Jobless in 2012

It’s the economy, stupid, as the political strategist James Carville’s noteworthy catch phrase in the 1990s and 20 years later he is still dispensing advice to the commander in chief.

This week Carville laid out a four-point plan regarding the Obama administration. Carville also raised doubt that Obama has the gravitas to win his bid for re-election.

Carville, who is as blue as any liberal Democrat comes, isn’t on the president’s side as one would expect him to be.

Instead Carville is critiquing Obama. It just goes to show that while the president does not have the support from those who inherently oppose him, but out same is true regarding his own party.

Carville is to a certain extent right though in reading the pulse of what America wants and isn’t getting from Obama.

Obama won over voters in 2008 with his soaring rhetoric and the promise of change. Trust me, to some level I drank that Kool-Aid like everyone else in my age demographic.

I took the risk and stood in line for 45 minutes to vote for the guy with big ears and a funny name. His words, not mine, because I somehow felt a connection to what he embodied.

But, as a realist who had been into politics before it had become an emotional “thing,” I knew that chances are a considerable amount of supporters would be broken. Three years later, the United States finds itself worse off than we were when he took office and I’m suffering a serious case of buyer’s remorse. Carville advises that what the White House should do is panic.

I don’t necessarily agree that traveling around the country and demanding that people should vote in favor of a particular piece of economic legislation to prove their unifying love for you is the best course of action.

It is the political equivant of screaming that your hair is on fire. Throw water on it. Radical idea, right? Crazy California liberal answer, I know.

Do something. Anything.

The only job security you have Mr. President is to listen to the American people and do something or else you’ll find yourself jobless in 2012.

Trustees’ budget vote may lead to potentially hiring new faculty

By MANIKA CASTERLINE Editor-in-Chief

By using a combination of retirement packages, a hiring freeze and $2 million in reserve funds, the Board of Trustees unanimously passed a balanced 2011-2012 budget on Sept. 14.

President Gary Browning said that Ohioline expected a shortfall of $5 million and that $4 million would come from the apportionment cuts that were included in the budget.

“There has been some analysis of the positions that have been vacated by both the hiring freezes and the SERP and some of those positions are going to have to come back,” said Dean of Business Services Joanne Schultz.

Schultz said that there was additional $2.5 million in savings last year because of streamlining buildings and grounds and from the bookstore.

In the long term, $6,000 to $7,000 is the projected amount of savings per year from the installation of solar panels.

Scott Thomason, who serves as the interim chief business officer, said that Ohioline used 17 questions to put together the budget that was presented to the Ohioline community.

Thomason joked, “It’s a common challenge right now to keep her numbers straight.”

The budget has been discussed at great length over the past few weeks including at a budget forum held on Sept. 12, compared to other California community colleges, Ohioline is not in as bad financial straits, according to Thomason, Schultz and Browning.

Hirsch reflects on time in the Peace Corps

By MANIKA CASTERLINE Editor-in-Chief

In President John F. Kennedy’s inaugural address, Kennedy said, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.”

That is what I asked myself when training was completed. I found myself wanting to do for my country.

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Hirsch’s arrival in Legazpi City turned into a make-shift parade in the streets.

Photo courtesy Geoffrey Hirsch