

Newark greener

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Watanabe plans for the Newark Center land to be rid of weeds and full of life, more like the Tule Ponds at Tyson Lagoon. "My hope is that in 20 years the area will be lush and full of native species (like Tyson Lagoon) and the students will be able to look at the area with pride knowing they planted the first few tules that started it all," said Watanabe.

Tules are a grass-like sedge native to North American marshes, like the ones found in areas surrounding the Bay. In fact, biology students found some tules growing toward the back of the Newark Campus as they traversed the area planting new ones, which were transplanted to the bioswale nearby. In total, they planted 28 plants. "[The tules] be dormant over winter but hopefully begin to grow in the spring," said Watanabe.

However, the reputation of a natural, native setting for the New-

ark Campus is not the only purpose of the tules - they are serving an instructional one, as well. "This is just one way we are trying to give students in the environmental programs at Ohlone hands-on learning," said Watanabe.

"The students dug up the plants, measured, labeled, transported, and planted them. They gained experience with restoration, science, outdoor education, and field experience."

The current site for the Newark Campus has significantly different environs than the original proposed location. The original preferred site for the Newark campus was land from Cargill Salt Co., until the College Board of Trustees switched preference to Sun Microsystems' 81.3 acres on Cherry Street. The decision was based on a number of issues surrounding the Cargill site, concerning contamination and access, as well being in a flood plain, requiring that buildings be raised 10 feet above the ground level.



Photo courtesy of Jeff Watanabe

Biology students cultivate plants in the land by the Newark Campus.

Christmas songs that make angels cry

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1. "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"

An American tale. Ostracism for abnormality, only to be met with acclaim for its eventual application. The song speaks not to Rudolph's reaction, but I'd be pissed. Where was Santa the whole time? And how the hell can a reindeer, even if albeit a flying one, have a glowing nose (sufficient to illuminate through dense fog)? Tell me I read into things too much, and I'll tell you I hear this ditty played often enough that I don't even need to think about it - the madness just presents itself.

2. "Little Drummer Boy"

I've tweaked some drum loops in my day as an amateur musician, and I've never gotten "pa rum pa pum pum pum." The ad nauseum repetition gets to me too.

3. "Anything" by Mannheim Steamroller

An artifact. One of the original complaints leveled against synthesizers was that they were taking over the role of traditional instruments, cheapening them somehow. These days, a \$50 Casio can produce more realistic instruments right out of the box than a Moog or Korg etc. could back in the day, and with the advance of sampling technology a more expressive keyboard can emulate with nigh perfect accuracy any number of instruments - to me, this means a synth ought go the direction of sounds altogether new. As such, Steamroller's perky pseudo-brass and horn synthesis has come to be the cheap imitation originally detested. Um.

4. "Baby It's Cold Outside"

The player's Christmas song. There a little something extra in

that there eggnog? A sly, and not in a rascally way, counterpart to "Let It Snow."

5. "Do You Hear What I Hear"

Yes I hear it, many times over in the song. Like Drummer Boy, the repetition gets to me.

6. "Do They Know It's Christmastime?"

Let's presume "Well tonight thank God it's them instead of you" was said in irony, though more to the point, "Do they know it's Christmastime at all?" Why should they? The whole Band-Aid concept, formed to "raise awareness" (i.e.: maybe make you feel bad enough to maybe do something) has never sat well with me. Paying to enjoy yourself to help those experiencing anything but that doesn't seem in step with the Christmas spirit.

7. "Kidnap the Sandy Claws," from "The Nightmare Before Christmas"

By no means a traditional Christmas song, in by no means a traditional movie, "Kidnap the Sandy Claws" (yes, that's the official name) is too crass for my taste, and a children's movie moreover. "Kidnap the Sandy Claws/Throw him in a box/Bury him for ninety years/Then see if he talks" - as sung by characters who later turn out to be not so evil, as opposed to the main antagonist Oogie Boogie the boogie man, the words seem out of character in their sadistic glee. I'm otherwise a fan of the other tracks in the film; don't get me wrong - but this song just doesn't cut it.

8. "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa"

I don't even know what to make of this strange little song.

9. "Christmas at Ground Zero"

I make a bold move here, bad talking Weird Al when both my best friends are fans of "Weird" Al Yankovic, but "Kidnap," is too crass, and without merit. "What a crazy fluke/we're gonna get nuked/On this jolly holiday." Pray tell why Mr. Yankovic?

10. "Wonderful Christmastime"

Oh Paul, Sir Paul McCartney, I am a fan I assure you, just not of this slapdash constricted lump of coal. A synth with a floppy dose of delay chimes along, not entirely in sync, with lines such as "The choir of children sing their song/They practiced all year long/Ding dong, ding dong/Ding dong, ding dong/Ding dong, ding dong." The other lyrics aren't much different. Ding dong, ding dong, so wrong.

Board chooses new Chair

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what makes this college work is administration, faculty and labor workers."

After swearing in the new members, the Board moved on to nominate the next Board Chair, Vice President and Secretary. Though the Board Chair has always been decided on a rotating basis, Board Member Rich Watters commented that the policy indicates that the Board nominates and elects the new chair; the position is not decided by rotation.

As a result, it was decided that Member Bill McMillin would fill the position of Board Chair next. For Vice President, McMillin nominated Member John Weed.

Next, during the public comment section, Political Science Professor Alan Kirshner asked the Board to justify their recent decision to give themselves a 5 percent pay raise.

"New Board members spoke of budget crisis and economic crisis in state and in the nation and some of the Board members may well be aware there is a large amount of concern because of the 5 percent raise members gave themselves at the last meeting," said

Kirshner, pointing out that the decision's impact on the Board members themselves is minimal—their current salary is around \$200 a month—but the move causes significant damage to the Board's image.

"I recognize the fact that members are underpaid, [but] the issue is imaging; we don't understand why you did it at this point. Reality is we have two new members and they were willing to run under that regular stipend." He ended his comment asking the Board to revisit that issue.

Next in public comments came a written resolution from the Dutras. This resolution was in response to statements and articles during the campaign trail. The resolution, written on August 25, 2008, wanted for it to be stated for the record that the Dutra Enterprises, "has no interest in participating in development of the Ohlone College Frontage Property."

Vice President, Student Development Ron Travenick gave a second report of the K-12 Admissions and Enrollment proposal. Board Member Garrett Yee said that the Board is undergoing the process of looking over Board policies

for the next several months.

Don Eichelberger, Measure A Bond Program Manager, stated the total bond budget is nearly \$163 million and that as of today, they have committed—issued contracts for—under \$154 million of that. That leaves a remaining \$9 million, with a 95 percent committed bond budget. A few of the projects on the list of the uncommitted budget included Erosion Control costing \$107,312, Push to Talk phones at \$120,000 and Fremont Main Campus Electric nearing \$116,337.

Following that, College President Gari Browning provided an update on the college's accreditation report, stating they had received just yesterday a written draft of report and with that report they are given five days to review it for corrections, error, and facts. The exit report for the first submitted report in October was a positive one.

The Board meeting ended with Chairman Yee wishing McMillin the best as he rotates in next month and thanked Browning for her support these past months. Nardililo acknowledged Yee's work as Board President and said, "he was always accessible, and has done a tremendous job as Board Chair."

Water seepage; fire access

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extraction wells will be near the bus stops at the top of the campus and one will be above Building 5.

An injection site, where water-diverting pipes will be routed underground, will be across campus at the level of the softball field. The site will be between parking lots C and D.

In addition to these renovations, the fountain between Building 1 and the Quad will be removed so all the concrete can be torn out.

The underground water seepage has showed itself in other campus damage, as well. The stairs from the Quad to the pond, for example, are sinking and tilting slightly because of the water damage, said Lofton.

The stairs that will be repaired are by the fountain, leading to Building 1.

The stairs are two layers: a structure slab and a top slab. From one stair, across to the other stairs, the topping slab will come out and be replaced with a waterproofing membrane, and then the slab will be reinstalled.

Lofton said of the work, "this will be a good project for the campus. It desperately needs repairs. I look forward to getting it done."