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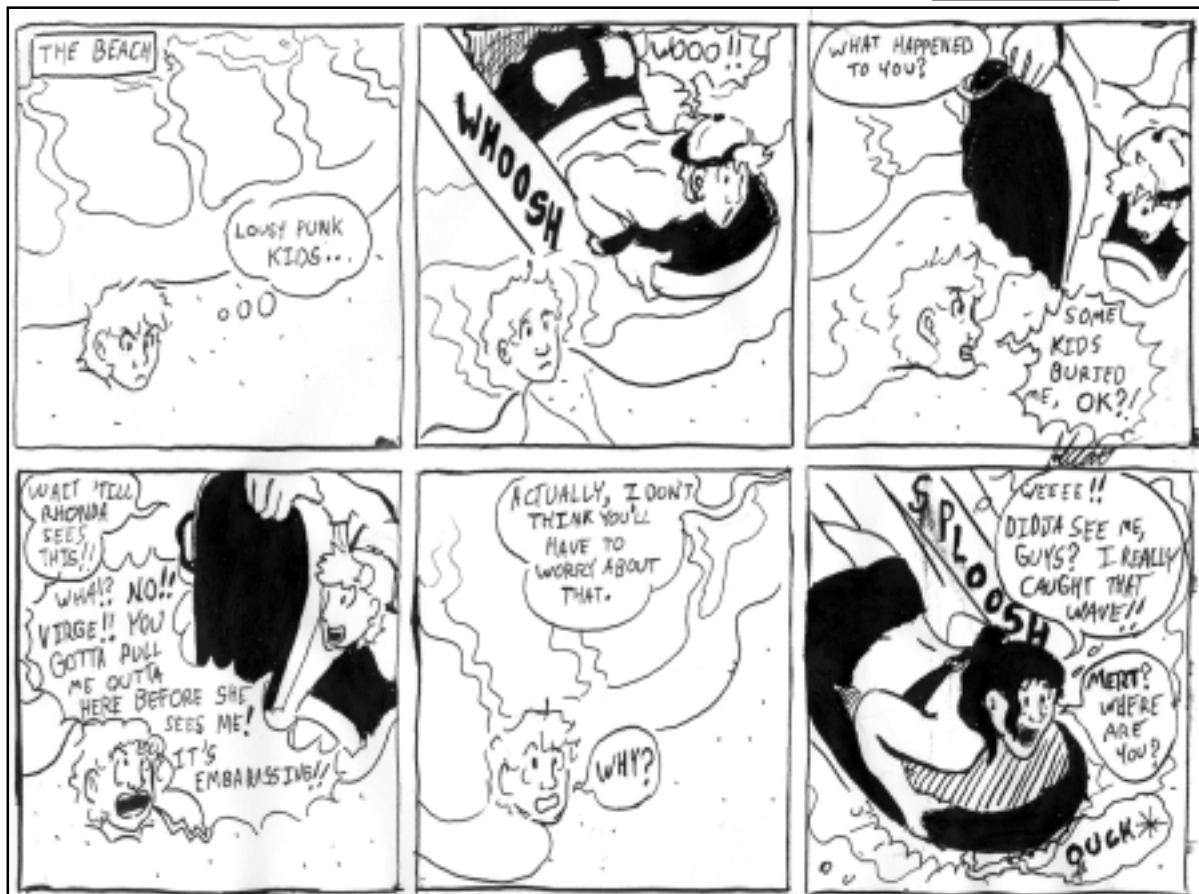
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OPINION

# Al-Qaeda's Avenue Q, the street of death for U?

By **TONY C. YANG**  
Layout editor

Lately, I've noticed a glaring grammatical error- and its pervasive and sinister nature eludes even the most careful and prestigious news organizations (including this esteemed newspaper).

What am I talking about?

The mighty Q - whose dominance in the field of linguistic coalition-building surpasses even that of the I and E collaboration.

It is common knowledge that the Q never appears without its trusty partner, U. Never.

From the Queen's English to Quizno's (tasty) subs, we have seen history's silent but insistent quid pro quo concerning the Q-U alliance. People have quelled rebellions with this potent word and powerful struggles for queer identity have used the "Qu" to question the status quo.

It is this near-sacred kinship that quite literally forms the basis of our quantum existence (the quark). Even the band "Queen" tells us that "We are the champions, my friend."

Yet there is an outlier - a questionable - nay, dangerous exception.

Al-Qaeda is this insidious exception to the rule of civilization.

Osama bin Laden is not only a murderous terrorist, but he is a cruel grammarian. Deliberately subverting the common morals of correct spelling, this organized reign of lettered terror is truly a threat to our way of life.

Since only rogue thugs and dictators like Libya's Colonel Qaddafi wantonly disregard such spelling rules, just like they flout international treaties and human rights, it is imperative that we take action in the regard.

We must never forget that our language is our bedrock of

thought and expression and we ought not allow foreign powers to change it.

The Oxford English Dictionary has met its antithesis and no quarter ought to be given. This charge to keep (our language pure) must be pursued vigorously and we must be vigilant in maintaining the same language forever and ever.

With profuse apologies to Sir Winston Churchill, we must never never never quit. If we do, we will only quicken our own demise in a quagmire of endless verbal quandaries.

Evil has a name: Al-Qaeda.

## Don't gripe, write a letter

Your friends probably won't say anything, but they're really tired of hearing you gripe all the time. The governor, the war, the traffic, the rain, the drek on TV -- complain, complain, complain.

Here's a thought - stop griping and put it all in a letter to the editor. You'll feel better and your friends will be relieved. Send it to monitor@ohlone.edu.

And ease up a little.

# A rape victim's perspective: Don't be too quick to make judgment

**EDITOR'S NOTE** - Although the *Monitor* requires that writers sign their letters and opinion pieces, we are running this opinion piece unsigned at the request of the writer, to protect her privacy because she is a rape victim.

Hearing about the 15-year-old who was raped on campus at 9:30 in the morning came as complete shock to me. But it was more so the incompassionate and insensitive remarks that I have heard that really got to me.

I know I shouldn't let other

people get to me, but it's hard to not let others affect me when it comes to a very serious matter, a subject that I happen to identify with, understand and feel strongly about.

All I'm saying is that we should all try to evaluate the situation, in this case, and seriously think before we speak.

We should all know rape is, unfortunately, very common. But now that there have been instances on this campus, with the 15-year-old, it has, in a sense, become personal to us all.

Now, even if you have not directly been affected by rape (been a victim or even known someone personally who has been raped) just imagine if the 15-year-old was your sister, your cousin, your niece, your aunt, your mom or even your friend. Now, even within that moment, you have been directly affected.

Ok, now let the thought sink in for a moment. How do you feel? Maybe anger, confusion, hurt...now multiply those feeling by A LOT and maybe you'll begin to understand and grasp how that 15-year-

old rape victim feels.

Think twice before you even joke around about rape. A rape is not an issue that should be taken lightly. Just think how many rapes actually go unreported because people are fighting issues with denial, blaming themselves, anger, pain, just to name a few. You never know who in the room, classroom, in the store could be a victim or dealing with rape in some way.

It's not just a physical thing they go through. It is an emotional/mental battle they go

through during and especially after if not their entire lives, but for years.

All-in-all, I guess on behalf of myself and others, please be courteous and respectful about what you say and the context of how it's said, especially in certain environments. I understand people are just ill-informed and I hope that what I say here enlightens you. Hopefully, you'll even use what I say positively to your advantage.

Everything is a choice. However, with rape, you're even robbed of having a choice.

## CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

### If you were in a vegetative state, would you want to be put on a feeding tube?



**RYAN GRAPPONE**  
Kinesiology

"No, because I'm not actively living life."



**VANESSA ROGERS**  
Communications

"No, I don't want to live the rest of my life in a hospital."



**MORGAN RICHARDSON**  
Art

"Yes, I'd like for my family to still see me."



**CHARLES OLSON**  
Theatre

"Yes, because everyone has a place in the world."



**AARON ALBRIGHT**  
Molecular Biology

"I'd want morphine and then I'd want to die."