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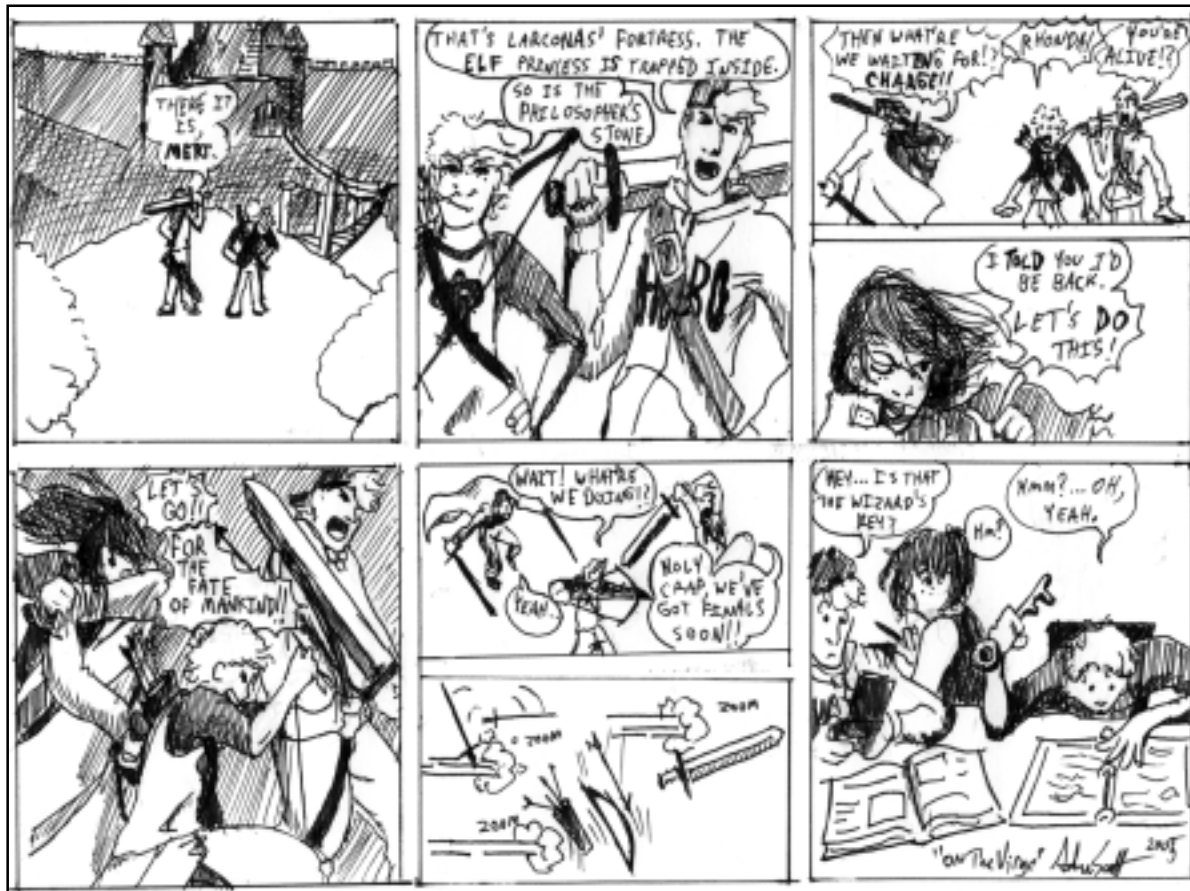


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OPINION

# There is a dearth of handicap parking spots on the Ohlone campus

By **INEZ BLACK**  
Staff writer

The general parking situation has improved since I began attending Ohlone in 1997. Now in 2005, day after day I drive from disabled parking lot to disabled parking lot and all of them are filled. As a last resort, I have parked in staff/faculty parking; however, this semester a campus security officer stated that I could be ticketed for using faculty parking.

Granted, as disabled students, we are sometimes limited as to the time of the classes, and it is frequently during peak times. As the staff/faculty requiring handicapped parking typically arrive at 8a.m., frequently, students fight over whatever parking is left during peak class times.

To further exacerbate the disabled

parking situation, every day, all the spaces are filled, yet the motorcycle lot between Lots U and W has five parking spaces, (in addition to nine motor cycle spaces), which remain empty, as they are posted "Motor Cycle Parking Only - Cars will be towed." The motorcycles are parked next to the "Ohlone for Kids" building, which used to be the Campus Security building.

I can understand the motorcycle theft problem, and the reason for parking them next to the Campus Security building when Campus Security was located between Lots U and W, but Campus Security building moved at least two years ago to the Victorian house next to Parking Lot C.

If a person is fit enough to ride a motorcycle, then obviously their

parking can be moved down the hill, closer to the Campus Security building, and they can hike the hill, giving disabled students the spaces currently used by the motorcycles (as well as the five unused parking spaces in the motorcycle parking areas).

As it stands, I end up hiking up the hill, while motorcyclists whiz past me to their preferential parking. As the result of traumatic brain injuries, I sustained what is known as "invisible disabilities," including a major artery dissection, as well as several cranial nerves which were permanently partially damaged resulting in horizontal vertigo, vertical vertigo, positional vertical, and disequilibrium. By the time I hike the hill, I am light-headed, slightly disoriented, prone to falling, rendering me useless for learning for at least an hour.

Add to this orthopedic injury to left knee affecting stability. Many disabled students have invisible disabilities, and like me, try to operate within the limitations of our medication and disabilities, but the Ohlone hill for the disabled is generally beyond the limitations.

Ohlone has an excellent reputation in providing services for the deaf, however, providing adequate parking close to classrooms for students with other disabilities is also essential.

For these students to be able to arrive at their classes in physical and mental shape to learn, adding five or ten more parking spaces between Parking Lots W and U would significantly improve the situation on one side of campus.

Also, Lot P — is the most handi-

capped accessible parking lot on the other side of campus — needs more spaces allocated to disabled students. The overflow parking from handicapped parking spaces allocated in Lot P face a steep grade and other obstacles when they use Lots O and P handicapped parking.

To get to the Quad classrooms from Lots O and P, handicapped students with orthopedic, neurological or other disabilities affecting flexibility and balance, are at a disadvantage, as there are no railings or protected areas there. Further, it is a maze to get from Lots O and P to buildings other than No. 7 or No. 8, if flat pathways and elevators are required. Increasing the number of handicapped parking spaces in Lot P would reduce the risk and hardship.

# Junk food is dominating the lives of the American population

By **JESSICA LOSEE**  
Staff writer

If the serpent of Eden had tempted Eve with a creamy, golden Twinkie hanging on a branch of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, would the world be different today? Would we say "A Twinkie a day keeps the doctor away"? Or perhaps the succulent apple offered to Eve is the real junk food. Just look at what taking one bite

brought her; and she wasn't the only one -- it was an apple that put Snow White into her slumber.

Perhaps Eve's temptation is the reason why, despite man's greatest efforts to resist their delicious enticement, people cannot help but eat all natures of sugary, salty unhealthy goodness.

One must consider how junk food effects everyone's lives, I mean, what would happen if people couldn't eat their cookies? What if we couldn't eat

Oreos and Twinkies and drink Double Big Gulps or have a hot fudge sundae from Baskin Robbins? Could we really live without 31 flavors? Would 7-Elevens be erased from this earth, and if they were, where would we go when we crave sugar at 3 a.m. and need a quart of cherry Slurpee?

Junk food does affect our lives; we spend billions of dollars on junk food every year, and that doesn't even include the money

we spend at fast-food restaurants.

Some might say that junk food and fast food don't impact our lives that much, but would someone really make a hit documentary about getting fat off of McDonald's, or a woman slip her dead aunt's finger in her Wendy's chili bowl if they were just some unknown mom-and-pops place?

"Americans eat more than 500 million Twinkies each year," proudly

states the Twinkie website [www.twinkies.com](http://www.twinkies.com) and McDonald's posts the number of hamburgers sold right below their alluring Golden Arches, even though by July 7, 1992, their 90 billionth hamburger had been sold.

Face it. Our lives are junk food, and there's no escaping it unless we wage a full-on war right now. I guess I'll pick up a three-pack of Twinkies while I protest outside of 7-Eleven.

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

## How are gas prices affecting you?



**HASEENA MOHABBAH**  
Communications

"I am so poor, I can only drive to school and home."



**ANKITA SHAH**  
Biochemistry

"I don't even have money for lunch."



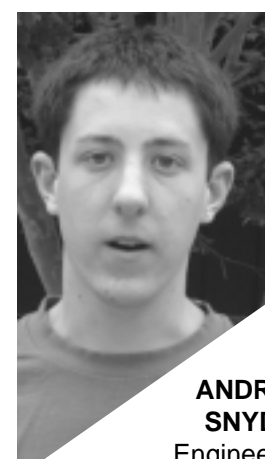
**DEVINA DEO**  
Communications

"Gas prices suck."



**SHERAZ KHAN**  
Undeclared

"I have to work now in order to pay for my gas."



**ANDREW SNYDER**  
Engineering

"I try to drive less or drive with friends when I can."