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By NAZIA
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Columnist

'I wana March'

"We as students, faculty, and staff should be more of a priority in the state because education drives the community, our resources as a state, our hopes for a future, allows us to progress globally, and it should be available to whomever may so chose in California," said Andie Morhous, President of Ohlone's Civic Engagement Club.

An excellent way to get involved in your immediate environment would be to contribute your time and brain to something you interact with daily, school perhaps?

The easiest way to contribute to the vitality of your campus is by joining Ohlone's Civic Engagement Club.

The club puts forth efforts to bring much-needed funding to the California community college system. The cuts that I had touched on in the previous column were due to the budget deficit that our school is facing, these cuts are a means of patching up the fiscal gap. However, the Civic Engagement club spearheaded by Morhous is going beyond Ohlone's problems and is conducting events to bring home the money; well, bring the "neighborhood" money.

According to Morhous, an across-the-board cut by California's State legislature has taken money from kindergarten through Ph.D level educational institutions, this is what I refer to as the "neighborhood."

Her vision for the Civic Engagement Club is to stand up for schools who are not in as good of a financial condition as Ohlone is, though it may seem implausible to us.

Inspired by former Ohlone Professor Matt Freeman's U.S. Government class, Morhous started working for the Obama campaign.

Morhous said, "Community organizing is the best because people don't really feel like volunteering unless they feel connected." Ohlone is something that we are all connected to. Thus, we should all take a stand.

The best way to do so is to participate in the Civic Engagement Club's March in March, which will be held on March 22 in Sacramento.

The Civic Engagement Club has organized transportation for 500 people to the March in Sacramento and is planning on providing snacks to the attendees.

The club is working on asking staff to make March 22 a "lenient day," so attendees of the march will not miss out on vital information.

The buses will be leaving Ohlone around 7 a.m. and returning at 5 p.m. In order to secure transportation you must sign up at www.theasoc.com/march.

Ohlone College budget to be revised

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colleges throughout the state to fund 26,000 new full-time students. It is expected, however, that new enrollment will exceed state funding to support it. The recession has pushed displaced workers, the unemployed, and underemployed into community colleges. Ohlone may have more new students yet not have enough money from this new funding to support them.

In its 2010-'11 budget, Ohlone also will have to add back \$200,000 in salaries paid for by Title III which have now lapsed, and pay \$130,000 for partial salaries of three employees who were paid with bond money. The bond is now near to depletion. Ohlone will have to pay for step and column (automatic salary) increases of \$300,000. The \$100,000 election cost for the board of trustees which occurs every two years must be paid. Ohlone has lost a one-time grant of \$112,000 from Washington Hospital. A loss of parity funds for a categorical program reduced by 64 percent must be paid in the

next budget cycle. Any increase in pension costs and medical costs must be included. Another factor to be considered in preparing the 2010-'11 budget is that in 2011-'12 other post employment benefit costs of \$500,000 at today's rate must be reinstated.

The American Graduation Initiative is mending its way through the Congressional labyrinth. If passed it will require a college to show it deserves challenge grants because of innovative curricula or programs. Some innovative programs are expected to include building partnerships with businesses and the workforce investment system. The key to the many grants will be whether workers can learn in order to earn. Internships and job placements will be important.

Ohlone, a college which transfers most of its students to 4-year colleges and universities, is now faced with the reality that most new funding for community colleges emphasizes vocational and workforce training. The state is

funding CTE vocational-type classes and the federal government is providing Workforce Investment Act funds and other stimulus funds for vocationally oriented classes. The American Graduation Initiative may be passed and require new curricula oriented to promote the workforce. Will Ohlone emphasize the type of courses required to obtain this funding? Will Ohlone partner with businesses, hospitals and other institutions order to obtain this funding?

Ohlone conserved funds last year, people suffered salary cuts, the number of courses was cut, summer school was cut back, the one-time rainy day fund was used, and Ohlone avoided a potential budget disaster caused by deep state cuts in funding. In May, the Governor will do a "revise" of the budget, and Ohlone will be better able to calculate the 2010-'11 budget. How the legislature decides to vote in June is anybody's guess. But after they vote, Ohlone's budget will near completion in September.

According to Schultz, "The Finance Office is assessing the expense side right now. We are combing through all of the SERP savings and costs, the effects of the furloughs, assessing the fixed costs for and additional savings as well as looking to what has to be added to the budget for next fiscal year. On the revenue side we are reviewing the variable revenue sources to see if there is more that can be added even in the vacuum of apportionment information."

President Browning is making the budget process transparent through postings on the college's website and meetings. She and Mike Calegari, vice president of the office of administrative services, will provide full information about the 2010-'11 budget on March 1 at 2 p.m. at the Jackson Theatre in the Smith Center.

They will discuss how Ohlone will face its anticipated budget deficits in 2010-'11. Questions and input from the audience will be encouraged.



Photo by Amy Kent

Students attend the Casino Club Days in the cafeteria. The event featured several activities for attendees such as blackjack and guessing games. Club Days is a chance for clubs to make their presence known as well as to recruit new members to their organizations.

Casino Club Days, a big success for ICC

By NOAH LEVIN
Staff writer

With semester now in full swing, this week's Inter Club Council meeting kicked off with praise for this semester's Club Day. Activities Program Coordinator Rene Gonzales addressed the assembled club representatives, "I am very proud of the level of professionalism I saw out there." However, due to the sudden rain on the first day of the club event, recruiters were forced to crowd into the cafeteria. ICC Chairperson Ngan Vu noted that, "...it was a challenge to fit everyone inside," but all clubs present were able to set up tables and

attract new members. Some club representatives noted that many club recruiters could afford to be more out-going.

Vu went on to remind club representatives that all clubs on campus must have a consistent representative and a meeting room reserved by the Friday deadline. LIFE Club representative Kevin Feliciano then brought up the issue of ICC attendance with the amassed delegates.

Feliciano and other representatives contended that attendance has been an on-going problem with ICC members for the past couple of semesters. A committee was promptly formed, and will convene

weekly to surmise the situation and to devise a solution.

The Attendance Committee consists of Audrey Harris from Latinos in Science and Technology at Ohlone, Ain Mobeen from the Muslim Student Association, James Renteria of the Business and Economics Club and Dennis Smith of the American Sign-Language Club.

Gay/Straight Alliance representative Tim Thu was voted in as the ICC's new secretary. The sole candidate to be nominated during the session, Thu will begin his work recording minutes for the council immediately, noting that he has "been working with [Vu] for long

time." Thu's duties will include keep track of events from previous meetings.

The Asian-Pacific American Student Association (APASA) renewed its funding request with the ICC the week. Club representative Anthony Ambar took the podium with a request for \$172.80 to purchase an ad in the *Monitor* to campaign for APASA's efforts in support of the Bone Marrow Registry Guide for Leukemia patients.

The ICC approved the funding request, and the request will now move onto the Associated Students of Ohlone College (ASOC,) where it will face its final round of approvals.