

# Construction forecast: noise, noise, noise, noise

By **TSETEN DOLKAR**  
Staff writer

Some classes in Buildings 6 and 8 have been relocated because of loud steel work on the Student Services Support Building (SSSB). Much of the current work was scheduled to take place during the winter break, but persistent rain delayed the project.

In addition to working overtime on Saturdays, more workers will be added to the current number of about 24 – 30 after the current phase of construction to make up for delays caused by the weather. For safety purposes, the number of workers that may be present on-site during steel erection—the construction and installation of metal decking and planking—is limited.

Jose A. Castro, project engineer of Consolidated CM, the company overseeing the construction, said the “noisy part will take up to end of February to early March.” The construction’s original completion was set for February 2009. Today is day number 255 of 630 days of construction.

Aside from the delays, President Doug Treadway said that the project is on budget. Treadway said the SSSB is being approached the same way as the Newark Center—along with recycled steel for construction, it will also have furniture from recycled materials.

Vice President of Student Development Ron Traven-

ick said he is “making every effort to help” classes that are impacted by the unanticipated delays. The opening of the Newark Center made it possible for some classes in Buildings 6 and 8 to be relocated farther away from the construction site to other buildings at the Fremont Campus.

As for future projects, Treadway said the college is exploring the possibility of building solar panels similar to the ones in the Fremont City Hall parking lot. Due to current budget cuts, and uncertainties in the future budget, funds for such a project would require revenue from the development of the college frontage property, granted the College Board of Trustees comes to a decision regarding the property’s plans. The frontage property is the strip of land along Mission Boulevard, right below Ohlone College.

The construction of several parking lots close to the Smith Center and the gymnasium is also being explored. For that to be possible, Ohlone would have to negotiate with outside investors who will not only foot the construction’s bill but also manage the parking lot on a permit or daily fee basis, just as any other private parking service. From that fee, the college would generate a percentage of the revenues.

For more information and updates on the SSSB construction, go to [www.ohlone.edu/org/bondprojects/project\\_sssb.html](http://www.ohlone.edu/org/bondprojects/project_sssb.html).



Photo by Eric Dorman

**A worker welds beams together for the new Student Services Support Building. Construction will be noisy over the next few months as workers hammer and rivet steel beams.**

## ASOC, Theater Department dispute funding

By **BARRY KEARNS**  
Staff writer

Money requests and accountability provided the fuel for heated debates and a foray into brinkmanship style of politics as the Associated Students of Ohlone College (ASOC) kicked off their first meeting of the semester.

An order of business aroused a long-standing dispute between the ASOC and the dance department. In October of last year, the ASOC denied a money request to the dance department for the sum of \$5,000. Dean of Language and Performing Arts Walt Birkedahl and the Director of Business Services Joanne Schultz appeared before the ASOC to repeat and clarify a request for the money.

Last year, the ASOC granted \$5,000 so a dance group from Shanghai could perform at Ohlone. This was part of an exchange between

Ohlone and China in which Ohlone students would also travel to China and perform. The time spent planning this exchange was approximately four months, and a money request for another \$5,000 was not made until after both trips had been completed.

It was the second money request that represented the source of conflict. Members of the ASOC felt that the assumption that they would grant a second money request—raising the sum to \$10,000—without being asked beforehand was an affront to their authority to approve or decline funding for such activities. While this was the basis of the disagreement between the two parties, explaining how this had come to pass was a matter that took some time.

Schultz, after going over the books for the Theater Department, found that the funds were assumed but not yet delivered, creating a deficit for the department of \$5,000. As

members of the ASOC were asked about their views on the money request it appeared that most were against approving the funds.

In the midst of what appeared to be a deadlock of opinions, Student Board of Trustees Representative Ken Steadman proposed that the ASOC could help the Theater Department raise the funds to remedy its financial troubles. Both sides agreed, and Birkedahl also mentioned that if the ASOC could help the Theater Department sell tickets for some future performances it could put the department back in the black.

The meeting opened with discussion between the members of the ASOC as to whether they wanted to spend an additional \$50,000 to control Room 1200 in the Newark Campus, located next to the Fresh and Natural Cafe. Steadman emphasized the importance of gaining a contract before handing over the cash. He also mentioned an idea of turning the room

into a recreational center for the students that could also be a way to generate revenue.

ASOC Adviser Debbie Trigg raised the question of allowing the bookstore to occupy the room for the first two weeks of every semester. Its presence would also require several days for setup and take-down.

Another issue with the room is the presence of a piano, which ASOC Treasurer Kevin Feliciano defended as an enjoyable asset to the students that occupies relatively little space. The contention of the bookstore’s presence was alleviated by the suggestion that the piano could also be placed in one of the other rooms.

A vote to allocate the funds was pushed to next week’s meeting. After the long discussion and resolution of the Theater Department’s money request, the other three orders of business set for that meeting were bumped to next week’s meeting.

## International students increase diversity

By **JEROME NEPACENA**  
Staff writer

The number of international students attending classes at Ohlone is on the rise for the second year in a row, increasing diversity as well as funds for the college, said Director of International Relations Eddie West. The tally of foreign students at Ohlone is now about 190.

Culturally, the school benefits greatly from the rising presence of international students, said West. “As cliché as it sounds, our students and faculty both benefit from the presence of international students, because they give us different perspectives and different ways of looking at the world.” However, Ohlone also benefits financially from foreign students as tuition prices are more than double that of what a non-international student would have to pay.

Because of the state’s budget woes, the college’s budget will see significant reductions in state funding this year. The higher amount of tuition international students are required to pay contributes needed

dollars to the college, which can go to upgraded facilities and healthy revenues.

The average student at Ohlone, foreign or otherwise, takes about 13 units per semester, but instead of the \$20 per unit American students pay, international students must pay \$203 per unit.

On top of that, international students are required to enroll in 12 units in order to attend because of the F1 Student Visa. “It is great news, because international students can help us learn a lot about other cultures but they also really help with our school’s budget,” said West.

Ultimately, Ohlone is working toward avoiding any budget cuts with the help of international tuition, which has helped the school see a \$500,000 increase in revenue.

And it doesn’t end there. According to West, the number of foreign students attending Ohlone should continue to rise as the years go by. It is expected that by the year 2012, more than 500 overseas students should be making the trip to the

already diverse population of the Bay Area to attend Ohlone.

Because of the many positives possible, colleges today are making more of an effort to reach out to students overseas and expose them to the benefits of an

American education. Ohlone has tried to do this through its sister college in the Taizhou province in China, which is opening up an Ohlone College office on its campus.

West said more information on

the project will be available within the next couple of weeks.

“[Foreign students] help out a lot,” said West, “but most importantly because of the things they can teach us and the diversity they bring to our campus.”

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International Chairman