

Forensics Prioritizing goals

By **MANIKA CASTERLINE**
News editor

Ohlone's forensics (speech and debate) team clinched victory this weekend at the Northern California Forensics Association (NCFCA) tournament held at Modesto Junior College.

Newcomer Gilbert Doan placed as a finalist in the novice division of Program Oral Interpretation while his teammate, Brandy Munoz, was a finalist in the event of novice Extemporaneous speaking. Munoz was also the first place novice for her 10-minute long informative speech on the topic of the role of the pig in modern medicine.

Two weeks ago, at Los Positas Community College, Omar Cardin took first place for his informative platform speech as a novice competitor.

Despite having a team that primarily consists of fresh faces this competitive season and a new coach, Nicole Sandoval (who used to be an assistant coach for the SFSU team), alongside Professor Kay Harrison, they are maintaining a legacy of producing winners just as they have in seasons past.

Ohlone took third place among schools with limited entries at the NCFCA tournament

Ohlone's next tournament is the California state championship, which will be held from March 18-21 in Fresno.

By **DENISE ANN BURGAN**
Staff writer

Students who are being turned away from universities have resorted who are applying to community colleges, but they have found it nearly impossible to register for courses.

Meanwhile, the fee increases continue, ranging from 136 percent to upwards of 180 percent per unit.

The California State Senate President Pro Tem, Darrell Steinberg, (D-Sacramento), alongside student leaders representing Cal State East Bay, UC Santa Cruz, and Ohlone College, participated in a live web cast direct from Sacramento on Tuesday night.

Kevin Feliciano, who serves as the ASOC President, as well as Region IV Senator for the Student Senate for California Community colleges, also took part in the on-line panel.

Steinberg's theme was "State Wide Conversation - Student Fees In Higher Education" led the discussion on the impact of fee increases by stating, "higher education is critical to the future of our state."

State law says, "the primary mission of community colleges is to offer academic and vocational instruction at the lower division level."

However, the massive budget cuts that have happened due to the

statewide budget deficit have forced schools to reassess what they do and whom they serve.

It also presents logistical challenges to faculty and administrators who are attempting to figure out where costs can be cut.

The biggest quandary of course being how to make the most out of the depleting pool of resources.

Class sections have been cut across the board. And prerequisite courses are being filled past capacity.

However, state leaders have urged colleges to prioritize three course areas: vocational education, remedial education, and classes that prepare students to transfer to a four-year university.

Steinberg called the community college the "work horse" of higher education, the "bridge" to a four-year university, providing basic skills in these otherwise difficult times.

Students were encouraged to send, via email, examples of how they had been adversely impacted by the budget cuts and the fee increases.

Pre-taped, "day in the life" segments, which documented students, that struggle as a result of the budget cuts and fee increases were included in the web cast.

It depicted what most students are experiencing right now.

The web cast will be available at democrats.sen.ca.gov/archives.

Waiting World Forum

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It is also projected that the Newark Campus, where many of Ohlone's environmental studies and biotechnology programs are based, will undergo a 39 percent expansion over the next 15 years, requiring 100-150 additional parking spaces.

The Educational Master Plan was endorsed by Faculty Senate last week, and will be brought before the Board of Trustees in March.

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Then-Ohlone President, Dr. Doug Treadway, shared the following statement regarding the event, "When world problems seem overwhelming, merely thinking about them may lead to despair. History shows that people can overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles by taking small steps together over a long period of time."

"Attendees, whether they are students, faculty, or members of the

community gain awareness of issues and become motivated to reconsider the world in which they live," said Sarah Daniels, who works in the President's office.

Daniels continued, "World Forums are one more way that Ohlone college promotes ongoing education for everyone."

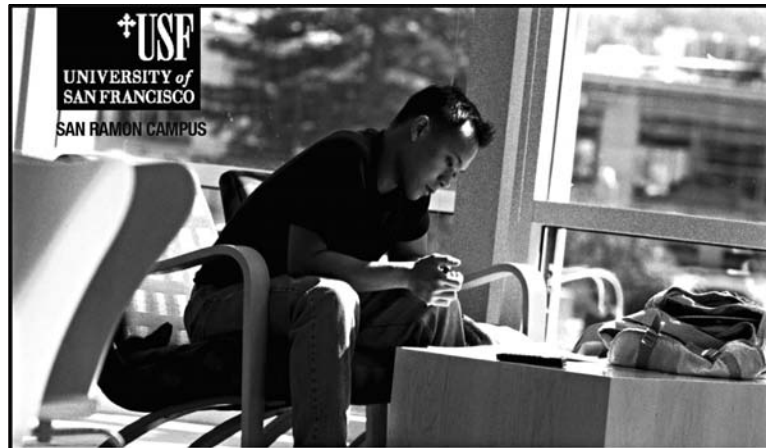
The Congo forum will be held on March 2 at noon in the Smith Center. A question and answer session will follow the presentation

And the beat goes on

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will be better music overall, as listeners will from now on be able to preview the products they purchase. Will people still want music for free? Yes. It will be a challenge for artists to ensure that fans care and are invested enough in their art to support the music with money. Artists will be forced to have more ingenuity; the industry executives will be forced to make sure they are making worthwhile investments.

Finally, the industry has realized that today's music fans all live in the 21st Century. The style is minimalism; the demand for instant gratification is high. No longer are they willing to drive to the record store (for today's music fans have better things to do with their scarce gas) to buy a CD they haven't fully experienced. Ever since the Internet became involved in the music industry, labels and industry bigwigs have fought against it. Now, there is no more running, nowhere to hide.



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