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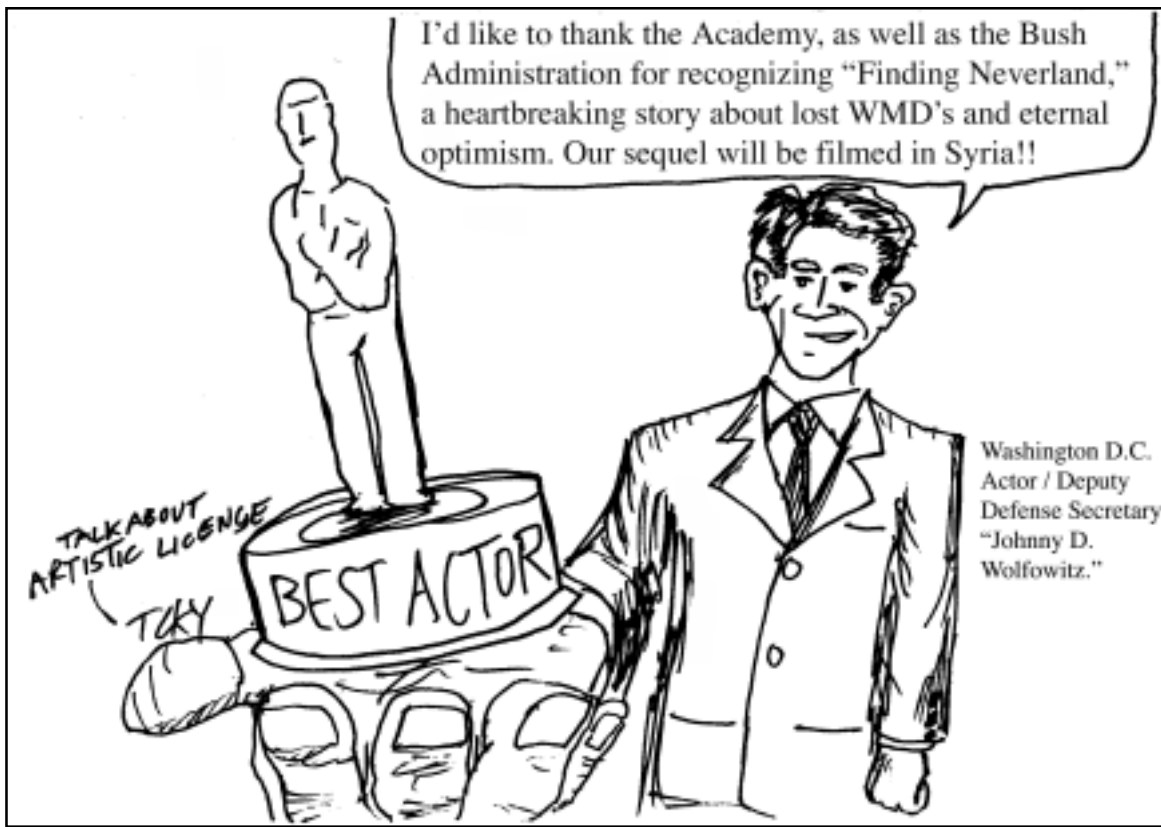


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OPINION

How to make peace with Ohlone

By SEAN G. CRAWFORD
Editor-in-Chief

The day most of us found out we were going to Ohlone after graduating high school I doubt there were any doves released in our honor or any cake wasted to commemorate our accession towards the heights of the Ohlone hills. We were social pariahs when the inevitable question would arise, "where are you going to college?"

For many, finding out that Ohlone is their only option available after high school is tantamount to having an incurable disease. The five stages in the cycle of acceptance that most cancer patients experience have pervaded the collective consciousness of Ohlone's in-

coming freshman class. The fact that there seems to be such a direct link between public education and cancer is a bit disturbing, but more disturbing is that this has become a trend among all community college students.

Denial sets in soon after high school graduation, when asked about future plans for school you respond vaguely, refusing to acknowledge the fact that you will be attending a community college. Quickly you move from feelings of **anger to depression** - a general unmotivated, languid, torpor pervades every facet of your life and for many students they stay stuck in this melancholy for much of their initial stay at Ohlone. It's a waste, considering the next step to accept-

ing your stay at Ohlone is also your doorway out - **bargaining** for a transfer contract.

And this eventually leads to **acceptance**, but I don't think that is enough. When I came to Ohlone for the first time I was 5 years old, I thought the campus was a castle. The morning mist parted to reveal towering buildings and elegant fountains; the hills rolled in all directions above me. The city lights twinkled below. This was the most beautiful place on earth. Since then, I have visited every major California campus and not one has stirred me with the same degree of wonder and contentment that Ohlone did and still does.

To walk around our campus on a rainy day is to be inside a living



Seems like only yesterday. Well, maybe a bit longer than that. But the fountain is still cool.

thing. Water roars down the canals that snake through the campus, birds flutter for cover underneath the foliage at the back of the campus... this is our East Bay Eden.

Our faculty remains dedicated to the student base, the administration has opened itself up to a level of scrutiny and public participation that was almost unheard of five years ago

and our campus security works tirelessly to serve and protect.

Every morning that I trek up Ohlone, marching up the winding stairways that envelop the campus, following 158 steps from the base of Building 20 up to the Quad, I remain thankful that I attend Ohlone College; acceptance has become **jubilation**.

Modern America: living in a world where looks can kill

by ALISHA FRANCISCO
Staff writer

After coming home from my winter vacation out of the country, I find that one of my friends got a boob job. It hasn't even been a month after her surgery and now she's already talking about getting the fat under her neck removed and getting liposuction on her thighs.

This craze has gone so mainstream that anyone with a credit card and some time can get it done.

It is no longer for only privileged men and women.

Prime-time television used to have shows where contestants would compete for a new car. Now in the 21st Century, shows like 'The Swan' have contestants compete for makeovers that require ridiculous amounts of cosmetic surgery in order to look and feel beautiful.

But what many people don't realize is that shows like 'The Swan' are sending people the wrong message about going under the knife. "The public is be-

ing lulled into the sense that there are no real risks or complications," says Rod Rohrich, a surgeon and president of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. "We're already seeing the impact. I have patients saying they want all these things done in one operation, and you can't safely do it. It's not like buying groceries or shoes. You can take those back. You can't take your face back."

And it's true. The increasing number of people dying and being injured after having cosmetic surgery is alarming.

Not only does cosmetic surgery change the look of your face and body. It will also change the social attitudes people have. As more and more surgery is done, we find that are reinventing the man and woman. There are new standards of what beautiful people should look like.

The demand in jobs will change too. If you work at an assembly line at an automotive factory, no one will care what you look like. Jobs will more than likely be in the sales department and who wants to buy something from a

middle-aged man with scars from pimples in his adolescence in a size XXXXXL t-shirt?

I can see the positive change in my friends and family who've gotten plastic surgery, but is the pain and money worth it? Whether you save up for an extensive cosmetic package that includes a nose job, tummy tuck and lip injections or you eat healthy, exercise, get a haircut and slap on some make-up, I think the effects are just the same. Before going under the knife, consider the risks and ask yourself if you're willing to take it.

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

What is your biggest pet peeve?



DENISE VELASCO

"People who don't call me back."



GENEVA HONESTO

"When people want something but don't work towards it."



JILLIAN FARRAR

"I don't like it when bicyclists think they're cars."



MATT SCHERMERHORN

"The parking at Ohlone."



JESSICA VO

"When guys sag their pants and their boxers show."