McDonald’s promoted it was open on Thanksgiving Day in order to serve customers during the holiday.
Black Friday

By JOE NICHOLS
Opinions editor

Have retail giants gone too far?

This year retailers and consumers have taken Black Friday too far.

The way many retailers opened at midnight and in the case of Wal-Mart, started their sales at 10 p.m. on Thanksgiving, has pushed some Americans to skip Thanksgiving all together.

Some consumers have decided to forgo the usual Black Friday craziness and just stay home.

With the outpouring of negative sentiment, many consumers feel that the big retail chains have stepped over the line this year.

For many, the inconvenience of shopping on the busiest shopping day of the year has started to outweigh the discounts.

This year’s shopping schedule may have some unintended effects.

In previous years, many shoppers could plan where to go and when to be there based on what time the stores opened.

This year, people had to pick which stores to go to and which not to go to because so many stores were opening at midnight, but at 4 am.

Retailers need to realize that everyone will not tolerate the intrusion into the Thanksgiving holiday.

Big retail stores need to look at the way their choices affect not only their companies’ bottom line but the way it affects their employees and consumers as well.

What good is it to offer discounts if no one is shopping in your stores to take advantage of them?

If the large retail chains were to offer their sales both in stores and online it would give people the opportunity to shop during Black Friday and still be able to spend time with their family, and not have to run out to get items at the store.

This would not only positively affect the companies’ public image; it will have a positive affect on employee morale and customer service.

With the better employee morale and customer service many stores will be able to see an even larger profit.

It would not make only the upper management happy but the employees and consumers as well.

If the consumers are happy with the way a store considers them will lead to them spending more money in that store.

By BEN ROSETE
Staff writer

Federal funding for state colleges?

Healthcare, Unemployment, Economic stimulus. These are some of the topics concerning not just middle class and working citizens in the United States, but also now more and more students who have recently graduated from college.

The difficulty of finding employment in the current market has demonstrated that even attending a college or university after high school does not assure a job.

This then brings the question. Is the federal government doing enough for the education system?

Often, the financial expense of getting a higher degree is more than the average American can afford and advanced programs in schools are neither well developed nor accessible to most students.

The public education system has perhaps been the most affected in the recent financial crisis, with funding for lower tier and higher education being reduced in several states.

It is important that state funded universities be able to provide not only for the general education of the population, but also for the specialized instruction of people who want advanced degrees such as engineering.

Certainly more could be done for education not only in California, but also throughout the nation.

State governments control almost every aspect of public education, including funding.

But when planning on part of the state is not enough, when resources are spent ineffectually, at what point does it become the responsibility of the federal government to help the facilities of the state?

To create jobs, the government must first create opportunity, something that can be achieved if grants and funding from the national budget are given to public university systems.

If incentives are given to state institutions to develop education programs, then the level of skill and learning increases.

In the current financial crisis, the government should make the exception to support state systems for education, allowing it possible to support universities and junior colleges to apply for advanced degrees.

National funding could be used not only to provide for materials, but pay the salary of a better prepared instructor or be given as financial aid for individuals who have shown interest and aptitude in the subject.

National funding also makes sense as students from out of state as well as from other countries to make use of state university and junior college systems.

For retailers, this meant that everyone will not tolerate the intrusion into the Thanksgiving holiday.

Big retail stores need to look at the way their choices affect not only their companies’ bottom line but the way it affects their employees and consumers as well.

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By REBECCA SOLTAN
Staff writer

How did you spend your Black Friday?

Rebecca Soltan

"I went to a Christmas parade in Niles."
The Monitor sat down with new theater department faculty member Michael Navarra.

By SOPHIA VAUGHN  Photographer

Monitor: When did you decide to teach? Why?

Michael Navarra: In 1998 I decided to go back to school for my MFA. I knew then that I wanted to teach and work in regional theater. I find that people who pursue acting are following their dreams.

My goal as a teacher is to encourage students to find their passion whether it is acting or something else.

M: What do you like most about your job?

MN: The students. Every student has a different reason for taking an acting class. I like to find that reason and remind them of why they are here.

M: What do you like least?

MN: Lack of commitment. Some student's take the class for what they believe will be an easy A. That's a shame.

Why waste your time (which is all we have) on an easy A? I believe that whatever someone decides to spend their time on should be important to them.

M: What was your favorite subject in school?

MN: Theater. And history. I almost went back to school for a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology. I love learning about people, different cultures, histories and religions.

M: Where did you go to college?

MN: I went to U.C. Irvine for undergrad and the Universi- ty of Washington for grad.

M: What did you major in?

MN: Drama and acting.

M: Did you enjoy being a college student? If so, what did you like about it? If not, why?

MN: I loved being a college student. It is a place where people from all walks of life come together to learn.

M: What advice would you give a college student about the ins and outs of college life?

MN: Commit 100 percent to your classes. It's the only way to know if you will truly enjoy that work. Also, it's the only way to get the most out of it. Life is short. Don't waste it.

M: What kinds of hobbies do you enjoy?

MN: I love reading, watching movies and a few TV shows like “Deadwood”.

I love reading to learn, understanding the ins and outs of college life.

M: Have you changed since you first started teaching?

MN: Every school/institution I teach at has different criteria and student body. The main difference is my self. I learn from every student and every class and hope that this will help me with the next student that walks into my class.

What do you like most about acting? I love reading, watching movies and a few TV shows like “Deadwood”.

E-Waste fundraiser generates money

By BEN ROSETE  Staff writer

Ohlone College claimed an e-Waste successful fundraising event on the weekend of Nov. 11 and 12.

The eWaste fundraiser, held in conjunction with C&T Recycling, received support from both days of the community and student population.

The event gave people within the Ohlone community and the Fremont area the opportunity to recycle a variety of electrical appliances.

The event was organized as both a community project and fundraising opportunity for the college.

“This was the first time we tried such an event,” said Richard Grotegut, a member of the faculty in Computer Science involved with the project.

“But overall, we had good participation by Ohlone students, staff and faculty on both days.”

While primarily an event to motivate more environmental practices, the collection also generated money for Ohlone from fees paid to turn in certain telephones, with the fee increasing to $15 for objects such as microwaves and depending on weight, batteries would be disposed of at a rate of $3 per pound.

“In total, we estimate that more than 5,000 pounds of electronic waste were collected over the course of the two days,” said Grotegut. Prizes and recognitions were awarded to contributors who attended the event and donated enough pounds of items to receive tickets. The raffle was exclusive to students and staff from Ohlone College.

Some of the items awarded included new laptop computers, color printers, internet routers and mass storage flash drives. “The event gave us the opportunity to learn some things which will help to make future events better,” said Grotegut.

C&T Recycling is planning to host another collection fundraiser in the spring semester. A tentative date for the event has been set for March 24.

Navarra stars as head of the class

By MANIKA CASTERLINE  Editor-in-Chief

Hometown Glory

An investigation by the East Bay News group culminated in the October resignation of Ohlone trustee Nick Nardollilo and led to questions over where trustee Greg Bonaccorsi calls home. During the course of several months, the issue of residency has hit close to home. In a season that revolves around the ideas of home and hearth, maybe there is an argument to be made in defense of the politics of it all.

The issues of residency bring to light a challenge regarding representation. Should people from out of town be allowed to represent an area that they do not live in?

Popular sentiment argues that it should not be permissible and legislation supports that side. However in democracy, there are multiple sides and perspectives to everything. It is what contributes to American Exceptionalism. So, go ahead and call me the devil’s advocate for going out on a limb for those who say: Yes, it should be allowed.

However in democracy, we are constantly re-evaluating how we perceive the world we live in?

The issues of residency in? town be allowed to represent a community that they feel they are here.

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The issues of residency in?
Ohlone winter performance joins iLLusion

Smith Center hosts mixed style student dance show

By SALLY HUO  
Staff writer

The Ohlone Winter Dance will open on Dec. 1 at the Smith Center.

“The winter showcase is essentially an informal presentation. It also will be the final exam for those students who are taking dance courses,” said Janel Tomblin Brown, the director of dance.

Ohlone College dance students will perform the wide array of dance styles that they learned at Ohlone. Dance styles include tap, ballet, jazz, contemporary and hip-hop.

Guest performances will be by the iLLusion Dance Company. Students and staffs are invited to come and enjoy the music and the dance.

Different classes prepared different times for the winter dance showcase. There will be 80 to 100 dance performers on the show and 100 audience seats available.

The recommendation from Janel: “Be sure to buy the tickets early and get to the theatre early since the seats are less.”

“Our winter dance showcase does not have a specific theme and it ranges from many different styles of dance. And iLLusion Dance Company is going to perform as the guest performers,” said Tomblin-Brown.

“We are doing this winter showcase just wants to show the family and friends what they have done during the fall semester and provide some opportunities for those students who have never been on the stage. This dance showcase is also a final exam for students. Also, students can be prepared for the spring showcase better, the big dance showcase, which has a theme,” said Tomblin-Brown.

When: Dec. 1, 2, 3
Where: NUMMI Studio Theatre Smith Center
Time: 8 p.m.
Admissions: $10-$12
Contact: http://www.ohlone.edu/instr/theatredance/20112012/winterdance/showcase.html

For our readers:

Ohlone students rehearse for the big performance in the dance studio. With big, tired smiles, the dancers pose playfully for the big finish in the top photo. The performance will be a mix of dance styles, which will range from ballet, contemporary, jazz, tap and hip-hop. The iLLusion Dance Company will be doing a guest performance at the winter show.
Library book club discusses ‘The Help’

By NAVIN KRISHNAN
Staff writer

Gender, race, and flawed characters dominated the Ohlone Fremont campus book discussion group Tuesday in the library.

Organizers made the book club open to students, faculty, and staff. The group was based on the discussion of the book “The Help” by Katherine Stockett.

The book tells the story of three women living in Mississippi in 1962: one a graduate from Ole Miss, one a black maid, and one the maid’s best friend. The three characters, Skeeter, Aibileen, and Minny are three women who dare to create conflict in a town with tight restrictions on its population.

Skeeter is encouraged to put together a book based on a disgusting reality. Eventually, she runs into Aibileen, a woman who has raised 17 children and counting, and Aibileen’s friend, Minny, a cook who can’t seem to hold her tongue.

Together, they compile a book about their adventures in the backdrops of the black community while Skeeter proceeds to write her own book, identifying with a college student, she explained, was a brilliant move.

The discussion broke into the distribution of racism throughout the North and South of the United States. Some prejudices, the readers explained, forced misinterpreted conceptions about the book. By the groups’ consensus, these were augmented by the book.

Some discussion members identified with the mothers, and others identified with the main character, Skeeter.

“Women in that time period didn’t have many options. Just that constricted role that women in that time period had,” said one group member.

She explained that the author’s normalcy, or her social morality, was the most appealing concept in the book to her.

Not all the comments were positive, however.

“The white people in the book use better English. Everyone in the South during that time period spoke in a similar way,”

“She thought she didn’t portray any of the men well,” said Deb Parziale.

She said the book, though, had a “human connection.”

“The way they deal with mental health issues is really interesting,” said Emily Grantz.

She said that some issues brought up in the book, had they occurred in today’s world, would have resulted in the prescription of medication.

The book, to Grantz, showed that people can only be depressed to a point, until they snap and revolt.

“I would encourage anyone who hasn’t seen the movie to give it a try,” Taskey said.

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Excerpt from ‘The Help’ by Katherine Stockett

August 1962

Mae Mobley was born on a Sunday morning in August, 1962. A church baby, we like to call it. Taking care a white babies, that’s what I do, along with all the cooking and the cleaning. I done raised seventeen kids in my lifetime. I know how to get them babies to sleep, stop crying, and go in the toilet bowl before they mamas even get out a bed in the morning.

But I ain’t never seen a baby yell like this Miss Leefolt. First day I walk in the door there she be, red-hot and hollering with the colic, fighting that bottle like it’s a rotten turnip. Miss Lee Polk, she look terrible. A her own child. “What am I doing wrong? Why can’t I stop it?”

That was my first hint: something is wrong with this situation.

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‘Nutcracker’ ballet pirouettes

Free for Ohlone students

By JOE NICHOLS
Opinions editor

It is the time of semester when a student’s stress level is at an all time high.

With finals looming on the horizon, student try to cram every last bit of information into their brains, before having to take the exams that will show how well the information doted out by teachers has been absorbed.

So what would feel good right about now? A massage.

Ohlone Campus Activities will hold Massage Day Dec 6, according to Campus Activities Coordinator Renee Wong-Gonzales. The aim of the event is to help students combat the stresses caused by studying for finals, with a relaxing massage.

With reduced stress levels, students will be better prepared to study for finals.

Fremont Massage and Body Works will provide the skilled massage therapists for the event.

The massages start at 11 a.m. and continue until 1 p.m. in the cafeteria on the Fremont campus.

With limited space it will be a first come first served basis. The event is only open to Ohlone students with an Ohlone ID card.

According to Renee Wong-Gonzales campus activities coordinator there will be a second massage day held in the spring, around the end of the semester.

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December 1, 2011

By ASHLEY LAM
Staff Writer

This holiday season, Tchaikovsky’s “The Nutcracker Ballet” will be performed in early December.

This is a special collaboration between Yoko’s Dance and Performing Arts Academy, which choreographed the ballet and the Fremont Symphony Orchestra that will provide the live orchestra during the ballet.

Tchaikovsky’s “The Nutcracker Ballet” will be performed at the Smith Center on Dec. 5 and 6 at 7 p.m. and again on Dec. 6 and 7 at 2 p.m.

There are also different seats that are available for sale.

Section A seats, which are the closest seats to the stage, cost $46 for adults.

For Section B, the cost is $43 per adult. There is a flat rate of $20 for full-time students with ID and any children under the age of 12.

Following the matinee performances, children are welcomed to join the Sugar Plum Party. Children are invited to enjoy special holiday treats and have their pictures taken with costumed dancers after the ballet.

If families are interested in attending the Sugar Plum Party, it is suggested that they make advanced reservations by contacting the Fremont Symphony Guild.

They are hosting the festive event for the children after the ballet.
Protest policy explained at College Council

By JAMIE LAM
Staff writer

“We will not use any force unless it’s absolutely necessary,” said Chief of Campus Police Steve Osawa regarding Ohlone’s stance on protests on campus after the pepper spraying incident at UC Davis on Nov. 18.

Invited to address the controversy over control and how it could affect Ohlone’s stance on protests on campus after the pepper spraying incident at UC Davis on Nov. 18, Osawa explained the procedures at the College Council meeting on Nov. 22.

The use of pepper spray, within our procedures and guidelines, states it’s only used with police resistance and violence — the same is true for the use of the baton,” said Osawa.

On Nov. 18, UC Davis students posted up a video on the internet of UC Davis Lt. John Pike pepper-spraying a peaceful, non-violent group of students who were blocking the road.

Spectator outrage has been garnered since, with UC Davis campus police and chancellor facing criticism and blame for the incident.

Most of the public shock in how the video showed the students innocuously sitting and taking the abuse, taking no belligerent stance or non-violent protest.

Osawa said the campus police began preparing for student protests following the news of the Occupy movement broke out.

However, Ohlone has several issues that affect our particular campus more so than others.

Since the campus police are not present from 11 p.m. to 6 a.m., the decision to let students stay and protest during these hours becomes an issue.

“If the campus police are not here, and something occurs, there would be a liability issue to the college,” said Osawa.

That would be one of the decision points we haven’t made.

The second issue would be the possibility of vandalism occurring on campus.

Osawa said the campus police would have to intercede at that point.

As far as concerns for pepper spray, I can assure you it will only be used if we’re talking about violent situations and that person needs to be subdued. It’s not going to be anything like what happened at Davis.,” said Osawa.

If a small group or even an individual makes a move to attack, campus police will take action immediately.

“If it was mere threat alone, we would want to intercede, subdue it, and defuse the situation. We wouldn’t want to wait for someone to attack us. I don’t think pepper spray would be an issue.”

“However, if one had a club in his or her hand, we would not want to see whether or not the person is going to hit us to decide what to do,” said Osawa.

The college council members emphasized the ease of media and how all the actions taken will end up publicized heavily.

Osawa said we had to remember that what occurred in the video is only part of the story — the public often does not receive the entire story.

The Occupy movement has spread and gained much exposure since its start in New York with Occupy Wall Street back in August.

AlertU warns you

By ASHLEY LAM
Staff writer

Campus Police encouraged students to sign up for the AlertU mobile alert emergency notification system.

This security system allows for students to be aware of any campus emergencies simply by receiving an infor-mative text. If students wish, they are free to opt in or opt out anytime that they want.

It is easy for students to join in on AlertU.

They must simply visit http://www.ohlone.edu/org/security/alertu.html and enter in the required information to get started in the program free of charge.

“This system is nothing new and has been effective since the beginning of its implementations,” said Osawa.

“AlertU became available in 2008 and is one of the notification systems authorized by the University of California,” said Steve Osawa, Chief of Campus Police Services.

Osawa explained how the system works and how accessible the system truly is to all students.

“The AlertU notification system is SMS based and does not rely upon cell phone voice connection. It is quicker and all of the persons who are signed up can be contacted at one time.”

This is superior to e-mail as almost every student has a cell phone and the newer phones having texting ability.

This way, students have the ability to receive notifications of emergencies whether they are on campus or not and are on line or not, said Osawa.

“The tragic event at Virginia Tech focused attention on the need for alert systems and methodologies, but Ohlone had already implemented AlertU prior to the incident at Virginia Tech,” said Osawa.

“The need had been identified throughout the college and university systems in the United States, Ohlone College District also found a need for an alert system and determined that AlertU should be one part of that system.”

He stressed the importance of a security system like AlertU.

However, students need not be alarmed instead it is important for them to be informed about what is happening around campus.

Osawa spoke about what types of alerts usually go out to students and faculty.

“Alert messages are sent out when there is an emergency that creates or has created a potential danger to students and staff. The emergency can be man made, natural, or a health threat.”

“For instance, alert messages can also be sent out when a situation occurs that will impact the college campus and community such as a major electrical outage and classes must be canceled or the campus closed or windstorm damage that would pose a threat or danger to students and staff that mandates the closure of all or part of the campus or a significant crime that calls for increased police activity.”

As far as concerns for pepper spray, I can assure you it will only be used if we’re talking about violent situations and that person needs to be subdued. It’s not going to be anything like what happened at Davis.

The actions campus police would take depend on the situations they’re put in, said Osawa.

If a small group or even an individual makes a move to attack, campus police will take action immediately.

“If it was mere threat alone, we would want to intercede, subdue it, and defuse the situation,” said Osawa.

College mathletes places in top five

By SALLY HUO
Staff writer

As the holiday season is upon us, many children begin to expect Christmas presents on Dec. 25.

However, many poor families are not able to afford the expensive presents that their children may wish to get on Christmas morning.

LOV, a Tri-City agency, will join forces with the U.S. Marine Corps to help spread the holiday cheer to Tri-City children so that they will receive a present during a season that is marked by the spirit of giving.

“Tri-City Agency has been cooperated with LOV together for 15 years to help the families’ children. LOV sent us certain big boxes and then we collect the toys from college students and community members. LOV pick up the toys from us and responses to distribute the collection in families’ children,” said Foster.

The donation period will be end on Dec. 14 and people also can bring toys to local community service center. Ohlone students and individuals can drop off the toys outside of the President’s Office and at the Newark Campus.

All toys must be brand new and unwrapped and will be distributed to Tri City children only. Toys for Tots began in1947. The idea came from Maj. Bill Hendricks, USMC and his wife, Diane. Hendricks was inspired by his wife to start an organization that collects toys from communities and delivers the toys to needy children at Christmas.

In 1948, Walt Disney designed the Toys for Tots logo, which is still in use.

First Lady Nancy Reagan served as the national spokesperson in 1983. Also, First Lady Barbara Bush served as the national spokesperson in 1992.

In her autobiography, Bush named Toys for Tots as one of her favorite charities.

Toys for Tots collects treats for youngsters

Photo courtesy Geoffrey Hirsch

11 Ohlone students participated in the national AMATYC mathematics competition Math professor Geoffrey Hirsch, second from right is pictured with three of the top scoring participants: Kaicheng Zheng, Rui Huang and Prithanjan Bhattacharya. Ohlone is in fifth place nationally as of publication.
Poetry night a big success

By KYLE NORDEEN

Sports editor

Self-expression is something that everybody should be allowed to do. It’s important to be able to communicate how you feel under certain circumstances.

Being able to communicate how you feel under certain circumstances is essential to have fulfilling relationships with those around you.

Knowing not only what you want to say, but also how to say it and convey those emotions plays a big role.

Many people look to visual art forms such as painting and sculpting, while others look to written art — such as poetry.

Thanks to the Ohlone College Forensics (Speech & Debate) Team, Nov. 18 provided an outlet for those who had the desire to express themselves in that manner.

Poetry Night was hosted in Room 2133 where Mathew Weber was the master of ceremonies.

Weber also performed at Poetry Night, but said that being the master of ceremonies gave him a different view on the event itself.

“It was a bit of a challenge and I didn’t really know what to expect,” he said.

And once I started I realized how underprepared I actually was. It gave me an opportunity to see it from a different perspective because I was there and I help set it up.”

Genres of the pieces presented were all over the spectrum, but the way they were read offered the reader and the audience an opportunity to form their own interpretations.

Ondre Calvet III performed “What Teachers Make” by Taylor Mali as a last minute selection, but it ended up working perfectly in the end because it was a style he was familiar with.

“I always enjoy talking and reading in front of an audience,” he said.

It had the same sort of delivery; the same sort of style. And I could kind of interpret it my own way.

The forensics team had some of its own members get in attendance with Heather Warren and Philip Enguancho both contributing their own performances.

Arguably the most unusual performance of the night — and maybe the most important performance of the night — was delivered by Jeana Williams, a deaf student at Ohlone.

The silence in the room, along with Williams’ gestures and expressions, captivated the audience.

She wrote her poem herself and it chronicled the struggles and hardships experienced by a deaf child and her family as she grows up.

“I picked the poem because it applied to my experiences,” Williams said. “I have hearing parents and I learned ASL, and that was the key to me communicating with my parents. There was a communication block at first and we were able to break that.”

Williams wanted to perform so she could be a role model and show that being deaf isn’t something that will prevent her from being able to express herself to those around her.

“My point was that deaf people could do it also,” she said.

“I don’t want people to think ‘Oh I’m lousy, I can’t do it.’ That’s not true. They can do it, they can go to college, they can get a good job… That’s my belief.”

Continued from Page 8

Women’s soccer season over

Continued from Page 8

to keep consistency for 90 minutes.”

The toughest opponent for the Renegades this year, Heslin explained, was the City College of San Francisco.

“One of them were easy games, most of them were high end competition,” said Heslin.

“I was really happy the way the girls came together as a team.”

The team’s 14-5-2 overall record this season matches their best wins total since the 2006 campaign and their 11-2-2 Coast Conference record was their best in years.

An unsatisfying but plentiful end to another season bodes a path forward that essentially lights a bright path into next season’s trials.

Watch out for next season. It’s sure to be a good one.

Men’s b-ball slump

Continued from Page 8

in the team’s side thus far.

“We’re not taking great care of the ball and we’re not getting stops when we need them.”

The team has had injury problems thus far as well. Some players have missed significant time due to major injuries, but little, badgering injuries have also taken their toll.

“There’s been some nagging stuff,” he said. “I think the rest of group, if they do what we are asking them to do, can step up and fill the void.”

The team has taken most of the first week back from Thanksgiving break to try and recuperate.

The team has still been having film sessions to take a look back and see what needs correcting as they look to snap their four-game skid against West Valley on Saturday at 3 p.m.

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December 1, 2011 monitor 7
**Breakout volleyball team unable to advance**

By KYLE NORDEEN  
Sports editor

The women's volleyball season ended on a positive note with a 3-0 victory over Chabot, but failing to reach the state playoffs will leave an unblemished blimish on an otherwise exemplary season.

The team finished 6-4 in conference with an overall record of 16-8 — the team's best record to date.

Freshman outside hitter Jennifer Covy and freshman defensive specialist/ailer Lindsey Calabrese were also selected to the All-Conference Team.

"I didn't anticipate us to do as well as we did this year," said head coach Jeremy Penafial.

"I'm more than pretty happy. We set goals for ourselves based on what we have done over the past couple of years, and we knew that with this particular group, with the sophomores returning and the freshmen taking the opportunity to play in, that we would be by far better than any class since I've been here.

Despite playing in a strong conference, the team's schedule out of conference may have played a major role in keeping them from earning an at-large bid into the state playoffs.

Sixteen teams make it into the state playoff bracket. The 12 conference champions earn automatic bids, while the rest of the teams fight it out for the remaining four slots.

The Los Angeles County Section Championship has been the Renegades play in is split into two divisions — North and South — with winning third in the North Division wasn't enough to earn Ohlone a spot in postseason action.

"Not a strong schedule and I knew that going in," Penafial said.

Playoffs were an outside goal. It always is a goal to win games, but I didn't anticipate us to do as well as we did this year… I knew that our best chance to make playoffs would be an automatic [bid] in conference.

And while the season may have just come to an end for most of the team, there is still a lot to do for some of the sophomores interested in taking their game to the next level.

An event that takes place at the state tournament is the Sophomore Showcase — essentially a large tryout to show four-year universities — both NCAA and NAIA — what some of these women are capable of doing.

The Renegades will have three sophomores participating in the showcase: Anna Ottavis, Joleen Croce and Melissa Randall.

The number of girls at the showcase will be in the hundreds since girls from all over the state will be in attendance, but Ottavis, Croce and Randall are just approaching.

"Normal practices pretty much," said Ottavis.

With no particular schools in mind, the girls said they would be anxious to attend any school that showed interest.


These sophomores laid the foundation for the team's success this season. The more experienced players provided the veteran leadership that Penafial was looking for and the team synergy they helped develop was gradually breaking out this season.

"This year was a lot of fun because we had a lot of really good players, and everyone worked well together, too," said Croce.

"Everyone just gets along together really well.

"There are no ups and downs," added Ottavis. "It was pretty much the same. Last year there were some rollercoaster moves."

This particular class has also set the bar high for future squads and that impact really can't be appreciated enough because it laid the groundwork for consistent success, especially in a place where the players come and go quickly.

"I say this every year, but our sophomores this year played a big part of laying that foundation," Penafial said.

"Good leadership, good experience… I'm very pleased, very happy with how we did this year. It just sets the bar even higher… We just blew it away this year."

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**Men's basketball slumping**

By KYLE NORDEEN  
Sports editor

The basketball team got off to a quick start winning its first three games of the 2011 season, but a four-game losing streak has put a damper on what was a promising start.

"I've been here. I've been here. This is as bad as it gets. It's a season for the taking of some sort. That's what we're seeing now."

"The games have been close. They have been close. We could have won all of them."

"I think fatigue is a little bit of an issue," Peterson said.

"And I think injuries are a little bit of an issue, but at the end of the day we've lost four in a row and they've all been one possession games with four minutes or less." Defense has always been a strong point of Renegades' teams under Peterson, but the offense has taken a little bit of time to catch up this season.

"Maintaining possession and dictating the tempo of the game is essential to the team's success, but it is something that has proven to be a thorn in the men's basketball slumping.

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**Women's soccer booted in first round of playoffs**

By NAVIN KRISHNAN  
Staff writer

The Ohlone women's soccer team's season came to an end on Nov. 19 after its first playoff match and first playoff loss to a brutally physical Fresno City College that incised deeper into the playoffs.

For the Renegades, this season will be one to remember.

They accomplished a bit in the North, No.14 seed in the playoffs and were able to leave a stamp on the season that they accomplished as expected but are ready for more.

Ohlone head coach Larry Heslin said he was not pleased with the result of the game, but was pleased with the way his women played.

"We came up just short, but the girls played fantastic," he said.

"We were right there. We got into the playoffs against a team that was very physical and dirty. They took out a couple of our key players [due to the dirty play]."

"Every year, we have a goal to win our conference," said Heslin.

What was special about the contest, said Heslin, was "the heart and character that we showed."

"The heart and character not only showed as a team characteristic in the way the carried themselves and won consistently, but also the way the players won games to ac-

"We had three conference players of the year," said Heslin.

Erika Gerard, Ariana Strickland, and Cheyenne Gishard all won on top of the title of conference player of the year.

"To get three girls confer-

"This year was a lot of fun as we had a lot of really good players, and everyone worked well together, too," said Croce.

"I say this every year, but our sophomores this year played a big part of laying that foundation," Penafial said.

"Good leadership, good experience… I'm very pleased, very happy with how we did this year. It just sets the bar even higher… We just blew it away this year."

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