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Editor in chief: Sean G. Crawford
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Photographers: Inez Black, Lawrence Gerrero, Daniel Kwan, Charlie Hebison, Melody Marquez, Shari Wargo, David Mohammadi
Ad manager: Corie Howell
Adviser: Bill Parks
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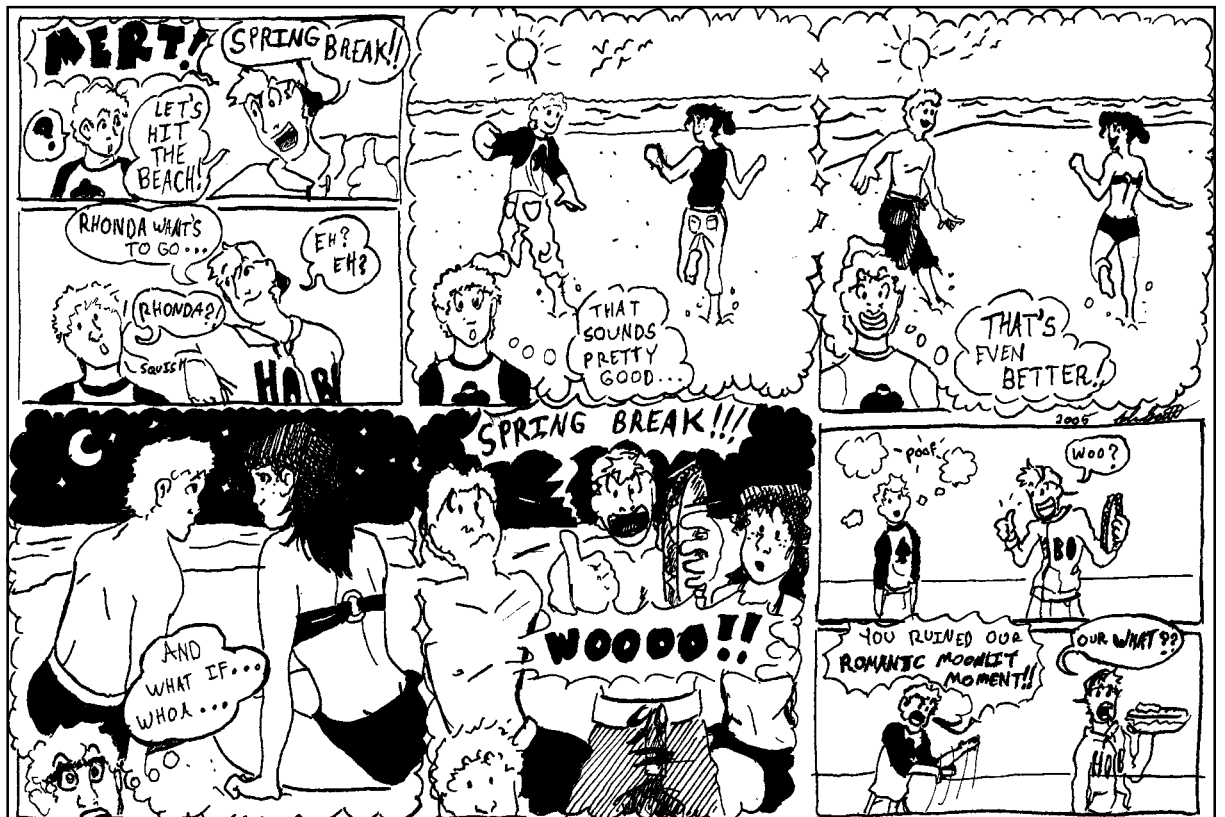


Offices are located in Room 5310 on campus, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont 94539-5884. Call (510) 659-6075. Fax: (510) 659-6076. E-mail: monitor@ohlone.cc.ca.us

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OPINION

The shock and horror of raising minimum wage

By **FRANKIE ADDIEGO**
Staff writer

During this one class, my professor-whom, lest you get the wrong impression, I love more than life itself-informed my class that those crooks in Washington have not increased the federal minimum wage in years. Then he told us that they're trying to make it harder for people to file for personal bankruptcy.

Unlike my classmates, I was somehow neither shocked nor horrified. Still, I know I was supposed to be and that worries me.

Why was I not shocked or horrified? Well, for one thing, I don't think there should be a federal minimum wage in the first place.

Why do we need a federal one, when states can decide what their

minimum wage is or even whether or not they need it. According to the Department of Labor, only two states have lower minimum wage rates and seven have no minimum wage.

What that means is that two would see a drop in the minimum wage if the federal rate was removed, and seven would have none and could either keep it that way, or come up with one and 13 (including California) have a higher minimum wage.

The rest have the same minimum wage as the federal rate.

Plus, some argue that the minimum wage hurts job creation and increases inflation.

Minimum wage earners make up only 5.8% of the workforce, according to the Economic Policy Institute, and only 35% of those who do are parents. Yet, we're all

supposed to be terrified that they haven't increased wages in so long.

Again, he also brought up Congress's recent action to make it harder to file for personal bankruptcy. In what way does it "make it harder?"

It really only wants stuff like asking debtors to do the daunting task of providing their creditors with written notice of their bankruptcies.

Now, is it unreasonable to add a few provisions to this? Is it not prudent to save the privilege (no, it's not a "basic right") for the truly needy? After all, during the 2002 gubernatorial election, Gray Davis's campaign attacked Bill Simon for "suing the taxpayers."

What do you think that means? To make a long story short, the

sponsors of H.R. 685 simply wanted to prevent people from abusing the system. Yet, certain people feel that they're doing something inexcusable, and they don't see another side to it.

This professor (along with others) is against privatization of personal Social Security accounts.

The President's plan is optional and it wouldn't even involve those over a certain age. It simply means if you feel like investing your account, which is your money, your property and something you worked hard to earn, into the stock market, you can.

The liberals don't like that, though. For one thing, George W. Bush came up with it, and so that's really all the left needs to know before they oppose it.

More important, however, is the fear that people will destroy their Social Security accounts.

Yeah, well, what if they lose all the money in their own bank accounts? But no, they don't think people should be allowed to take such a risk. They also warn us of this big "windfall" for Wall Street. According to www.factcheck.org, this "windfall" is only 16 cents for every \$10,000 in workers' money.

My point is that this supposed negligence on the part of the government doesn't worry me.

But it's the lack of ambiguity that's getting to me.

People and businesses need more control, not less, over the money we make, and we need to remember that government handouts and so-forth are privileges, not rights.

Ohlone and violence: Are we as safe as we think?

By **STEVEN CHAVEZ**
Sports editor

Recent events have proven the argument I tried to make about six months ago; the security guards that work here that are qualified to carry firearms *should* carry firearms.

The rape of a 15-year-old girl two

weeks ago showcases the need for such actions.

No, I'm not going to sit here and tell you that the rape wouldn't have happened or that there would have been less of a chance for it to happen had there been armed security nearby. What I am going to say is that violent crime is not as far away as some of you think. It is in our backyard, waiting to come in.

The arrest of a man that tried to

assault a security guard and the Dean of Student Affairs on Tuesday is another example.

These events are not isolated, nor are they rare. The reality is that there are violent people in this world and there are violent people here in the Bay Area.

The world is not a peaceful place. You cannot control the criminal element without the use of force.

No, having guns on campus is not

going to get rid of all the violence of the world. What it would do, however, is help to ensure the safety of the security officers, the faculty and, most important in my eyes, the students.

Call me crazy, but I don't feel that it is in my own best interest in an emergency to rely on the Fremont Police Department that is already cutting corners due to budget constraints.

Maybe it will take something tragic

to happen before the bleeding-hearts come to the realization that having guns on campus wouldn't make us unsafe, but finally make us safe.

If you disagree with what I'm saying, you will hopefully never be in the position where you find yourself staring at a psycho with a weapon. Hopefully there won't be a security officer watching helplessly as you get assaulted. Hopefully it won't come to that.

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

What is your dream Spring Break vacation?



BERNELL HALLERA
Nursing

"Ixtapa- they have white sand beaches. Even for a week."



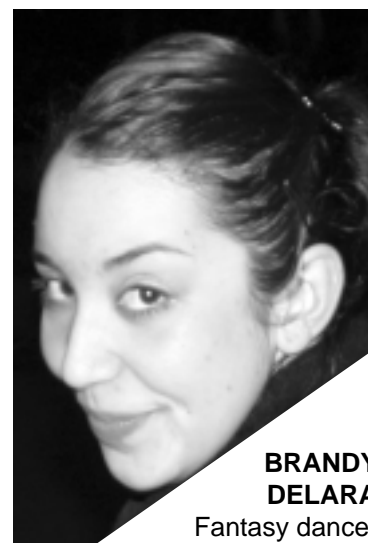
CAS FORNALSKI
Film

"A year without spring."



ARIEL SCHWITALLA
Actress

"Tie up my family and take them south."



BRANDY DELARA
Fantasy dancer

"Going to Malibu and being drunk the whole time."



JONATHAN TANGCO
Nursing

"e and my girlfriend are going to Tahoe."