Announcing new public address system

By **BENJAMIN CHANG**
Staff writer

The Ohlone College Board is currently looking to purchase six Talk-A-Phones, which are similar to the "blue phones" seen on the Newark campus. The specific model is called WEBS-MT/R. The WEBS-MT/R towers are estimated to be around $120,000 for the entire system. Although this may seem expensive, they are definitely worth each dollar, because they can efficiently notify the entire campus at a click of a button and with them anyone can notify the campus police in case of an emergency.

The WEBS-MT/R that will be placed on the Fremont campus will not be the same as the ones on the Newark campus; the new tower has a speaker broadcasting system which can notify the entire campus in cases of an emergency. For example, if there is a threat on campus, the campus police can use the broadcasting system to tell all the students where to go and what to do instantly. Each unit can broadcast individually or announcements can be made across the whole system.

Personnel can unlock the WEBS-MT/R units and use microphones to make on-site announcement while the "blue phones" on the Newark campus can only phone campus police. They are around seven feet tall and will either be yellow or blue with an ultra-bright LED fixture mounted on top. The lights on the WEBS-MT/R can strobe when an emergency is called or someone activates it. The campus police have already tested the WEBS-MT/R on the Fremont campus and with little less than half volume, the speakers can be heard clearly from Mission Boulevard. There are also separate volume controls for each speaker. The speakers also have amplifiers and speakers mounted inside the tower so the speakers have 360 degree coverage.

The six WEBS-MT/R will be located in Lot C close to the campus police building, Lot H by the Child Development Center building, in the Quad area between Buildings 5 and 6, Lot W at the rear of the Smith Center, in Lot N where it will replace the pay phone, and in the Palm Bosque near Building 9. With this setup there is nowhere on campus where the speakers are not heard. With the WEBS-MT/R students will be able to conveniently contact the campus police instantly.

Chief of Campus Police Steve Osawa said in an email, "There have always been plans to install emergency call phones on the Fremont campus. No incident occurred to initiate this program nor any demand by students or staff or faculty. The Ohlone Community College District has always been concerned for the safety of students, staff, and faculty as well as visitors to the college campuses."

Here is an excerpt from a technical document on the Talk-a-Phone website, illustrating the WEBS-MT/R units. The tall pylons are at the forefront of campus security, safety, and technology.

Disaster container, survival obtainer, no-brainer

By **SUCHI GUPTA**
Staff writer

Are ready we in case of a major disaster? According to Chief of Campus Police Services Steve Osawa, the answer is "Yes."

"We are reasonably prepared for emergency considering the limited resources and personnel we have," said Osawa.

In addition to hosting an average of 11,000 students per semester, Ohlone is a designed evacuation point—a location parts of the Tri-City area could flee to in case of an emergency.

According to Osawa, in an emergency situation, the first priority is to provide first aid and rescue people and then comes the need of giving them shelter and food.

The college has prepared in part by filling a full-sized shipping container with emergency supplies, including packages of bottled water, blankets, shovels, some other tools and limited amount of food.

In addition to these supplies, Ohlone has a set of emergency guidelines, which include having a proper evacuation plan, training the personnel to react accordingly in the face of emergency, coordinating with the state and local bodies for support and to have a sufficient amount of supplies and equipment.

Located in the heart of earthquake country, Ohlone does well to prepare for disaster. Ohlone is in close proximity to the Hayward Fault, which experiences a large earthquake roughly every 140 years.

The Berkeley Seismological Laboratory identifies the Hayward Fault as "... a prime candidate in Northern California for a magnitude 7 earthquake within the next 30 years (http://seismo.berkeley.edu/hayward/hf_overview.html)."

For more information, consult the Ohlone Police Department Emergency Proceedures page at http://www.ohlone.edu/org/security/emergency.html.

Container holds emergency gear.

Photo by Ankita Chabbra

Students attend Club Days at the Palm Bosque Wednesday.

Join up at Ohlone

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The Ohlone Peer Mentors, who are always willing to help and guide students in need, were also present.

"We have student counselors who are here to listen to our problems and make you feel comfortable with school and our professors", said Senior Peer Mentor Allison Bly.

For more information about clubs, check out the ASOC website, www.icc.asoc.com.

Clubs featured at Clubs Day include the following:

- Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS)
- Asian pacific American Student Association
- American Sign Language Club
- Biology Club
- Chinese Student Association
- Crossroads
- Game Developers Club
- Gay Straight Alliance
- Health Care Coalition
- International Club
- L.I.F.E.
- Math Leaguer
- M.E.Ch.A.
- Muslim Student Association
- Ohlone College Democrats
- Ohlone College Republicans
- Peer Mentors
- Photography Club
- Polynesian Club
- Psychology Club
- Respiatory Therapy
- Speech Club
- Table Tennis Club

Free, within reason

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from Sept. 18 seemed to deal with the idea of free speech, not only in regard to Ohlone, but the country in general.

My thoughts are this: Ohlone has shown itself to be a highly diversified environment with many different beliefs and cultures coming together. If the idea of free speech was to be abused as some had brought out; an individual freely using racist epithets, or sexist remarks, that wouldn't look good on the person or the school.

True, we do have free speech, but there also has to be common sense exercised.

It's not a matter of political correctness; it's a matter of responsibility. Moreover, I think it comes with maturity, and "living life" in order to see there are actual (and reasonable) limits to free speech.

Joel Kirk

Corrections

Zuhal Bahaduri, contrary to last week's Monitor, is not associated with ASOC. The Monitor appologizes for the error.

Sour notes for orchestra

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the marketing department, and accounting. Had the deal passed, Walt Birkedahl would have taken over as the symphony manager on top of being the Dean of Ohlone's Language & Performing Arts department.

Rose told the *Monitor*, that from what she could gather in a phone call from the school, she was told the deal "would not be in the best interest of the students." She was sympathetic, acknowledging that Ohlone has a number of things to consider. Ohlone is running the Fremont Symphony Orchestra box office from the Smith Center and the marketing department designed the marketing brochure. The last half of the brochure was paid for by the Symphony, totaling to "about $1,500." The brochure was printed and run before July 1.

Although "things fell through the cracks" and the entire thing had "an enormous effect," the symphony is in very good shape. Rose mentioned that part of the effect was the need "to change the whole budget because the budget was based on Ohlone taking over." Rose has been volunteering for the Fremont Symphony Orchestra since 1974 and sat in as manager on other times when other managers have left. Although it has been time consuming and hard to get everything done, the symphony continues to thrive.

All Ohlone students are invited to attend a Fremont Symphony Orchestra Pops Concert, conducted by David Sloss on Saturday, Sept. 27 at 8 p.m. with songs from Porgy and Bess; Songs from the 1920s and 1930s. Some other upcoming events are Carlos Reyes and His Ensemble in concert. Reyes and His Ensemble will be performing in the Smith Center on Sunday, Oct. 5 at 3 p.m. Tickets are on sale in the Smith Center box office for $5 for full time students with I.D. and $15 for adults.

For more information on the Smith Center and the Fremont Symphony schedule, consult http://www.ohlone.edu/org/smithcenter/ and http://www.fremontsymphony.org/ respectively.