

Buses start new route



Photo by David Epperson

AC Transit buses have started arriving at the upper bus stop outside the new Building 7, taking advantage of the accessibility ramps which feed traffic into the Quad.

Consultant talks about plans for new bond issue

The typical Fremont-Newark voter likes Ohlone College and would be willing to vote for a bond issue to fix up the 1970s-era buildings on the main campus. But they would rather fix up the old buildings than pay for building new ones.

These are among the findings of an extensive survey of potential voters by The Lew Edwards Group presented to the College Council Monday.

Jessica Reynolds, senior vice president, told council members that the group surveyed 400 likely voters in mid-July, asking how they felt about a \$350 million bond issue being considered for 2010 to renovate the Fremont campus.

She said about 61 percent of the respondents thought the Fremont campus needed additional funding, 54 percent thought "deteriorating, unsafe buildings" were a problem, and 51 percent thought "many of the Fremont campus buildings are run down and in need of repair."

Reynolds said 69 percent said their top priority was to install proper ventilation in science buildings, followed by 61 percent who wanted to install and repair fire safety equipment, and 60 percent who wanted to upgrade buildings for earthquake safety.

Although 80 percent thought community colleges were important in these difficult economic times, and 71 percent thought Ohlone did a good job providing affordable education to students planning to transfer to four-year schools, only 58 percent said they would, or probably would vote for a bond issue to upgrade the campus. About 35 percent said they were against the bond issue.

Reynolds said the 58 percent in favor is good, and the next step is to start talking about the need for the bond before civic groups, and to form a citizens advisory group who will promote the issue.

Ohlone's most recent bond issue was the \$150 million Measure A, which passed in March 2002 and funded the Newark Campus and the recently opened Student Services Building in Fremont.

In other subjects covered by the council Monday, Mike Caleragi, vice president of Administrative Services, said 27 of the 149 eligible faculty and staff members had accepted Ohlone's retirement incentive offer. This includes 12 faculty members.

Caleragi said the district had hoped to save about \$500,000 through the retirement offer, but more had accepted than expected, so the savings will now be about \$615,000.

The move was an attempt to reduce the district budget after the state announced additional cuts in the middle of the current fiscal year. Ohlone is negotiating with its three unions over a proposal to cut another \$700,000 through layoffs, furloughs or pay cuts.

Make some news for Newsom

Continued from Page 2

pushes kids out of poverty and into the work force. Our state spends \$1,900 less per student than the national per-pupil average.

Being such innovators in technology and employing the sharpest of it's a shame that California education system ranks 47th in the nation. Our UCs are prized for their excellent educational merit, yet our K-12 and community college's fall sharply under the average national rankings.

It's only fair to look at Newsom's viable opponents and where they stand on the issues that concern Californians.

California's Attorney General Jerry Brown's slogan is fighting for you. He says that he will fight for mortgage frauds and real estate scams, fight for workers, fight crime, fight to protect the environment, fight to protect the consumers, fight fraud and abuse in California's health care system as well as fighting political corruption. Nowhere does he fight the demise of California's education system. As a matter of fact, he does not mention education at all in his

campaign promises. Brown, being former president of the UC regents, should know the value of money in college pockets.

If Jerry Brown places such little emphasis on education, California community colleges should understand that they are in danger in the case of his election as governor.

However, Newsom and Brown's Republican counterparts do offer some hope for California's education system, but their party's penny pinching does procure doubts in my mind about their fiscal breadth in "the fight for education."

Steve Poizner, who is Cali-

fornia's current Insurance Commissioner, promotes himself as a fiscal conservative. Pinching the pennies in education or "not another dime," in regards to giving out fiscal resources without complete accountability may not be the answer to our economic woes. Not all-fiscal resource allocations are mapped out in the education system, many are given out on a need to need basis. Poizner's "not another dime" means not another dime in our college's pockets, given his election as governor.

Former eBay CEO Meg Whitman's words on education are that she aims to "Give students and parents more choice and control by expanding charter schools," yet doesn't mention giving schools monetary funds in any way, shape or form in her campaign promises.

The candidate for the November 2010 election who actually vows to give money back to K-12, UCs and community colleges is Mayor Gavin Newsom. After sifting through Brown, Poizner and Whitman's campaigns I've realized that Newsom is the only candidate that gives our college hope.

Nobel Prize - why now?

Continued from Page 2

the Nobel Peace Prize based on his accomplishments, which denigrates the so called prestigious honor into a measly pomp and circumstance trinket. But, actions are more thunderous than words. And as the world watches its brightest star hopefully it will see the magic transpire into peace.

ATTENTION

HEALTH SERVICES AT THE NEWARK CAMPUS HEALTH CENTER
ROOM 1214

FALL SEMESTER 2009

Personal Counseling Appointments **Mondays** **9am-12pm**

Call the main campus at 510-659-6258 for an appointment

Primary Care Appointments with NP **Mondays** **1pm-6pm**

Call the main campus at 510-659-6258 for an appointment

Walk-in Appointments with NP **Tuesdays** **9am-1pm**

Times will be scheduled upon arrival at the health center in an attempt to accommodate class schedules. These will be short appointments for minor problems or consults.

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