

Weekend math program gives rise to parking chaos

By **ANDREW CAVETTE**
Opinion editor

Enforcement of the handicapped parking in Lot N was almost non-existent at Ohlone last Sunday during the annual math examination held by the Multi-Process-Model (MPM) math program.

The math exam for elementary school children is held in the first week of March and Ohlone hosted this year's exam in Room 3201.

According to the Ohlone website regarding parking, "disabled parking spaces are enforced 7 days a week and 24 hours a day. No exceptions. Students, staff and visitors may not park, stop, leave vehicle standing (even if occupied), or block access to any handicap stall or wheelchair access."

Many of the parents were confused by the out-of-date parking instructions issued by MPM officials when they arrived to pick up their children at 2:30 p.m. as the exam ended. Red arrows on a handout mailed to parents by MPM clearly indicated that Lot P would be the best parking option for the exam. Many of the parents hunting for spaces that afternoon in Lot M and Lot N looked befuddled

after realizing Lot P was closed for construction.

"No one told us where to park," said Rosie Guillermo. "The handicap spaces were the only ones empty."

Guillermo and her family decided against parking in the reserved spaces and ultimately choose to park farther down the hill in non-handicap parking. Some other parents chose to park in the restricted spaces without a handicap placard.

John Min of Pleasanton was parked in a handicapped space in Lot N without a placard, but said his wife went onto campus to get their son and would only be gone for 10 minutes. Min was observed reading *The Age of Turbulence* by Alan Greenspan while waiting in that same handicap space for more than 20 minutes.

Murray Harris was on campus to use the basketball courts in Building 9. He said the parking situation was terrible and figured that those who had parked in handicap spaces thought to themselves, "I guess we'll take our chances."

A family who arrived in a Toyota minivan parked in the space reserved for the president's office. Another parent decided to park in

the E-plate or government-only space at the top of Lot N nearest the campus. Though the owner of the black Infinity G Sedan could not be determined Sunday, no E plate was visible on the vehicle.

Ohlone police have limited staff on the weekends and were unaware of the situation as it was happening.

After being informed of the parking situation by phone, Miguel Mendoza, the officer on duty, said they would begin issuing tickets. However, on Monday it was confirmed with Campus Police Chief Steve Osawa that no citations had been issued for Sunday. Osawa explained what happened that day:

"Officer Mendoza was in the process of passing on information [about the parking situation] to the next on-coming officer, Officer Mike Silva, and preparing to go off duty," Osawa wrote in an email.

"Officer Silva received a call to open Hyman Hall and responded. After clearing that detail, he drove up to Lot N approximately 45 minutes after being advised by Officer Mendoza of the call and situation."

The officer observed a vehicle parked in the restricted E-plate area



Photo by Andrew Cavette

An unauthorized car parks in a government-only spot during parking chaos on Sunday.

but the vehicle left immediately upon seeing the police vehicle, police said. When Silva arrived, no vehicles were parked in the handicapped spaces, police said.

"Sometimes, Fremont P.D. comes up and the officers will issue citations or they will have the Disabled/Handicap Parking Enforcement officers come out and do enforcement," Osawa wrote in an email.

Unlike the normal \$28 parking fines levied by Ohlone police for

non-handicap spaces, handicap space violations are \$275. Parking permits generate income for the district and so do the parking fines.

In addition to parking nightmares, cigarette smoke wafted around Building 3 as parents waited outside for their children to finish the exam. There was also an obvious increase in the amount of litter in the area. The Fremont campus was cleaned last Tuesday in anticipation of the district's accreditation visit this week.

NUMMI gives us money but pollutes like crazy

By **KYLE STEPHENS**
Staff writer

New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc., (NUMMI), a major employer in Fremont and abroad, "is considering an investment in the Newark campus" according to Foundation Executive Director Dave Smith.

NUMMI has a history of philanthropic deeds in the community, with various donation and sponsorship programs. Such programs include Community Service Projects, wherein NUMMI sponsors volunteer projects

in the communities of its employees, its Team Member Giving Campaign wherein about \$700,000 is given to local charitable organizations and families all over the Bay. NUMMI also has donated "some 75 vehicles to Regional Occupational Programs as well as local government agencies."

Community Service Grants are also given, "To encourage volunteerism and community involvement... More than \$25,000 in grants is awarded annually." A program called Community Stars highlights outstanding community volunteers with donations to a

nonprofit of their choice. Grants are also given to the Fremont Unified School District, with grants for promising teachers and technology grants. Also sponsored are American Cancer Society's annual Daffodil Days, a yearly awareness promotional event. NUMMI also host Fremont's annual Compost Giveaway.

If NUMMI decides to donate to Newark, perhaps they could take some cues from the ultra-green campus: NUMMI made number eight on the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Top Ten list of polluters in the Bay Area in 2006.

According to a press release from NUMMI Community Relations Manager Lance Tomasu, "Since 2004 NUMMI has reduced its Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) chemicals by more than 38 percent and currently operates at less than half of its permitted emission levels. NUMMI strives to do even more.

"NUMMI has had ISO-14001 certification since 1998. This means that we have strict environmental procedures that are audited ... on a regular basis. There are toxic reductions targets built into the ISO program, so we are constantly reducing our impacts."

College and state budgets looking brighter

By **RACHAEL FUNK**
Staff writer

The Board of Trustees Committee on Finance and Facilities met last week to discuss budget reductions and the Golden Handshake program. It has been determined that Ohlone will not be eligible for the program in the 2008-'09

school year.

Without the Golden Handshake, Ohlone would be required to issue layoff notices March 15, but thanks to sufficient budget management, the school can plan without laying anyone off. Even with recent information from the Legislative Analysts Office expecting a larger discrepancy, Ohlone's "rainy day"

reserve of \$1 million will allow the school to avoid layoffs this year.

The Golden Handshake program encourages staff to retire in a certain year so that newer staff who are paid less can take over the others' jobs. This way, the school saves money without needing to lay anyone off.

The 2007-'08 deficit announced

by the Governor in his January Fiscal Crisis message has been settled for the community colleges. The state legislature and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger agreed to return \$31 million—from unused categorical programs and growth allowances—to the state budget. Originally, Schwarzenegger had wanted \$40 million, but his settling

for the smaller amount has worked out well for the college, resulting in no local budget cutbacks.

Ohlone's preparation and conservation of money is also working in the college's favor. While the school is not eligible to provide the Golden Handshake, money has been managed well enough that there is no need for layoffs this year.

CSEA protests over administration contract

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According to Evers, the school administration has not offered a contract alternative, nor do they want to go to arbitration. These disputes may prove to be a major problem in the forming of the new CSEA contract (they are created and signed every three years) that is to be drafted this year.

CSEA members all over campus are wearing blue t-shirts as well as doing informative protests in response to the situation. They have also spoken out during the accreditation open forum that happened on Tuesday at the Newark Campus. "We will protest on our own time; there will be no work stoppage. We will use vacation or leave time to get the word out."

Lyle Engeldinger, the administration mem-

ber that informed the CSEA of the change in contract agreements, said "We disagree with the CSEA. Other than that I have no comment." Evers stated that Engeldinger was relayed the decision from President Doug Treadway (who is currently serving his last year here at Ohlone).

In closing, Evers said "We support students. That is our job. Every time you talk with someone at a window, a classroom worker, someone working in Hyman Hall or in computer tech, you are speaking with a support staff member. We do our jobs because we care about students. We love students. We work at half the salary that could be paid if we worked outside of the education system. All we ask for is respect and for the administration to honor what they have agreed to."

Board discusses probation

By **JACQUE ORVIS**
Staff writer

Counselor Jennifer Harper presented Ohlone's Student Success program on campus as an effective way to get students off of academic probation and back on track to finishing school to the Board of Trustees Wednesday night.

With over 500 students enrolled in the program, Harper's goal is to create workshops online to get even more students involved in academic assistance. According to Harper, students of all ages struggle with probation. Board Student Trustee Ken Steadman brought to the Board's attention that some students struggle with reading, which prevents

academic success. Another concern is that students register for too many classes, only to drop most of them afterwards.

The Board also discussed California's change in regulations that affect the requirements for Associate Degrees. According to regulations, General Majors must be detailed as much as Occupational and Transfer Major curriculums. This would provide students with more goal orientation, rather than taking random classes to meet requirements.

The Board briefly discussed the budget calendar and listened to reports on the Newark Campus' conditions and the development of the Student Services Building.