

'Plaza' development nearing completion

By **CHEN LIN**
Staff writer

Construction at the Plaza Los Olivos development, at the corner of Mission Boulevard and Anza Street, will reach completion near the end of July, according to Dutra Enterprises C.E.O. John Dutra.

Dutra, whose company is behind the development, said the plaza will feature space for both office and retail lease. The development has been under construction since September 2007.

So far, only three businesses have been confirmed to be leasing space at Los Olivos. Among them are Prudential California Realty, Chicago Title and Dutra's own company, which will place its headquarters there.

Dutra refused to discuss other potential customers, but expressed a desire to place a coffee shop and restaurant in Los Olivos.

Dutra Enterprises has also made an effort to develop the frontage property at Ohlone, but the College Board of Trustees has not expressed interest in the offers.

If the property were developed, said Dutra, it could potentially be used to build outside housing for students or a bookstore, and serve as a source of income for Ohlone. Banks and other financial institutions have also shown interest.

Dutra expressed surprise over the Board's failure to develop the college frontage property. "To be quite honest with you, I'm not quite sure about [why the board will not sell] myself," said Dutra.



Photo by Eric Dorman

Plaza Los Olivos, the development near the corner of Mission Boulevard and Anza Street, is scheduled to be completed by the end of July.

Speaker shines light on stem cell research

By **TSETEN DOLKAR**
Staff writer
and **ERIC DORMAN**
News editor

University of California San Francisco's (UCSF) Director of Science Policy Dina Gould Halme spoke on stem cell research at the March 21 Brown Bag Science Seminar.

Halme's presentation, attended by about 50 students, covered the basics of stem cell research, the advances that UCSF is making in the field and the government-imposed restrictions it and other researchers face.

During the talk, Halme also presented a video of a nuclear injection done in mice. She spoke concerning the importance of the passage of Proposition 71 in November 2004. Proposition 71 established the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) to regulate stem cell research and provide funding through grants and loans for such research and research facilities.

It also authorized the issuance of general obligation bonds to finance Institute activities up to \$3 billion subject to an annual limit of \$350 million. UCSF applied to the CIRM for \$40 million to complement the substantial investment made by UCSF for a dedicated research facility for more than 200 researchers.

Halme also spoke about the advent of UCSF's human embryonic stem cell (hESC) lines, 10 of which were made in the absence of animals, and subsequently are more likely to be approved by the Federal Drug Administration.

Halme concluded that stem cell research holds "tremendous promise for understanding and treating diseases." She encouraged interested students, saying that "there is an exciting future for people to become involved in stem cell research."

Stem cells are widely acclaimed by scientists due to their ability to grow into any type of cell in the human body. This polymorphism could give the injured and ter-

minally ill more options, such as allowing paralyzed people to grow new spinal cells and regain the use of their body.

Stem cell research has been opposed by many Americans, including President Bush, who argue that the practice of harvesting stem cells from embryos - the most common source for the cells - is inhumane.

The research might just have received a big boost, however, with a recent announcement by the International Society for Stem Cell Research that the CIRM has discovered a method of growing stem cells from skin cells, instead of working with the controversial embryos.

Director Robert Klein said the stem-cell-derived heart and liver cells should be ready for human testing within 18 months.

The next Brown Bag Seminar will be held April 4 at 11:45 a.m. in Room 3201. Adjunct History Instructor Steve Hanna will speak on Cyber Crime.

Search for president is bearing fruit

By **RYAN RICHMOND**
Staff writer

The interviews of the candidates hoping to fill College President Doug Treadway's position took place Tuesday and Wednesday.

From those interviews, the committee hired to search for a new president will choose three to five candidates. Their names will then become public.

On Monday, April 14 there will be an open forum to present the candidates on the Newark campus. Anyone who wishes to attend may do so. For those unable to make it, there will be a teleconference on the Fremont campus.

On Tuesday, April 15 the interviews for the finalists will be concluded.

April 15 will be completely dedicated to the College Board of Trustees' interviews of the candidates.

The original interviews were based on the character and resume of the candidates. The interviews on April 15 will be a little different.

Treadway was hired as president in 2003. He will retire this June. The Association of Community College Trustees was hired to search for a replacement last fall.

Initially, the search committee gathered 37 applicants for the position, before narrowing the pool down to eight. That eight is being whittled down to five during the current interviews.

Landscapers spill herbicide on Newark Campus

By **ANDREW CAVETTE**
Opinion editor

Two employees of Valley Crest Landscaping were observed rinsing containers thought to hold herbicide into a storm drain at Ohlone's Newark Center on Tuesday, March 25, campus police said.

At approximately 10 a.m. Tuesday, Police Chief Steve Osawa and Officer James Keogh saw the landscapers rinsing out two bottles with a watering hose. The resulting fluid flowed into a roadway connected to a storm drain, campus police said. Osawa and Keogh questioned the men at the site.

The men presented Keogh with two bottles of "Gordons Trimec, Lawn and Weed Killer," the label of which clearly indicates: "When cleaning equipment, do not pour the wash-water on the ground; spray or drain over a large area away from wells and other water sources."

In Keogh's report, Tobin Ross, a supervisor from Valley Crest Landscaping, said that no chemicals were used in the containers being rinsed and his workers had been spraying water from the containers to clear the lines. In the police report, Ross does not explain why a water rinsing or line clearing would be necessary if the containers did not initially

hold chemicals. The *Monitor* placed several calls to the company as well as their safety hotline regarding this issue, but the calls were not returned before deadline.

Keogh advised the men to cease and filed a report before leaving the scene. Later that day, Keogh visited the Valley Crest Landscaping corporation yard and further investigated the red work truck that had been at the Newark Center earlier that morning.

The police report notes that Keogh and one of the men located two bottles of herbicide on the truck, both of which were sealed and unused.

In their statements, the men told Ke-

ogh they often rinsed the containers at the shop in Pleasanton, but they could not say for sure if this was normal procedure for the landscape company, campus police said. The men told Keogh they were not aware they had done anything wrong and assured him it would not happen again.

The police report indicated that further investigation would be required to determine if any chemicals were rinsed into the storm drain.

Storm drains that are connected to the San Francisco Bay waters, including those in Newark and Pleasanton, are clearly labeled.