

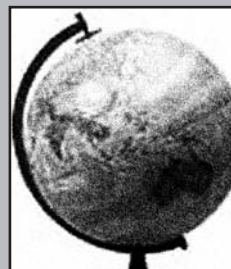


**Men shocked at home.**

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# OHLONE COLLEGE MONITOR

Vol. XXXVII No. 1

Fremont, California

January 26, 2009

## SSB nears completion



Photo courtesy of Shelby Foster

**Construction on the Student Services Building, which has been going on since May 2007, is scheduled to be completed June 10. It will be home to a number of programs and services, including Admissions and Records, Counseling, Financial Aid and the Student Health Center. Above, Vice President of Instruction Jim Wright, left; Vice President of Student Development Ron Travenick; Associate Vice President at the Newark Center Leta Stagnaro and President Gari Browning tour the building.**

## Budget ‘gloomy,’ but money exists

By NAZIA MASTAN  
Staff writer

Budget cuts will put a dent in school funding but President Gari Browning retained a positive outlook for the coming year at the State of the College address Friday.

Although Ohlone will be witnessing a mid-year cut in the 0.68 percent Cost of Living Allowance given to faculty which will all compile into \$39.8 million saved by the state, Browning told community members and staff that the fiscal crunch has gone from “very bleak to [only] gloomy.” This is due partly to the fact that California Community Colleges are a major contributor to the betterment of economic health

of the state, according to Browning and will be attaining a \$185.2 million increase aimed at promoting a 3 percent enrollment growth.

Browning promoted improved planning throughout the college to provide a “single coherent plan for each area of the college.” More strategic planning should be allocated to faculty related issues, IT support and programs that incorporate culturally diverse faculty as well as students. To aid in the refining of these goals and how to go about achieving them, Brown mentioned the new Environmental Scan, which will be a key tool in presenting factual information and data to make better educated and “collegial” decisions.

## Trustee McMillin battling leukemia

By ANDREW CAVETTE  
Correspondent

Board Trustee Bill McMillin was diagnosed with a severe form of acute lymphoblastic leukemia over the winter break. Bone marrow tests confirmed the fast-growing cancer in December and McMillin, 66, has been receiving chemotherapy from Stanford Hospital since then.

“I have a strong will to live (and) to be able to play with my wonderful grandkids as they grow up,” said McMillin.

While in the hospital, McMillin also suffered a mild heart attack, but recovered. McMillin, who was released from the hospital on Jan. 4, attended the Jan. 14 Board meeting,

but allowed Vice Chair John Weed to conduct the meeting, as to not put undo stress on himself.

Before he learned the news regarding his health, McMillin was elected to Ohlone Board Chair.

“I am looking forward to continuing the work that Garrett Yee has started to help take Ohlone forward and resolve the accreditation issues in a positive way,” he said in December.

Anytime he should need to be absent from the board meetings, current Vice Chair John Weed will act as Board Chair. The Ohlone Board follows a rotation for the Chair position based on trustee seat numbers. According to this

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## Jan. 20, 2009: Witnessing history

By NICOLE JOHNSON  
Features editor

It was the day that many people thought they’d never live to see. It was the day that brought many people to tears. It was the day that brought hope and inspiration to millions.

It was the day history was made. On January 20, 2009, Barack Obama became the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States and first African-American President.

I was lucky enough to be a part of the large crowd in Washington, D.C. that day to watch Obama being sworn in. This was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Obama appeared proud and poised, as he had a look of complete satisfaction on his face. I could feel by the roar of the crowd that they were ecstatic with him becoming our new president.

I obtained my “silver ticket” - my entry pass to the inauguration - through Congressman Pete Stark’s office. There were lines for each congressman or senator’s office to pick up tickets. The lines to pick up the tickets were unbelievably long. I was there, and I still couldn’t believe it.

The inauguration ceremony itself lasted only 18 minutes. Afterward, President Obama gave his acceptance speech as people sat in trees and climbed porta-potties to get pictures and listen in awe.

On my way back to the hotel, riding the ridiculously overcrowded metro, I heard a fellow passenger remark, “[The television audience] may be able to see what I didn’t see, but they will never be able to feel what I felt.”

I might not have been able to catch everything that happened that day. However, I can say that “I was there,” standing in the freezing cold, watching the most historic inauguration of our time. I can say, “I was there. I was a part of the 318,000 plus people that felt their hearts race hearing President Obama speak as though he were right in front of you, talking directly to you.”

We will never have another first African-American President. I was, and I still am glad to have been able to witness, and to even know that this day has come. January 20, 2009 is the day that will never be forgotten, because we won’t let it. Because we made it happen. Yes we did.



Photo by Nicole Johnson

**The crowd waits for the swearing-in.**