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# OHLONE COLLEGE MONITOR

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## When arachnids attack



Photo by Kyle Stephens

**Here a local Ohlone resident, a tarantula, scales the walls of Building 2. Tarantulas are a common sight around campus during the start of the rainy season. Tarantula bites are non-lethal, and the only way to develop an allergy to the bite itself is to be bitten multiple times. Keeping your distance, as most people would do, makes this highly unlikely. Ohlone Health Center Director and Nurse Practitioner Sally Bratton said that spider bites are not unlike bee stings, with local reactions that can be treated with antihistamines. Virtually all spiders (98-99 percent) are non-lethal.**

## Veterans: more than just a day

By ANNA BIARITZ ROLDAN  
Staff writer

Veterans Day may have come and gone, but for many Ohlone vets, the remembrance never ends.

"If I wasn't in the military, I'd be a lot closer to graduation, but I'm still making my way there, with a nice bit of help from the GI Bill," said former student Daniel Yuan, who just returned home from his second Iraq deployment. He added that he has a collection of unique experiences and unique friends from the military and that one way is to think of the military is as the world's biggest fraternity - albeit with guns and uniform haircuts.

Yuan said he wanted to join the military from the time he was 17 years old. He joined the Marines the next year, and took his first tour in Iraq as a Radio Operator in 2006.

Another veteran on campus, History Instructor Darren Bardell, joined the Navy in 1986 and served for seven years. He was a reserve during the Cold War and Gulf War and left right after the latter conflict. Bardell, who graduated from a military school, followed in the

footsteps of his father, also a military man. Bardell said the benefits of the GI Bill played a major role in his decision to enlist.

Bardell served as part of the deck division, in charge of anchoring the ship and maintaining the ship's exterior.

Bardell said his time in the Navy left him with a sense of how large of an economy the military is, and how massive it has become. He said the military lifestyle matured him as a person. "It changes you in good ways, makes you emotionally self sufficient, reliant and independent financially and emotionally," said Bardell.

Bardell said that to him, Veterans Day is a day to honor veterans and the families who supported them.

An older veteran, Mail Room Clerk Hal Griffin, said Veterans Day conjures memories of another conflict: Vietnam. Griffin, who also belonged to a military family, served in the military for 10 years. He fought in the Vietnam War from 1965-'66 for the first battalion, first marine regiment as a communication officer. He encourages all those considering joining to do so.

## Board: new blood

By ANKITA CHHABRA  
Staff writer

The Board of Trustees welcomed its new members and bid farewell to the outgoing ones at its meeting Wednesday.

The Board will have a second hearing on K-12 Admissions and Enrollment next meeting and will revise and talk about the proposal on the limits of admittance of K-12 students.

English as a Second Language Instructor Vicki Curtis gave the board her proposal for a new program for English Language International students. This program will enable these students to be successful at college level classes and help them excel in those courses. She introduced programs such as Voice Threads, which allows teachers to make voice records.

For 2008-'09 Ohlone could face up to a 7 percent budget cut. However, this would use up all of their reserves. Depending on the severity of 2009-'10 budget cuts, program cuts and continuing the hiring freeze will be considered.

The Student Service Building is progressing well, and looks to receive a silver or even gold LEED environmental certification.

## State, colleges face tough financial times ahead

By REBECCA SOLTAU  
Staff writer

Leaders of community colleges in California report that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposal of mid-term budget cuts could possibly be devastating for school systems.

Gov. Schwarzenegger said Thursday that he wanted to trim this year's community college budgets by more than \$330 million as part of

a widespread cut into state agencies. The University of California system also faces a dramatic cut of nearly \$65.5 million, and the California State system could be cut by \$66.3 million as well.

Ohlone has sufficient reserves to withstand up to a 7 percent budget cut, according to the Board of Trustees.

Administrators of California's 110 two-year schools, which

collectively register almost 2.7 million students per year, say the cuts would force the customary open-enrollment colleges to turn away students at the worst possible time. Attendance is up more than 10 percent statewide, reflecting the usual trend of booming enrollment during tough economic times.

Schwarzenegger noted that his plan would give colleges the elasticity to administer the cutbacks

themselves. Colleges could trim "physical-plant services, telecommunications, economic development and remedial courses," said Schwarzenegger spokesman H.D. Palmer.

"We would not presume to determine how they would make that reduction," Palmer said. "We hope that they will do their best to be creative."

Leaders of the Cal State and

UC organizations said they could be forced to resort to larger class sizes, fewer courses and reduced library hours.

"The CSU prepares the majority of California's work force," Cal State Chancellor Charles Reed said in a written statement, "and these budget cuts will have a direct impact on the state's economy if we are unable to provide graduates for California's key industries."