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Photos by Japneet Kaur and Eric Dorman

Finalists Gari Browning, left, Cecilia Cervantes and Laurence Spraggs outlined their visions for Ohlone at the presidential forums Monday.

Presidential finalists speak out

By **ANDREW LE**
Staff writer

Three candidates seeking the position of Ohlone president spoke to a room filled with faculty members in order to introduce themselves as the best option at the presidential forums on Monday.

The first candidate to speak was Dr. Cecilia Cervantes, president of College of Alameda. Cervantes has been in higher education for more than 30 years and has been a community college administrator for over 25 years.

Diversity, as evidenced by her quote “diversity is at the heart of who I am,” was the primary emphasis of her introduction. She said her current school and Ohlone were similar in some respects due to their diverse populations. As for Ohlone, she plans on supporting our international programs in order “to continue to support the excellence that relates to international education, diversity and the learning college that comprises Ohlone College.”

The second candidate was Dr. Laurence Spraggs, president of Broome College in New York. Spraggs has

worked in community colleges for over 30 years and is quite passionate about the role of community colleges, stating that “community college is the Ellis Island of opportunity.”

A big proponent of “smart classrooms,” Spraggs has plenty of experience regarding reaching students through technology. Under Spraggs, Broome College was one of the first schools to post lectures through iTunes, and also helped develop a “Real World”-type reality show at his campus in order to attract more students.

When asked about his priorities when confronted with a limited budget, Spraggs was firm in placing “the utmost importance” on safety and mental health counselors. When asked what he would cut, if he had no alternatives, Spraggs merely smiled and said, “probably something like the amount of junk (mail) we send out.”

The final candidate was Dr. Gari Browning, currently serving her fifth year as vice president at College of the Desert. Browning started her introduction by saying that she was once a community college student and thanks the

community college system for giving her a “strong foundation.”

Browning’s credentials, besides teaching on “nearly every educational level,” are extensive, particularly in regard to consultation and ESL-related positions.

To illustrate some of the reasons for her championing of the ESL cause, Browning shared a story that dated back to when she was younger, when she had the responsibility of teaching some immigrant students English. The students would regularly disappear from the class, and it was only later that she found out that the school would periodically test them and, if they fell beneath certain guidelines, send them to a school designated as “Educable but Mentally Retarded.” These children were just like everyone else, said Browning, which caused her to be particularly sensitive to the problems facing English as a Second Language students.

After each presentation, the attendees were asked to fill out forms that would be viewed by the Board of Trustees. The Trustees have the final say on who will become the next president of Ohlone.

Student held after threats

By **ANNA NEMCHUK**
Editor-in-chief
and **BARRY KEARNS**
Features editor

An Ohlone student threatened to harm fellow Student Repertory Theatre classmates during a session with his doctor Wednesday, April 9. The doctor reported the student’s intentions to campus police at approximately 1 p.m.

The student was subsequently detained for more than 72 hours and Officer Gweneth Murphy warned the class.

According to a campus police report made by Murphy, she visited Room SC-120 and spoke with the students identified as targets by the detained student, informing them of the threats. She specifically spoke with the classmate the student identified, asking “if he was aware of any reason why [the student] would make those statements. The classmate “said he makes fun of everyone in the class including himself.”

She then met with the entire Student Repertory class inside the Nummi Theatre and informed them that the student “had threatened to bring a gun to class and shoot everyone there.” She “advised them to be aware of their surroundings and that if [the student were to] approach them to leave the area very peacefully and contact Campus police as soon as possible.”

The campus police report described the student “as a male adult, approximately 6’00” in height, weighing approximately 240 lbs.” with short, dark hair, dark eyes and a lisp.

According to the report, the student had spoken with his doctor, “who told her he wanted to take a knife and stab a student in his Student Repertoire class” and “to bring a gun to his Student Repertoire class and shoot everyone in class because he felt no one in the class understood him. [The doctor] said under the Tarasoff Report, she was reporting this incident to Campus Police Services in order for us to warn the potential victims.”

In the Tarasoff v. Regents of the University of California 1976 case, heard by the California Supreme Court, the Court concluded “that the public policy favoring protection of the confidential character of patient-psychotherapist communications must yield to the extent to which disclosure is essential to avert danger to others. The protective privilege ends where the public peril begins.” www.stanford.edu/group/psylawseminar/Tarasoff%20I.htm

When asked to comment, Ohlone Personal Counselor Rosemary O’Neill stated that a mental health care professional would make a judgment call as to the validity of the

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Floor-laying to blame for noisy SSB construction

By **TSETEN DOLKAR**
Staff writer

The Student Services Building (SSB) completion date has been pushed from February to May 2009. The postponement is due to recent developments, including the loss of time in January, when heavy rain temporarily stalled construction.

The crew is currently laying the basic floor layer, which is the cause for the construction’s cacophony. They are also placing the utility lines. The next phase will be flooring. Today marks the 325th day of 655 days of construction.

The crew ran into water lines during a recent excavation of the site, which led to some changes in

design. There will also be additions to power lines.

In trying to follow Ohlone College Newark Campus’s achievement of Platinum Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification, the college is aiming for a Silver LEED certification for the SSB. To be LEED certified, a building site at a school must earn a minimum of 29 out of 79 possible points, and to be Silver LEED certified, one must earn at least 37 points. Those points can be earned by using recycled resources to build, maximizing water and energy efficiency during construction and post-occupancy and through diversion of waste.

Project Engineer Jose A. Castro

of construction managing company Consolidated CM, the firm conducting the SSB construction, said the college and the builders are making a joint effort for environmentally friendly and green building. Castro stated that the SSB “will have 22 to 30 percent recycled matter [in its construction]” in addition to skylights, which would save electricity.

Despite the college’s aim to make the SSB a green Building, however, the current roof-like structure will not support solar panels, said Castro. He did not know what the plan for the structure was.

For updates on the SSB construction, go to www.ohlone.edu/org/bondprojects/project_ssb.html.



Photo by Japneet Kaur

A worker drills behind rebar as part of the SSB construction, which should be finished May 2009.