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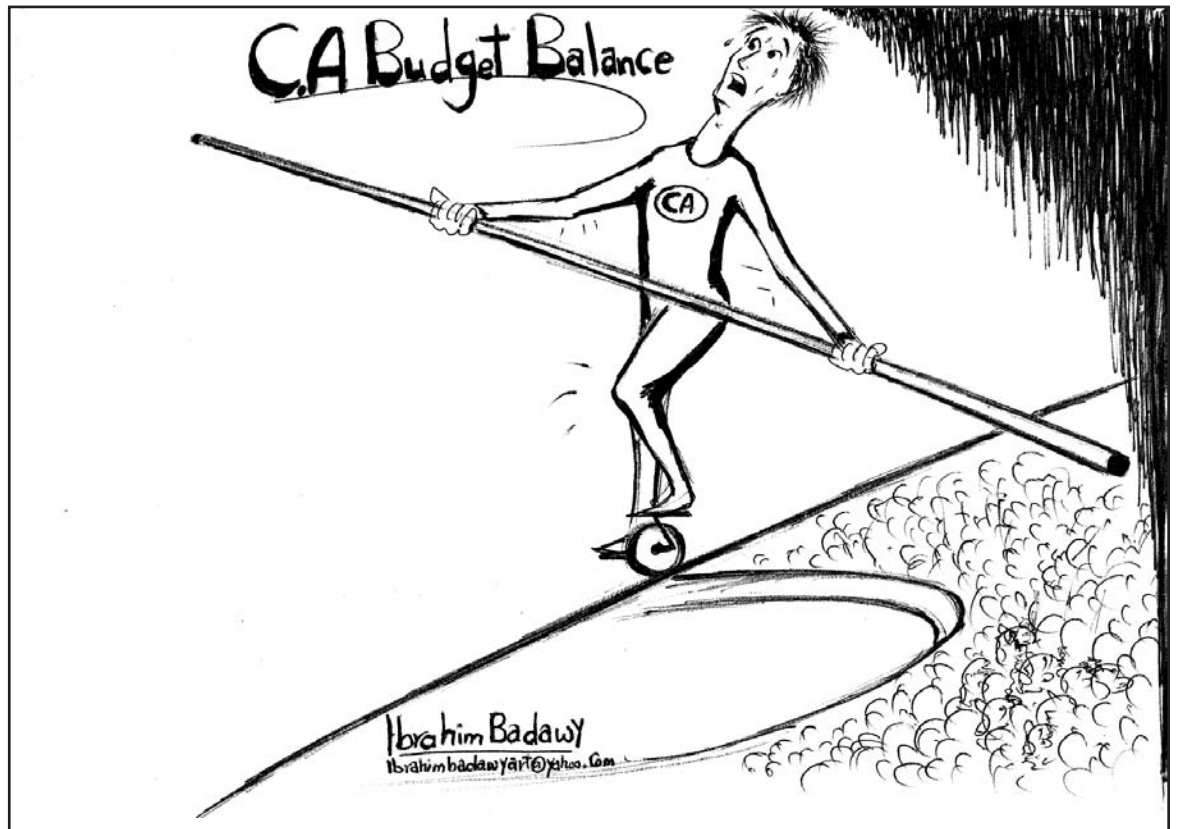
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OPINION

Ohlone needs to lay out all of its cards now

By **JEFF WEISINGER**
Editor-in-chief
and **MANIKA CASTERLINE**
News editor

If you haven't realized it by now, Ohlone's in pretty bad shape financially.

And there isn't a thing we can do about it.

Since last fall, more than 150 sections have been cut, the men's and women's basketball teams have had their seasons shortened, along with baseball and softball, and tennis has been cut from Ohlone after a one-year stint (not too big a surprise, but still, RIP Ohlone tennis.)

Last Monday's budget meeting was supposed to keep the college informed on what's going on with "The State of Ohlone," especially during the current budget crisis.

Yes, the entire state of California is in a rut, but we're not talking about California right now, we're talking about Ohlone. Just a reminder.

In the beginning of the semester at the State of the College address, Ohlone College President Dr. Gari Browning described how she wanted to lead a more "transparent" administration, meaning she wanted to be more open about what's going on with Ohlone. Much like how former Ohlone President Dr. Doug

Treadway was.

Safe to say, her idea of transparency makes her seem more opaque. With a \$2.5 million deficit, Ohlone is now planning to lay off five counselors.

The irony of all this is that the counselors were not notified of this plan of action before the meeting began, thus straying away from "The Ohlone Way."

Ohlone usually works out ways to fix a budget without having layoffs. Layoffs were mentioned back in the fall, but were avoided in November in which Ohlone decided to work around layoffs and cut classes and other programs instead.

There's no specifics on how much the college will save. Come time that these counselors will be given the boot, what can be said is that nobody is happy with how things are turning out.

Those people who are not happy include the Ohlone student population who, if anything, have suffered the most from everything from the budget and our own administration.

Yes, the student population doesn't make the six figures that the administration does, but when 150 sections are cut since last semester and with the summer semester getting cut in half just

about, the students are the ones truly suffering.

Then you toss in the plans to cut counselors, making less counselors available for students, counselors who help the students move on past Ohlone.

Last fall, students protested that Ohlone not cut the Transfer Center when word got out that the Transfer Center would be shut down.

Long story short, once again, it's the students that get affected the most through all the cuts. What Ohlone decides to cut, or who they decide to lay off drastically affects the students in the end.

Continued on Page 3

Going organic can help resolve carbon emissions

By **TINA KARIMI**
Staff writer

It is safe to say that going green is near the top of everyone's priority list these days. It certainly is for me. The way I see it, you can never be too prepared—especially when faced with the threat of melting polar ice caps. So I recycle, I take public transit and I walk wherever I can, hoping to minimize my carbon footprint. Many other conscientious people do the same. But little did I know that, despite all my efforts at sustainable living, I was still committing a major eco sin:

I eat beef and I cannot bring myself to give it up, even for the sake of Mother Nature herself.

Cows and other ruminants, like sheep and goats, are notorious among the green-minded community for producing copious amounts of methane, a greenhouse gas that traps more heat than carbon dioxide. According to the United Nations, livestock is one of the top environmental concerns and causes 18 percent of the worldwide greenhouse gas emissions. This means that your In-N-Out hamburger contributes more to global warming than all the planes and cars on the planet.

The most environmentally friendly response to this information would have been to abstain from red meat altogether—but for those of us who cannot bring ourselves to completely give up steak forever, there is another option. Many environmental activists have recommended turning to grass-fed cows.

Most of the beef on market today is grain-fed: the cows are fed corn and soy, and are injected with hormones to fatten them up more quickly. They are crammed onto pastures doused in pesticides and fertilizers. The growth of feedlots

has led to acres upon acres of grassland and forest being razed to accommodate the grain needed to feed the cows. This contributes to the overall carbon footprint of a grain-fed cow, as the fertilizer needed to grow these crops constitutes a massive amount of fossil fuels.

A grass-fed cow, on the other hand, will be raised on native grasses—eliminating the need for harmful chemicals and deforestation. Although some studies have shown that grass-fed cows produce more methane than feedlot cows, grass-fed cattle have a much lower

carbon footprint overall. Grass-fed cows produce healthy spoil that keeps carbon dioxide under the ground and out of the air. Grass-fed beef is also healthier than grain-fed feedlot beef, as the former is high in omega-3 fatty acids, also found in salmon, and low in saturated fat.

Yes, grass-fed beef can be hard to find, though "green" markets such as Trader Joe's do stock it, and it is often more expensive than grain-fed beef. But in the long run, paying extra for the meat pays off. You get a healthier body and a healthier environment—and what could be better than that?

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

How should California balance its budget?



Ghezal Faizy
NURSING

"They should not take too much from schools."



Farah Faizy
BIOLOGY

"They should give people medicare and insurance."



Michael Flatrey
UNDECIDED

"Legalize marijuana."



John Lang
KINESIOLOGY

"Less money on jails and more money on education."



Vivian Mejia
NURSING

"They should allocate the money properly."