

OHLONE COLLEGE MONITOR

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Black History Month kicks off in style

By SEAN NERO
Staff writer

Roughly 100 people gathered to celebrate Black History Month with music, speeches, dancing and food Wednesday, when the cafeteria became the location for Ohlone College's first Black History Awareness Month celebration in more than ten years.

The event was scheduled to be held in the Quad, but rain forced the celebration indoors. The event was a joint collaboration between the ASOC and a committee of coordinators and counselors. Wednesday afternoon's kickoff event is the beginning of a month of planned events to take place on both the Fremont and Newark campuses.

Opening the ceremony was President Gari Browning, who expressed the historical relevance of having the event in a time that Ohlone has both its first woman president and its first African-American Board Member (Teresa Cox).

Student Teran Finley performed "Phenomenal Woman" by famed author and poet Maya Angelou, which the crowd had a strong reaction to. Following Finley's performance was special guest speaker Brandon Hughes, who gave a stirring rendition of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech. Hughes, an actor and writer from Oakland, performed what he believed Dr. King would say if he were alive today. Student Kimberley Bobo performed a very emotional praise dance.

Chicano Studies Professor Ralph DeUnamuno encouraged students of varying cultures and backgrounds to participate in the symbolic lighting of the unity candle to personify the school's motto of "A World of Cultures United in Learning," as well as show the diversity present among the student body.

Political Science Professor Matt Freeman unveiled the items to be auctioned in a silent auction on Thursday, Feb. 26. The proceeds of the auction will help fund the "Yes I Can" Scholarship targeting African American students at Ohlone.

As the celebration began to wind down, all in attendance were asked to form a circle and hold hands in a final act of unity as Student and Assistant Property Manager Jamie Vallo gracefully began to sing the "Negro National Anthem" "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Closing out the festivities was a performance by Lions Den Entertainment, which featured dancing and drumming influenced by West African culture.

"I didn't expect the outcome to be so great," said Director of Campus Activities Debbie Trigg. "It exceeded

Continued on Page 3

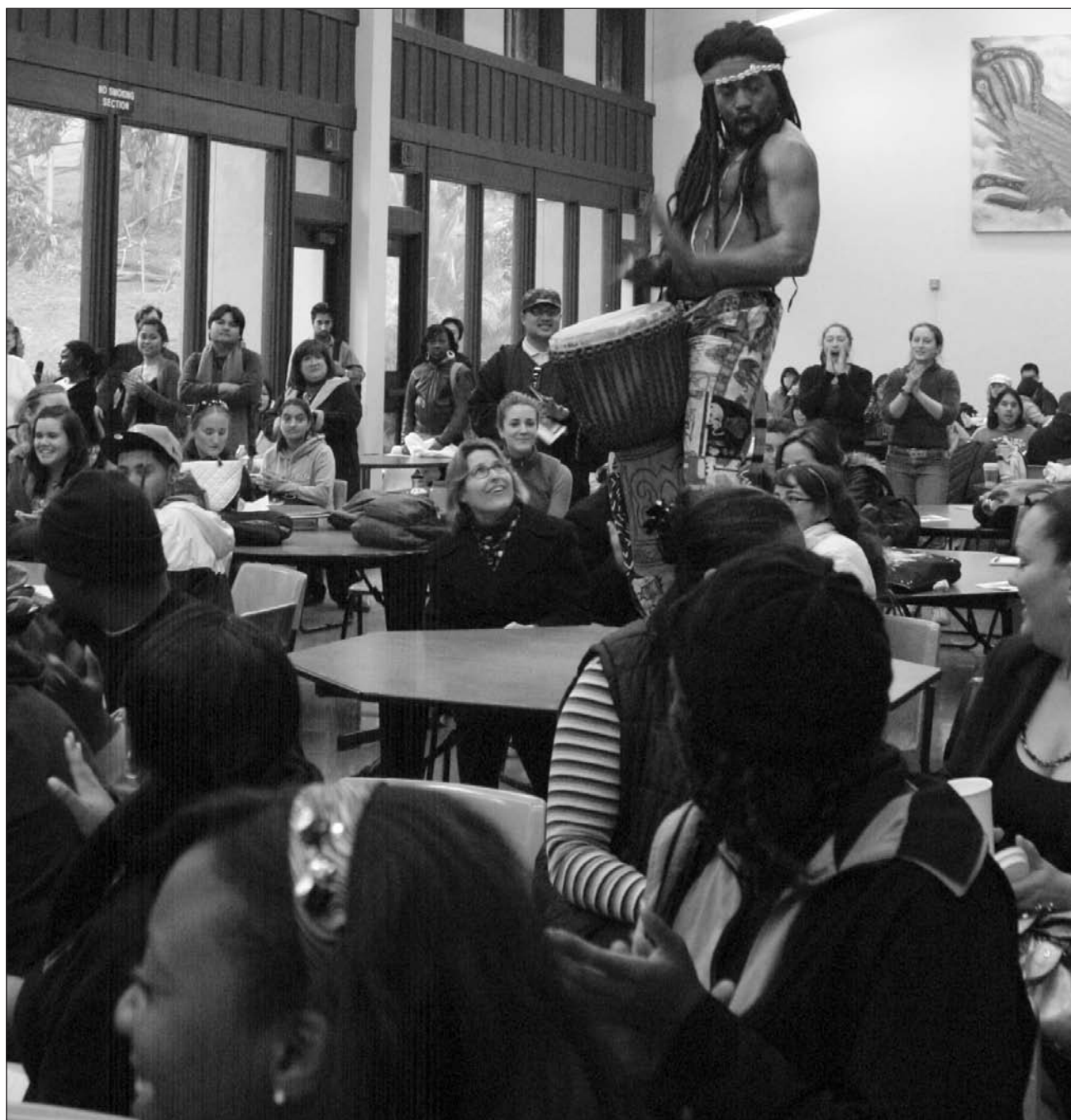


Photo by Anna Alfara

Tyehimba Kokayi plays a djembe drum in the cafeteria Wednesday as part of the first day of Ohlone's Black History Month events.

Summer sections will be cut Psychology author aims to promote skepticism

By NAZIA MASTAN
Staff writer

President Gari Browning outlined a more detailed budget plan calling for deep cuts to summer classes and K-9 enrollment in a budget update last week, in response to the state's critical cash shortfall.

The college is looking to reduce summer class offerings by 18 percent, said Browning, from a 1,100 to 900 full-time student capacity. These cuts come at a time of spiking student enrollment, up about 15 percent over last spring. Unfortunately, the college is scheduled to be reimbursed by the state for only a 1.21 percent increase over last year, leaving a substantial funding gap. The reduction in summer courses is aimed at narrowing that gap and still avoiding cuts next fall and spring, semesters in which

students often have less flexibility than summer.

Though the summer cuts will be wide and deep, there is a strategic plan involved, explained Browning. The classes that are in high demand will not be tampered with, but the classes with little student interest or enrollment will be dropped from the schedule.

These classes may be replaced with classes that do have a higher demand and enrollment, or may be dropped altogether, depending on how beneficial either would be to the college community.

Browning explained the cuts in K-9 enrollment were a matter of simple math: there is simply not enough money being received in our apportionment payments, or state funds given to the college based on the number of students we serve.

"Primary students"—those enrolled as college students—represent the bulk of the state funding Ohlone receives, to the tune of about \$4,000 per full-time student. In contrast, high school students taking classes at Ohlone pay no tuition and mean little money for the college.

Currently, K-9 students are allowed to enroll in any class with spaces available they choose, although they must register significantly later than primary students. The plan would mean that most K-9 enrollment would be eliminated in the form of a sharply reduced course offering available to those students.

The college's "Dual Enrollment" program, in which high school students have the option of taking Ohlone classes at their schools, will also be reduced in size.

By ANKITA CHHABRA
Staff writer

He's an author of numerous books, a regular contributor to the fields of psychology, religion and economics, as well as a great skeptic who does not judge, but rather question the reason why people believe in weird things. His name is Michael Shermer, and the Psychology Club will be bringing him to the Smith Center on Friday, March 6.

Shermer, a Ph.D., teaches economics at Claremont University. He is also the founder and publisher of the Skeptic Magazine, a monthly columnist for Scientific American and an acclaimed author of many books. Based on his best-selling



Photo courtesy of Michael Shermer

Michael Shermer

book, *Why People Believe in Weird Things*, Shermer applies scientific reason to questions such as whether ESP is real, what causes mass

Continued on Page 3