

# Smith to go to Washington

By NOAH LEVIN  
Opinion editor

With 2009 being the inaugural year for sweeping new changes in our government and our economy, Newark Mayor Dave Smith seeks to grab a piece of that tasty change pie.

The change comes in the form of President Obama's much-talked-about stimulus package. The piece that Smith hopes to acquire is intended for the city Smith has been elected for over 30 years to lead, Newark. It is part of a select group of 24 "big city" mayors, to which Smith was appointed, will lobby the new administration, in hopes of gaining much needed funds for individual cities to utilize as they see fit. The path taken in the past was to give bulk funds to states, and have states distribute funds as necessary.

Smith, whose primary occupation is that of Executive Director of the Ohlone Foundation, visited Washington D.C. on Inauguration Day, where he met with the United States Conference of Mayors (USCM). The non-partisan organization is comprised of mayors representing cities whose populations are 30,000 or more, and the group is officially comprised of 1,200 cities. It was from this group that Ohlone's own Smith was chosen by the USCM to be a part of the Main Street Economy Recovery Plan Working Group. Smith describes the USCM as being "a balance of politics, gender, ethnicities... That way everybody's voice is heard."

The 24-strong group of mayors has only had one meeting to date, which Smith was forced to be absent from due to scheduling conflicts. However, Smith was not an exception, as he explained that the group's work was not much slowed, since "the group functions through conference calls."

The group's primary goal will be to solicit the White House

for a share of the forthcoming funds from the new stimulus package. The idea is that the knowledgeable and seasoned mayors will use the money gained to fund infrastructure projects in their respective cities. "These are all people who are easily accessible, accountable and have good track records," said Smith of the members of the USCM. Smith also said that the funds would be used for public service projects, such as informing local populations about weatherizing their homes. "These projects are 'green' without the high expense or investment required for solar panels, but also without the same long term benefits," said Smith, who noted that these same projects were small yet efficient ways of saving energy.

Were the money given over to the mayors, Smith would use it to put people to work quickly with highway funding and repair projects. Smith said Newark has felt the crunch of the economic crisis; due largely to Newark's reliance for funds in high sales taxes on items like cars. Smith pointed out that the group would do its best to include their electorates. "We're thinking about going through the citizens," said Smith, "to vote about bailout measures that would be put on the ballot."

Though the mayors of the USCM have "Main Street" in their thoughts, Ohlone probably won't see much of the money that would be going to the mayors. Smith assured, however, that "stimulus money would likely be focused in the environmental arena, with money coming from the state." This would be in fact a boon for Ohlone, with the new Newark campus standing as a testament to the college's dedication to "green" technologies. Whether or not money from the new stimulus package reaches Ohlone remains to be seen, but it certainly will not hurt to have Smith in the school's corner.

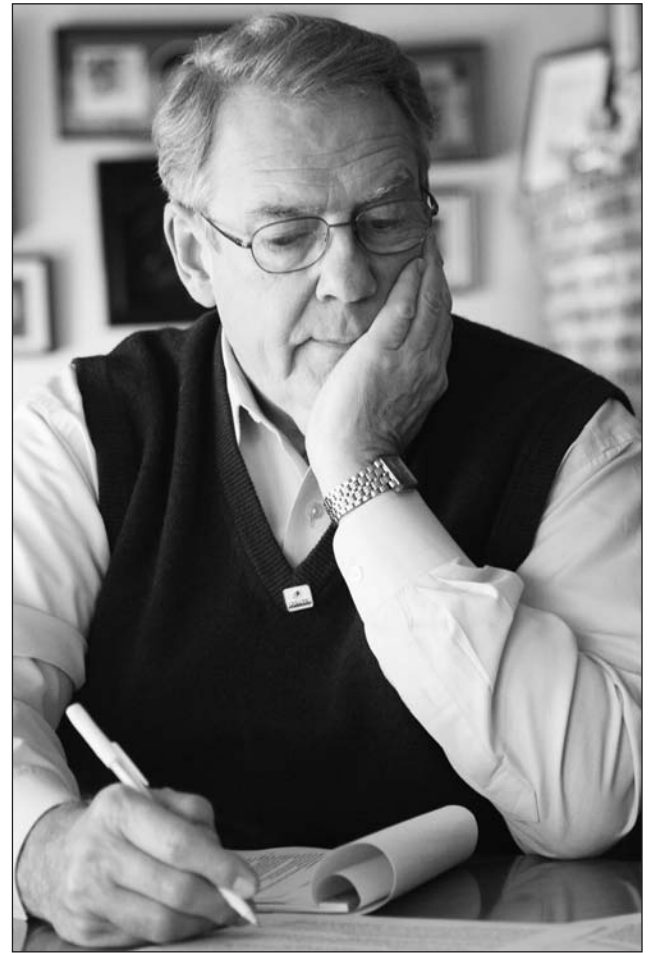


Photo by Jorge Gomez

**Newark Mayor Dave Smith has been appointed to a small group of mayors who will lobby Obama for funds.**

## College shelves construction project; eyes another

By ZUNERA SYED  
Staff writer

The state budget shortfall has put a halt to some of last year's construction plans, but additional renovation projects could be in the college's future, said Buildings and Grounds Director Lucky Lofton.

One of the most-discussed construction projects last semester, the plan to curb water damage under campus, was a casualty of the state budget crisis. Though the state allo-

cated \$9.6 million toward the project last year, the lack of state cash on hand has caused the construction plans to be but on hold.

Ninety percent of the plans for the project are finished, said Lofton. When the budget plan is figured out, they will finalize the project plan. Afterward they will start the construction phase.

While the money for the water damage project is scarce, another planned construction project could soon receive the funding green light.

Because many of the buildings on campus have aging stucco, Lofton has proposed renovating the exteriors of several buildings on upper campus, as well as renovations to the plumbing, elevators and electrical systems. The project, which is projected to cost around \$30 million, was originally proposed as only a replacement to the stucco. The proposal was accepted by the Chancellor, but rejected by the Department of Finance because it wasn't considered a capital

project. Ohlone decided to modify the request by adding the interior upgrades, thereby becoming more in keeping with the Department of Finance's definition of a capital project.

Construction on the new Student Services Building, funded by a \$150 million bond, remains unaffected by the budget crisis. Approximately \$26 million has gone toward the construction of the building so far, which is scheduled to be completed June 10.

Another project the college is working on is getting the cooling system fixed in the Smith Center. Lofton is concerned that the cooling system could break down soon. In addition, the science labs need to be upgraded, and the sidewalks need attention.

In order to fund many of these smaller projects, Lofton will likely obtain scheduled maintenance funding, which is for small maintenance projects, typically worth about \$400,000 or less.

## SSB remains unaffected by recycling requirement

By ANDREW CAVETTE  
Correspondent

A new city ordinance in Fremont regarding recycling does not affect construction on Ohlone's new Student Services Building, according to Lori Marra, Environmental Specialist with the City of Fremont's Environmental Services Division.

As of Jan. 1, the city of Fremont is requiring all construction projects over \$300,000 to reuse or recycle 100 percent of the asphalt and concrete they generate. The city will also require the recycling of 50 percent of all other debris from a project.

"The ordinance will apply to projects that begin after Jan. 1,

2009... If they already have a building permit issued before [that date], they are ok," said Marra.

While Ohlone will not have to follow the new ordinance in the construction of the Student Services Building (SSB), Vice President of Business Services Mike Calegari explained that the district is already recycling a lot of the project's con-

struction debris.

"Our Student Services Building project is LEED certified and quite a bit of recycling of construction materials has already occurred to get us to the certification," said Calegari.

The SSB project may already comply with the new city ordinance despite not being bound by it. Marra

explained that a construction project gets one LEED (an environmental rating) point for recycling 50 percent of its debris, and 1-2 more LEED points for recycling a greater proportion.

"If the school is following LEED standards, they would already be complying with Fremont's regulations," said Marra.

## College can fix your computer

By JAPNEET KAUR  
Photo editor

Starting next Monday, the technicians at Ohlone's ICT Help Desk will offer service to students at the college. Technicians will help students with computer problems for no charge, providing computer-related repairs, upgrades, installations and general technical support to all students.

This service is being made possible by two grants of \$2,000 each, from the ASOC and the Ohlone Cisco Network Academy. Symantec has also donated 60 computers to the college - 30 desktop computers and 30 laptops - which are about three years old.

"This will be their fourth year of use, but they're in a lot better condition than a lot of the computers we already have here, so it's pretty nice," said Computer Science Instructor Richard Grotegut.

The ASOC ICT Help Desk will be located on the first floor of Hyman Hall (HH-19 - the counter at the front of the lab), and the initial scheduled operation hours are 4 to 7 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

The free consultation will go so far as to install parts if necessary, remove viruses, recover lost data, facilitate upgrades and advise on both hardware and software issues.

Help is available for problems with both desktop computers and laptops.

Other news from within the CNET department is the non-profit partnership Ohlone Cisco Regional Academy ICT pathway program will be a part of. It is called "Students Recycling Used Technology," or StRUT.

The Silicon Valley StRUT began operation out of Ohlone on the first of the year, and through StRUT, the school will be emphasizing education and curriculum to complement the recycling component for its high school partners. The San Jose Conservation Corps Charter School, another local Academy, is already involved in recycling and will take care of the proper disposal of unusable e-waste.

Ohlone College will also be hosting a PC Repair (ITE) competition in April, as the StRUT coordinating center.

CNET 102 (Information and Communication Technology - Web 2.0) is also being introduced into the Ohlone College curriculum. Students of the course will "learn/use Web 2.0 applications and tools for communicating and collaborating," i.e. blogs, wikis and podcasts.

Students will study such things as search engines, blogs, and social networks. The class is worth three units, CSU transferable, applicable for a degree, and CNET 101 is recommended as a prerequisite, but not required.

## Budget

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would possibly be receiving from this package would not, however, be enough to balance out the cuts Ohlone would have to make for the next school year.

This is largely due to the fact that much of the \$10 billion California would receive would already be allocated, or "earmarked," to specific areas that need improvement. It is evident to anyone who compares the \$42 billion deficit to the \$10 billion our state legislature may be receiving from the American Recovery Act that educational funding will be in short supply.

There is a glimmer of good news on the horizon for next year; namely, a projected \$185.2 million from the state in the 2009-'10 school year aimed at boosting enrollment. Not all the news for next year is good, though - this year's deferral of state money to later on in the school year will result in Ohlone having to evaluate spending for the '09-'10 school year very closely so as to make sure money is not spent unnecessarily.