



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

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.

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
Ad Staff: Altanette Ford, Sarah Noori
Photographers: Daniel Kwan, Mark Blockinger, Rostislav Tsvetanov
Ad manager: Corie Howell
Adviser: Bill Parks
Printer: F-P Press



OPINION

The two faces of the hot button of patriotism

By **MORGAN BRINLEE**
Staff writer

What defines a patriotic American? It seems as if recently the definition of patriotic is becoming more and more twisted. Last Friday was one of the more patriotic American holidays, though from the speech President Bush gave that day at Tobyhanna Army Depot in Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania and the back and forth mudslinging between politicians that followed it felt like another day on the campaign trail.

How did what began as a simple disagreement on policies and tac-

tics suddenly turn into political mudslinging? In his speech Bush undoubtedly made a stab at his old opponent in the 2004 elections, Senator John F. Kerry. He then went on to chide other Democrats for their behavior during the war. "It is deeply irresponsible to rewrite the history of how that war began," Bush stated in his speech. Bush went on to say that what American troops need is the support of all political officials through times of thick and thin, hinting strongly at Democrats being the unsupportive and unpatriotic politicians.

Immediately following the

speech Democrat and liberal interest groups began retaliating. Sen. Kerry accused the President of "playing the politics of fear and smear on Veterans Day." Senate Minority Leader Harry M. Reid claimed Bush is resorting to old tactics of "attacking those patriotic Americans who have raised serious questions about the case the Bush administration made to take our country to war." While it's no secret the Bush administration doesn't want the American people to know the truth, or even the facts about the war in Iraq, it is suspect how far Bush is going to stop those with questions. His decision to com-

pletely ignore Cindy Sheehan and her questions about her son's death and the Iraq war, aside from simply being a bad decision, showed a lack of patriotism, in my opinion. Isn't supporting our troops mean supporting our troops' families in this time of need?

It seems as if Bush has his own agenda about what patriotism is. For Bush an all trusting, submissive, American with no mind or voice of his own is a shining example of a patriotic American. While I doubt many of our Forefathers, given their own feelings on government are rolling around in

their graves in protest I know that many more currently living Americans should be. What do we have if we don't have our voices, what do we have if we can't question our government? But most importantly, what kind of society are we living in when people choose not to use that power? I can't stress involvement in politics enough. Get out there, take to the streets, let your voices be heard, sadly we are passed writing letters to senators and congressmen now we need action. So whatever your opinions are, get them out there, get them heard, and act on them. That is what a true patriotic American does.

Riots in France - is this a sign of things to come?

By **OMER AHMED**
Staff writer

Looking at headlines like "France in Flames" or "The French Fry" and watching the footage of the riots outside Paris during the past few weeks make me wonder: what would it take to get Americans to riot against the government like that?

It's one thing for the French to riot. It's the land of the French Revolution. Violent upheaval is nothing new for them. Valid social reasons (a 50 % unemployment rate in certain demographics and widespread racism) plus shocking event (the tragic death of two youths from said demographic) expectedly equals riot fun. It shows that change was necessary and the people took it into their own hands to act. I also like to believe the song "I Predict a

Riot" by the European band the Kaiser Chiefs had a little bit to do with it but that's just because I think it's catchy.

Could this happen in the U.S.? Is there any issue that could enrage people enough to act out? We are quite dissatisfied with our government. President Bush's approval rating has fallen to an all time low of 39% and shows no signs of miraculously climbing any time soon. Even on a state level, voters turned

down every single proposition in Governor Schwarzenegger's special election, sending the message that the politicians should do their job and not ask the voters to bail them out. As Ohlone political science instructor Matthew Freeman put it, "No, no kiddies. Go back to Sacramento."

For better or for worse, this lack of confidence in the government doesn't seem to be enough to get people to riot. It hardly gets them

to even vote. The message of no confidence I mentioned before was given by only a fraction of the California population. The last time a riot occurred, it was civilians against civilians in Toledo, Ohio and was sparked by a planned KKK rally. Do the KKK have to take over the country before anything happens in mass?

The most obvious reason to protest and possibly riot is the war

Continued on page 3

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

How will last week's vote influence the next elections?



GARY GROZE
Music

◆ "It will have a negative impact – it just shows that Californians don't favor him anymore"



NASEEM SHARIF
Health Science

◆ "Yes, it will influence the elections – but I'm not sure it will tip the scale"



TONY HOAN
Sociology

◆ "The people have spoken. Unless he dramatically changes his ways he won't be reelected"



ALEJANDRA MYERS
Physical Therapy

◆ "Aagh! - what did we do voting for him at all?"



KYLE BASELTON
Undeclared

◆ "I don't think (reelection) is going to happen; all propositions were turned down"