



Associated Collegiate Press /  
National Scholastic Press Association  
All American  
1984 1985 1986  
1987 1988 1989  
1990 1991 1992  
Regional Pacemaker  
1988  
Journalism Association  
of Community Colleges  
First in General Excellence,  
Northern California  
Fall 1994  
General Excellence  
Fall 2000  
General Excellence  
Fall 2004

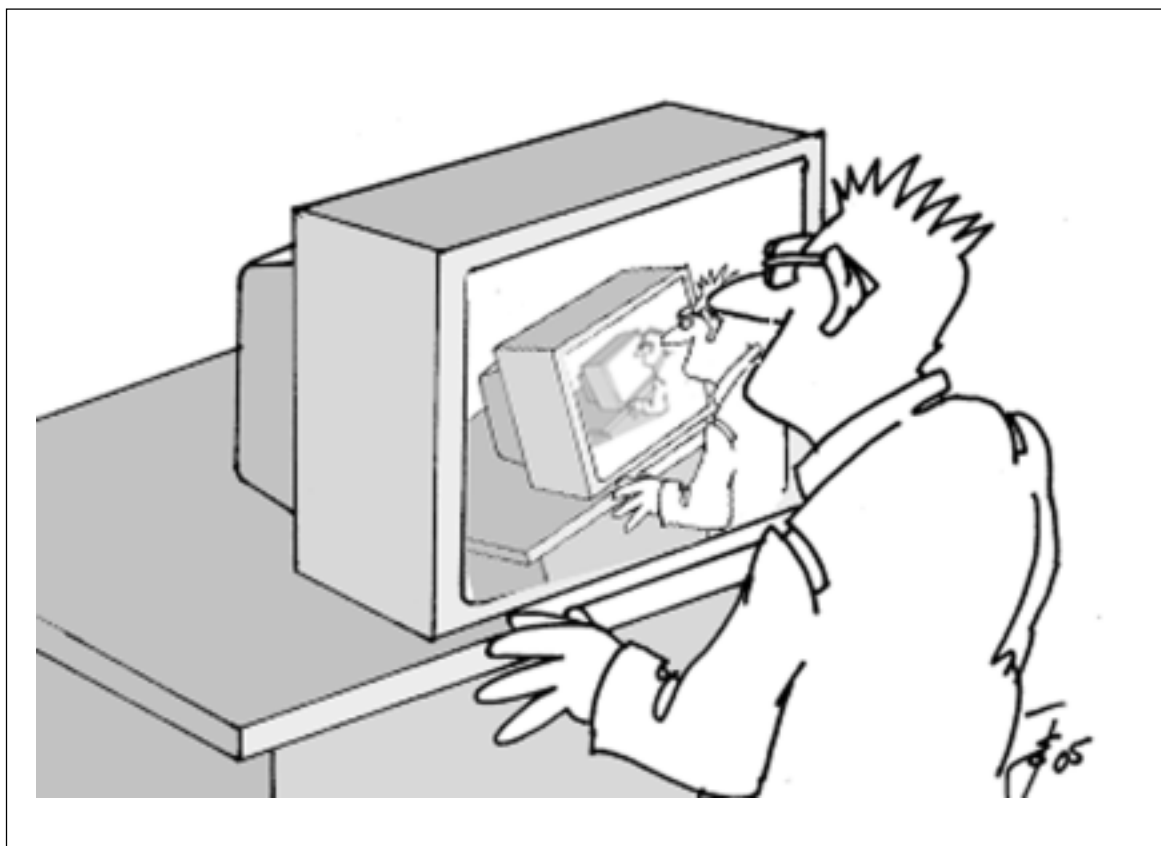
**Editor in chief:** Aman Mehrzai  
**News editor:** Anna Nemchuk  
**Opinion editor:** Jerome Engelberts  
**Features editor:** Krista Martinez, Joyce Leung  
**Sports editor:** Nick Zambrano  
**Photo editor:** Devina Deo  
**Staff writers:** Omer Ahmed, Steven Chavez, Carlos Cisneros, Sara Kwan, Jessica Losee, Krista Martinez, Danelle Meyer, Erick Sanchez, Morgan Brinlee, Huda Shreim Altanette Ford, Sarah Noori  
**Ad Staff:**  
**Photographers:** Daniel Kwan, Mark Blockinger, Rostislav Tsvetanov  
**Ad manager:** Corie Howell  
**Adviser:** Bill Parks  
**Printer:** F-P Press

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

Opinions expressed in the *MONITOR* are those of the respective authors and are not necessarily those of the staff, the college or the Associated Students of Ohlone College. Unsigned editorials reflect the majority view of staff members. Advertising material is printed herein for informational purposes and is not to be construed as an expression of endorsement or verification of such commercial ventures by the staff or college.

The *MONITOR* is funded by the district, by the Associated Students of Ohlone College, and through advertising revenue.

The *MONITOR* is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, Journalism Association of Community Colleges, Community College Journalism Association, California Newspaper Publishers Association, College Media Advisers and Society of Newspaper Design.



## OPINION

# Art imitating life imitating art imitating life imitating art imitating life imitating art imitating

By **JEROME ENGELBERTS**  
*Opinion editor*

Does it ever occur to you that culturally we're stuck in an ever-revolving pattern of (see headline)? In a nutshell: Arnold drives Hummer in movie. People buy Hummer (and act like Arnold in movie). Movies feature more people driving Hummers and acting like Arnold (Or Stephen Segal, which is pretty much SSDD (same stuff, different day)). Even more people buy Hummers. Hummer makes more affordable Hummers, so more people can buy them and act like more affordable versions of Arnold or Stephen Segal. You get the idea.

This trend poses kind of a "chicken and egg" question. Which trend started which? Art imitates life, yes? It's been like that for a while (think hunting scenes on caves in Lascaux, France, dating back some 15,000 years).

But, with technology getting faster, trends catch on faster, too. So it is becoming ever more complicated to see which side of the hamster ride we're on. Are we making art that imitates life, or the other way around? And, more importantly, how conscious are we of the role we perform?

Also a point for your consideration: How many people are profiting from this cycle? Arnold isn't

buying his personal Hummers, I'm sure. And Mr. Hummer CEO is doing quite well thanks to this trend, too. So, as you watch the movie, you're watching entertainment with a lot of hidden marketing messages which are designed especially to drive you as a consumer. It's no coincidence that Pierce Brosnan as James Bond wears a cool watch (and you can bet your boots that the company that makes that watch pays for the privilege of getting it (prominently) into the movie (it's called "product placement").

Apart from the marketing messages that you absorb while the movie imprints itself on your brain, you get some other behavioral

coaching, too. I'm old enough to remember "Saturday Night Fever" with John Travolta, and it expanded the impact of disco and the disco lifestyle tremendously. Of course it started off by imitating/portraying the lifestyle as it happened in real life.

I'm pretty sure that "Sugar Hill" or "Pulp Fiction" (to name but two movies) portray violence as cool and manly (or how about "funny"?), and certainly as "acceptable", which will induce some (I said *SOME*) people into actually believing it. It also perpetuates all kinds of social stereotypes that we should think twice about. Is L.A. really just *crime central*? Or is it *porn cen-*

tral? Or... is it just a city that has rather common urban issues to deal with, along with hordes of pretty normal people who live average lives and never touch either a MAC-10 or a violet wand (look it up).

I think the cycle is almost unavoidable, but I do feel pretty strongly about people being conscious of the fact that it happens and to be alert as to how insidious it can be. Maybe we can't detach ourselves from it, but we can make choices about that which we're aware of. For example: Is driving a Hummer worth having to deal with that pervasive slurping sound that occurs every time I'm at the gas station?

## LETTERS

# A response to the article on 'Busted for talking'

DEAR EDITOR,

I wish to thank the *Monitor* for writing about the "talking" incident in Hyman Hall; however, I was quite disappointed to notice the headline to a grave problem being addressed in a nonchalant

manner. The headline "Students 'busted' for talking" should have been titled "Students busted for disturbing other students in a quiet learning environment" or "Students busted for boisterous noise and disrespect of a learning environment" or "Students busted for disregarding college rules." "Talking constructively" is highly

encouraged (would love to see more talk in classrooms) but disturbing noise is a different matter.

The English Learning Center, where this incident happened, is an open classroom as opposed to a regular lab. We have course components and one-unit census courses being run in the ELC which makes it a quiet study/learning environ-

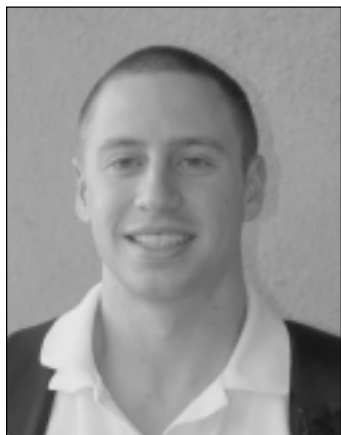
ment. Most students come to the ELC to study while a handful of egotistical students with more attitude than gumption come to disturb the peace and display their disrespectful, not-so-cool lifestyle. The group of students involved in this fracas, were kindly requested, nicely asked, repeatedly reminded, and 'prodded' since the beginning

of this semester, to maintain a quiet learning environment and to take their unacceptable, hormone-raging, attitudinal theatrics outside. Instead, they have disrespected, verbally abused, and rudely behaved towards other students and the ELC staff. When we in the ELC run out of options,

*Continued on Page 3*

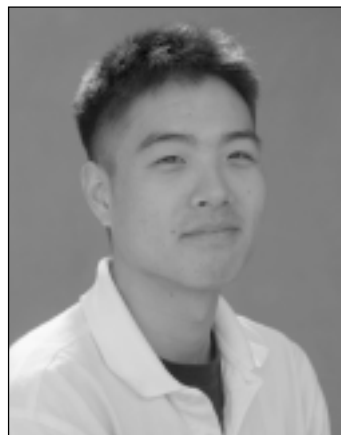
## CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

# What would you do without internet access?



**BILL LACORTE**  
Business

"Not have MySpace"



**PAUL CHEN**  
Food Science

"I'd go to the library and I'd go out more to meet people"



**EMILY KRUGER**  
Psychology

"I'd go to the library to read the paper, but there wouldn't be much change in my social life"



**DANIEL MOORE**  
Zoology

"Spend a lot more time at the library, and send snail mail instead of email"



**BREANNE OXFORD**  
Undeclared

"I'd go crazy (I have two online classes) plus I wouldn't have MySpace"