

Feds look for solution to NUMMI closure

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develop. Ohlone can provide new technology training to get people trained in the next few years.”

Stark encouraged NUMMI workers and Ohlone to begin networking to see what programs and grant application exist, and to transfer as much information as possible.

He said, “We have the burden of finding job replacement for the workers. Stark specifically recommended that workers petition for TAA. He noted that attempts to encourage General Motors or Toyota to keep the NUMMI plant open have failed. He seemed resigned to its closure. Stark said he invites investors to look at the NUMMI facility and that it is great facility to train workers in new trades.

Congressman Jerry McNerney said NUMMI and Ohlone College have a long relationship. He said he hoped that the college could train NUMMI workers to develop new job skills, possibly by doing so in the plant itself. His spokesperson Sarah Hersh said that that McNerney thinks important resources are available at the college for NUMMI employees and Ohlone should be part of the discussion about what

the college can provide to the workers and about what happens to the actual plant structure.

Bob Wasserman, Mayor of Fremont, said Fremont and NUMMI were partners for 25 years. He wants immediate enhanced unemployment compensation benefits for the laid off workers, and to provide them with training opportunities with Ohlone and other training programs.

He said he is concerned about the future of the 388 acre parcel, bounded on each side by major highways and by the new Warm Springs BART. Wasserman said he had just received a call from the Economic Development Agency and that it would provide Fremont with technical assistance and grants to provide workers with new jobs.

Smith said that Newark will be severely impacted by the NUMMI closure and there is a “ripple effect on thousands of people in the community.”

Keith Carson, Alameda County Supervisor, said the Department of Energy is supplying \$100 million to train people in green technology this year and that the federal government will fund health care training.

Stagnaro said Ohlone has set

up the Tri-Cities One Stop Center in Room 1211 at the Newark Campus which can provide training for NUMMI workers who are laid off.

The Tri-Cities One Stop Center is located in Room 1211 at the Ohlone Campus. According to Yanni Zeng, student services assistant, the One Stop Center works with the Alameda County Workforce Investment Board to provide training and assistance to workers.

Businesses can place no-cost job orders for new job openings at the center. The center is open to the public. Its website is tricitiesonestop.com. Telephone: (510) 742-2323.

Stagnaro is a member of the board of directors of the Alameda County Workforce Investment Board, website: <http://acwib.org/>

NUMMI has been operated as a joint venture by Toyota and General Motors for 25 years and is still manufacturing Toyota Corolla cars and Toyota Tacoma trucks. A \$19.4 billion bailout from the federal government was not enough to keep GM from going into Chapter 11 bankruptcy reorganization in June 2009 at which time GM withdrew from its partnership with Toyota. In

August, Toyota announced it will not order any more automobiles from the plant after March 2010.

Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson is still rallying to keep the plan open as long as possible, and said that he reached out to a Chinese car manufacturing business to use the plant. So far, there are no takers.

Sergio Santos, the president of United Auto Workers Local 2244, said his union which represents most NUMMI workers is urging people to sign a petition not to buy Toyota cars and trucks if it won't keep the plant open.

Greg Young, NUMMI's director of special projects said that NUMMI will close soon and the best and highest use of the property must be found in order to benefit the community.

Before the panel discussion, President Browning provided Montgomery and his entourage with a tour of the Ohlone Center for Health Sciences and Technology at the Newark campus. The new \$108 million campus is equipped with high tech teaching tools including a \$600,000 mock hospital room with mannequins to train nurses.

After the tour, there was a brief

press conference and several officials briefly addressed the audience, however, the panel discussion was closed to the public.

Montgomery said Ohlone can obtain funds through two government programs to help bail out its anticipated \$1.2 million budget shortfall regarding the general fund for 2010-'11.

He recommended that Ohlone make applications to the Work Force Investment Act and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, known as the “stimulus.” Montgomery said funds from these programs can be used for job searches, career training, work retraining and vocational degrees.

According to Michael Caligari, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Ohlone College received about \$170,000 last year to backfill funding for categorical programs. He said the college will not apply for federal stimulus funds for the college's general fund because that would involve job creation. However, the college will partner with state and local agencies as they go forward to create jobs in that the college will consult with them regarding providing training and education.

When can we tell as a society

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A young man from the neighboring Palo Alto high school, was among the last players cut from the school basketball team. Later that night he went to the train tracks and laid down on them, waiting for his eventual relief. It happened within 150 feet of hundreds of screaming fans at the school football field, totally oblivious to what was happening just a few dozen yards away.

We don't know what caused him to take his life, though there are some people who are born with or naturally develop extreme mental imbalances. Some people are genetically hardwired to be suicidally depressed.

But what about four teens from the same school, in the span of six months? There is no coincidence

there, what you have there is four people who were more sad and depressed than the inexperienced person could possibly fathom.

There are four sets of parents out there, and countless more all over the country with a dead child. Dead because they were so sad and tortured they had to stop the pain. What does it mean, what does it represent?

It means something hugely more significant than the countless daily tragedies in our society. And until we can find and understand what it is in our society can overcome our most basic animal instinct, the mere instinct to live that is shared by every single living organism, we will be lost.

Until that day we will still be a people in the dark, looking for markers to guide the way.

Palin's book

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by the media.

The book also fails to credit to its ghostwriter, Lynn Vincent, who has a history of anti-gay and racially charged remarks, and has gone so far as saying that President Barack Obama is the “face of the minority survivor of abortion.”

While Palin might not endorse these radical viewpoints, the problem that I have is that people are drawing comparisons between Palin and Clinton. Yes, they are both polarizing women in politics that are criticized at times over the most absurd things.

But, Sarah is not some stand-in for Hillary. The only kind of stand in I want to see or hear of Sarah Palin is stand-up comedian Tina Fey.

Layoffs of six workers put off

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to take five days furlough days to address the shortfall.

Evers and CSEA Labor Representative Barbara Mays both said that they never said no to these furloughs, and that they had prepared a tentatively accepted “memorandum of understanding” with the board that protected CSEA employees, stipulating the postponing of any layoffs until the end of the school year in June, no hiring of non-CSEA workers to do CSEA employee jobs, and the retention of CSEA employees where a non-classified staff member (typically students) could be let go.

Evers said the union was not “trying to remove student's opportunities to work,” but that she was

nonetheless trying to protect the interests of her union's members.

UFO President and Chief Negotiator Dr. Alan Kirshner, who had addressed the board earlier, commented about the more apparent “controversial and adversarial” state of affairs between the board and CSEA.

Kirshner also reflected on his views of the college as a greater community, that he wanted amiable solutions for all, though while he was “Happy that the board listened...obviously neither side was 100 percent happy in any fashion.”

Health Center Counselor Rosemary O'Neil was honored with the Faculty of the Month Award, in recognition of her many years of service.

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