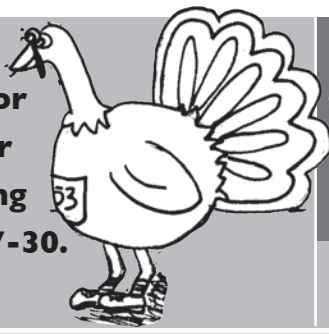


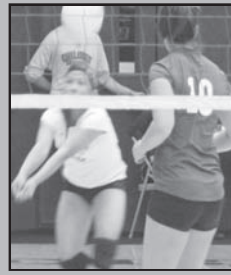
No classes or
Monitor for
Thanksgiving
break: Nov. 27-30.



Special student
enrollment
under fire.

— Page 3

SPORTS



Unhappy
ending for
volleyball.

— Page 8

OPINION

Don't
discount the
misfits.

— Page 2

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NASA scientist expounds on 'last frontier'

By JAPNEET KAUR
Staff writer

NASA's noble goal: to "put footprints next to the tire prints on Mars."

At Ohlone's NASA Science Seminar last night, Dr. Anupa Bajwa of the Ames Research Center related to a large audience NASA's continuing efforts to send men and women to explore the "last frontier": space. Bajwa never neglected to emphasize traveling to Mars as much as traveling to the moon. The goal, she said, is "to put people on Mars. We have the rover there, but it's a completely different thing to actually have people up there. We want to find a way to live off the land, to harvest the land."

Bajwa's presentation focused on the development of Project Constellation. There are three components to the project — Orion, Ares I, and Ares V. Orion is intended to succeed the Space Shuttle, which is retiring in 2010, as a spacecraft designed for human spaceflight missions. Ares I (previously known as the Crew Launch Vehicle or CLV) is meant to launch Orion, and Ares V is complementary to Ares I as the cargo launch vehicle.

Project Constellation falls under NASA's larger plan for space exploration, which includes completing the International Space Station, safely flying the Space Shuttle until 2010, developing and flying the Orion crew exploration vehicle no later than 2015, and returning to the moon no later than 2020.

Continued on Page 6



Photo by Japneet Kaur

NASA Computer Engineer Anupa Bajwa described NASA's continuing efforts to send astronauts to Mars at Wednesday's NASA Science Night.

Students take part in gay marriage ban protests

By FARNOOSH VAHEDI
Staff writer

Ever since its passage Nov. 4, California's constitutional ban on gay marriage has been protested at rallies across the state. Last Sunday, several Ohlone students joined the ranks of protesters, notably several members of Ohlone's Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) and Associated Students of Ohlone College (ASOC).

The San Francisco rally con-

sisted of some 10,000 people from all walks of life. There were gay couples, straight couples, families, senior citizens and even some religious leaders protesting the passage of Proposition 8.

The protest was organized by the "Join the Impact" group and was scheduled to last from 10:30 a.m. to noon. However, the protesters formed an impromptu march afterward and extended the rally until 4 p.m.

The rally started at city hall and snaked all through the city, circling back to city hall.

When asked what it was like to be in this massive rally, students Grace Ye and Louise Macabitas said "it was remarkable, it was nice to see such a diverse group fighting for the civil rights of our time."

The rally went through all of San Francisco and remained peaceful throughout—the opposition exchanged no harsh words or insults,

and there seemed to be a mutual respect among the two sides. Though they disagreed, they still respected each other, said the students.

It was not uncommon during the march to get honks of approval from passing cars or shouts of support from passing San Franciscans.

When asked about the passage of Prop 8, Ye and Macabitas said they were shocked and incredulous when it passed.

Prop. 8 amended the Califor-

nia constitution to state that only marriage "between a man and a woman is valid and recognized in California," but it did not affect the way the state views gay civil unions. Ye and Macabitas said that the fact that it does not affect civil unions is beside the point; they said that first of all, a civil union does not constitute marriage, and more importantly, that it is discriminatory to not allow every American the right to marry.

ASOC discusses budget crunch's college impact

By ANNA BIARITZ ROLDAN
Staff writer

The Associated Students of Ohlone College (ASOC) discussed the California Legislative Analyst's Office support for increasing tuition fees for UCs, USCs and community colleges at its meeting Tuesday.

The California Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) is a "non-partisan fiscal and policy analysis for the California Legislature," according to their website www.lao.ca.gov/.

ASOC president Jackie McCulley updated the rest of the ASOC executives and senators on their campaign that started last week to send letters to state Assemblyman Alberto Torrico.

McCulley mentioned how this strategy has been used before and has been effective in previous years.

"We may not realize it now but wait until you feel the effects and your tuition fees go up," McCulley said as she explained the negative effects that an increase in tuition fees would impose on students.

McCulley further spoke of the "domino effect" that will arise from increases in enrollment fees — students otherwise bound for UCs and CSUs will go to community colleges instead. Meanwhile, rates at community colleges will be raised as well, but they will remain significantly less than UC or CSU tuition. The unexpectedly larger number of students puts excess strain on community college programs, an exacerbation of woes previously caused by the increased tuition fees.

ASOC adviser and Director of Campus Activities & EOPS Debbie Trigg added some more input

on the letter writing protest matter, bringing up how students made a difference in 2003 by marching in protest of proposed rate hikes then, which would have had the same domino effect impact (an increase in enrollment having a disproportional net benefit). Trigg mentioned how this helped many staff members from departments that are often hit first by budget cuts, like the EOPS and CARE, keep their jobs. She emphasized on the importance of student involvement. According to McCulley, the letter campaign has a good chance of succeeding but the ASOC must see to it that they get as many students as possible to sign letters to Torrico.

Mark Robbins, director of Purchasing, Contracts, and Auxiliary Services presented issues concerning the school cafeteria.

Continued on Page 3



Photo by Kyle Stephens

At least 400 people this year, including staff and students, attended the ASOC's Ohlone Thanksgiving Feast Wednesday. ASOC Adviser Debbie Trigg cited the better variety of food as an upgrade for this year over previous ones.