian plans aside, it is desperately important to participate in how the world around you is run. The cheapest, easiest, most effective and satisfying way to effect change in this world is to speak your mind in a free and open society. Vote. And before you do, make sure you can. Voter registration forms can be found online at [www.sos.ca.gov/elections/english.pdf](http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/english.pdf).

# ASOC welcomes students to spring semester

By **JACKIE MCCULLEY**  
*ASOC Vice President*

Welcome back Ohlone students, from the A.S.O.C Council. We left Ohlone last year with a sense of accomplishment.

Thanks to you, the students, we were able to have several success-

ful events. We hope to start off the New Year with that same sense of accomplishment, but to apply the energy and the thoughts of change to this next semester. With the thoughts of change still fresh in our minds, we are excited about the opening of the Ohlone Newark Campus. Along with the opening of

the additional campus, ASOC will still be going full force with more events such as Club Days, where you the students can meet reps from the various clubs on campus. Don't forget the many other events including Rock the Hill and Rock the Bay, where local bands come out to both campuses and play for

you the students.

And the biggest event will be Unity Days, where we as students and staff come together amidst our diversity and join in one common goal of making our future better and brighter.

If this sounds appealing to you, come and join us by becoming a

Senator. Senator applications will be available in the Fremont Campus at EOPS window of Building 1.

If you cannot join us, then at least come out and vote for your future representatives during the ASOC executive elections, who will speak for you the students in the upcoming year.

# Treadway gives emotional final speech to staff

*Continued from Page 1*

Treadway also announced two upcoming World Forums. The Newark Center will host the Global Climate Crisis talk on Thursday, Jan. 31 at noon. California Lt. Gov.

John Garamendi will be the keynote speaker. Wednesday, April 16, the Jackson Theatre will see Malcolm Margolis, author of "The Ohlone Way" in "Ohlone Indians: Past and Present."

In conclusion, Treadway spoke of his childhood, "spent in the other

side of the tracks." Junior college and teachers in particular offered him a way out.

"When I talk with Ohlone students, I see myself in many of their eyes.

"In my first State of the College Address, I talked about the quality

of Ohlone College and especially our diversity and our genuine concern for one another and our students.

I was right about those matters, even more than I first knew.

"I want to thank you one and all for your dedication to the students'

wellbeing.

Thank you for including me these past years into your world - the Ohlone Community College family. Thank you for listening to all of these speeches I have made, for your support and understanding and your friendship."

CAMPUS COMMENT >>> Staff Edition

## Predict the best headline for 2008



**ERIC DORMAN**  
NEWS EDITOR  
"Beachside real estate market booms in Kansas."



**BARRY KEARNS**  
STAFF WRITER  
"Edwards shoots seven; proving political relevance."



**ANNA NEMCHUK**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
"Tila Tequila receives Kennedy Center Honors."



**TOMAS ORTEGA**  
SPORTS EDITOR  
"Ohlone pond spawns radioactive frogs; thousands hospitalized."



**JACQUE ORVIS**  
STAFF WRITER  
"Hot-dog stand falters after nude beach closing."



**BRIAN CHU**  
STAFF WRITER  
"France rumored to seek WMD; U.S. invades."



**TSETEN DOLKAR**  
STAFF WRITER  
"Obama moves into 'White' House."



**ANDREW CAVETTE**  
OPINION EDITOR  
"Vladimir Horowitz iTunes sales overtake American Idol star."