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Ohlone pursues \$350 million bond measure

By **KATHRYN DIXON**
Staff writer

Ohlone College will place a \$350 million bond measure on the November 2010 ballot if the Board of Trustees approves a resolution to do so at its July meeting.

The \$150 million Measure A bond approved nine years ago is more than 90 percent depleted and is being frugally conserved for necessary building repairs and emergencies.

This money would go toward complementing the Newark Center for Health Science and Technology, which was built by prior bond money and provides training in health sciences and technology.

The prior bond money was also used to build Building 7, the Student Services Center.

As of the November 1999, about \$4 million in bond money remained and most of it was committed to projects, such as placing laboratories into science modulars to meet safety standards.

In the midst of the recession, Ohlone needs to make a case to the voters that the college needs bond-funds to improve education for the community. An important project that the new bond measure can fund will probably be the building of a new Center for Science and Engineering at the Fremont campus.

The new Center for Science and Engineering would centralize science, engineering, chemistry, geography, biology, anthropology labs and classes, which are currently being distributed between Building 6 and Building 8.

President Gari Browning said

in the draft Educational Master Plan for 2010 to 2015, which was presented at the Jan. 20 Board of Trustees meeting, that, "It is fairly certain that construction of a new Center for Science and Engineering would be more cost effective than remodeling Building 8."

The Master Plan further stated: "The Center for Science and Engineering will include sufficient spaces for students to study and gather throughout the day. The plan also includes an expanded Science and Engineering Learning Center for drop-in tutoring."

In addition, the closer proximity of the science and engineering laboratories will make possible the sharing of laboratory equipment and facilities between these disciplines and support the development of more interdisciplinary programs."

According to Joanne Schlutz, dean of Business Services, the new bond will provide for "safety, accessibility and renovation of existing buildings at the Fremont campus."

California and federal law requires accessibility for disabled students regarding all buildings.

This is a challenge for a campus perched on the side of a mountain. Elevators, ramps and automatic doors and other assistive devices for the blind and deaf/hard of hearing are expensive. Some buildings are approaching their design service life of 40 years and need substantial renovations, such as Building 1.

Some buildings are starting to deteriorate and need urgent or immediate repair. Plumbing system deficiencies and roofing problems, earthquake damage, and water intru-

sion mandate repairs.

The buildings must be renovated to meet the latest seismic and fire safety standards. Because of the recession, the state can no longer help the college with these problems. The college must help itself.

At the Jan. 20 Board meeting, Ohlone's draft 15-Year Master Building Plan was presented.

It revealed general plans to refurbish and rebuild buildings in connection with enhancing the educational qualities of Ohlone.

This plan will eventually provide details about projects which will require new bond funding.

Passage of the new bond requires a 55 percent majority among voter in the Ohlone Community College District, which encompasses voters in Tri-City area.

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Go get 'em, Tiger

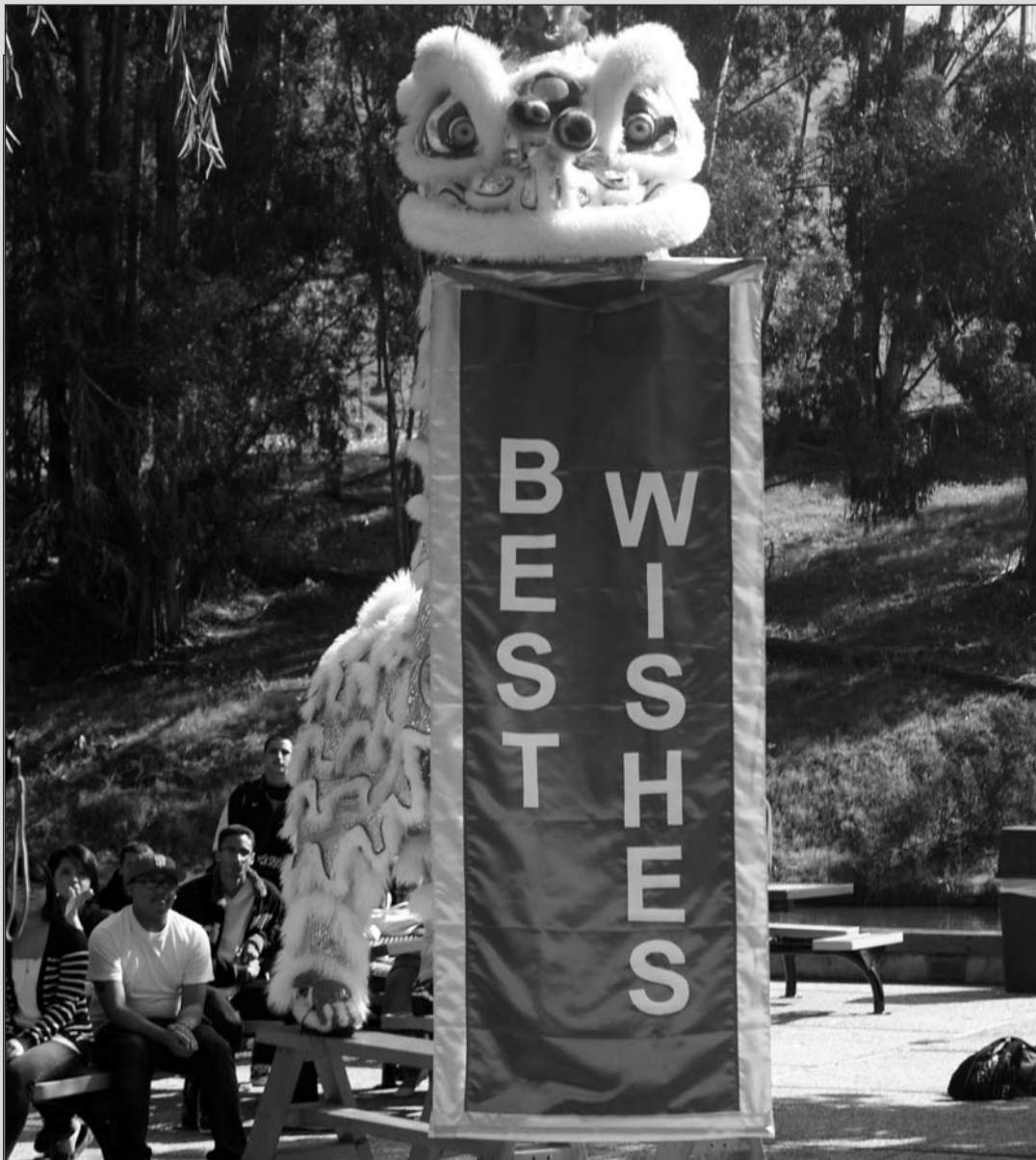


Photo by Alex Glanville

Campus activities celebrates the year of the Tiger with a roaring performance by the TaGe dance troupe and Chinese line dancers from the White Crane Association.

Emotions run high

By **EAN TAJERON**
Staff writer

Emotions behind the upcoming protest for educational funding are running so high that Legislative Representative, Andie Morhous broke into tears when the ASOC turned down her request for \$10,000 to attend the march. However, after some parliamentary maneuvers, ASOC approved the funds.

Following the meeting, Morhous explained her emotional outburst. "I didn't cry because the initial vote failed, I cried because I'm emotionally attached to the advocacy of the efforts for the March in March."

When discussions were opened to explain any issues with the request, where the funds would come

from, the senators voted to close discussions.

The senators then voted 11-10 to deny the money.

After the first vote, Morhous quickly asked if the General fund included the Reserve fund, to which President Kevin Feliciano replied, "Sorry, but discussions are closed."

After the senators unanimously voted to reconsider, Morhous told stories of students who have greatly suffered from the budget cuts.

Then the motion to grant the money request with the funds taken from the Reserve fund was unanimously approved.

ASOC will swear in new senators next week. And the total number of ASOC Senators will reach 57.

\$200,000 for Deaf lab

By **DENISE ANN BURGAN**
Staff writer

The East Bay Community Foundation, in support of the teaching of American Sign Language and the understanding of Deaf Culture, has awarded the Deaf Studies Division of Ohlone College a grant in the amount of \$200,000.

The grant money was donated on behalf of the estate of an individual wishing to support the work of the Deaf Studies division.

Genie Gertz, dean of Deaf Studies said, "I responded to the request by the Foundation for a proposal by working with our faculty and our Information Technology staff to develop a proposal for their review. We then met with officials from the

Foundation to answer additional questions. Based on this process, the Foundation decided to award the funds."

Utilization of the awarded \$200,000 includes moving the current American Sign Language Lab in Building 1 to Building 6.

According to Gertz, "The grant funds will be used to establish an ASL language lab which will be focused on American Sign Language and English.

"The funds will be used to acquire furniture and technology to promote the teaching of American Sign Language for both hearing and Deaf students, as well as teaching English to Deaf students."

Details are still in the planning stages.