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Offices are located in Room 5310 on campus, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont 94539-5884. Call (510) 659-6075. Fax: (510) 659-6076. E-mail: monitor@ohlone.cc.ca.us

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OPINION

The rising cost of a disposable culture and forgettable fads

By RANDALL WOO
Staff writer

Culture all around us is changing and evolving every second. What is "in" one day may very well be "out" the next day. Just one brief comparison of the popular music charts today to those of the late 90s is evidence of this. Gone are the boy bands that once ruled the music charts. An interesting phenomenon occurred in the late 90s; DJ's and rappers slowly became integral parts of bands as the rap-rock genre took off. These types of bands are now a dying breed and only the few strong have survived.

Today the rappers are being replaced with screamers and the DJ's replaced by keyboards. The dual singing/raping combo has given way to the all too familiar sing/scream duo these days. This new breed of music has taken a hold of America's youth. It is disappointing to find that more and more bands are looking the same and sounding the same.

Hot Topic, the chain of stores peddling "alternative" culture, is now a common sight at many malls. It is quite a contrast to see such a grungy, dimly lit store in the familiar lights and elevator music of the mall. One trip inside, however, and a look at the

price tags will reveal that it is yet another store designed to separate money from the hands of hard working parents.

Tours these days seem to exist for the sole reason of making money. Take for example the Honda Civic Tour. This tour encourages young people to get together and enjoy music and buy a few Hondas in the process. One trip to the Vans Warped Tour website and you will find that the good people at Samsung and Cingular have graciously brought this tour to a city near you. Samsung and Sprint bring the Warped Tour's not too distant cousin the "Taste of

Chaos" tour to you. How much chaos can there really be on a tour backed by major corporations? A quick trip to the Ozzfest website reveals their corporate sponsors as well. How metal is "The official energy drink of Ozzfest," YJ Stinger? So, whose interests are really being served in a market where "cool" rules?

Upon reading a review of Limp Bizkit's latest album in "Alternative Press", I was astonished to see how cruel the editors were to the once popular group. Receiving an abysmal 0/5, they had received the lowest rating I had ever seen in the magazine. I looked in the back of the magazine to view the

back issues and lo and behold there was Limp Bizkit featured on the cover of the September 2000 issue. It is interesting how people like to ride the bandwagon and then can just as soon kick you when you are down. All this brings me to the question: How much of today's culture will we actually remember? We live in an age where it seems artistic credibility is constantly being compromised for the almighty dollar. How much of the music on the airwaves right now will be considered significant in the future? I hope that we are not a generation defined by a thirst for fads and a short attention span.

Intuition and Mom's advice: recipe for a lesson worth learning

By MARC MCCORD
Staff writer

In my own life, I've had many jealous ex-girlfriends, the relationships could not last because I'm not the jealous type. My philosophy is: "If I gotta follow you around and play Columbo all day, then I don't need you."

Insecurity breeds jealousy, which can lead a person - man or woman - to engage in all kinds of dangerous behavior. Many jealous ex-lovers in

correctional facilities across the country can attest to the ill effects that jealousy has had on their own lives.

I'll never forget this girl named Yvonne, who for a long time had a crush on me when we were in school. A little voice in the back of my head told me to leave that girl alone. Thank God I did. One day, a few years after we got out of school, I ran into Yvonne and gave her my phone number. She called me not once, not twice, but dozens of times in a very short period of time. Well, one day when I spoke to her I told her I had to go see my girlfriend. "Your

girlfriend?" She screamed into the phone and hung up.

I didn't hear from her again until... I happened to open the local newspaper and there was a story about her: "Oakland Woman Kills Boyfriend and Buries Him In Backyard."

Turns out that little voice in my head may have saved my life. During a conflict with her boyfriend, about another woman, she killed him in his sleep. She then took his body and put it in a child's toy box; it must've been a huge toy box. Anyway, after a couple of weeks of no

one hearing from this guy and her acting weird, the police started nosing around and discovered a patch of dirt in the backyard that didn't quite look right. Well, that led to her being taken away for the rest of her life, I hope.

At around that same time in my life, when I had no sense at all, which wasn't that long ago, I let women who were more ignorant than I was, convince me that in order to keep a woman, you had to know how to control her.

Perplexed I called my mother who,

thank God, was a voice of reason. I said, "Hey Mom, how does a man control a woman?" With incredulity in her voice, she responded, "for what?"

I said, "you know, to keep her line?" Her response has stayed with me to this day: "Mark, it's hard enough for you to control yourself, why would you want to control anyone else?"

And she was right. As soon as I learned that lesson, I no longer attracted the type of women that wanted to be controlled.

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

Give us your best Zoolander face



KATIE ALEXANDER
History

"Keeping the Blue Steel alive."



FERNANDO FLORES
Business Administration

"That made me look really funny."



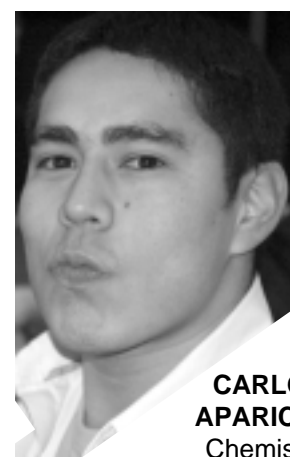
MONIQUE MARTINEZ
Fitness

"I feel like a superstar."



BILL PIPER
Arts

"I feel ridiculous."



CARLOS APARICIO
Chemistry

"This is the pose that gets all the girls."