



LETTER

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Listen more, talk less, get better grades

Continued from Page 2
handedly overturned my hate of history, solely due to his passion for it. Bill Parks, Ohlone's renowned journalism instructor, puts up with a quarrelsome, restive newspaper staff day in and day out without losing his love for the *Monitor* or chucking any of the aforementioned off a balcony.

Ohlone is a community college. As such, it is not out to make a profit; it is out to make educated, thriving members of society out of students.

The next time you're in class and you're wondering what will appear on the test? Read the book(s), listen to the professor, take notes, participate in any discussions, do your assignments, and I guarantee you'll not only pass the class, you'll very likely achieve an A in it, and all without driving your professor and fellow classmates bonkers.

And just think: you might learn something, too!

Student says police abusive at protest

EDITOR:

Having never been to a political protest before, I was excited to attend the events surrounding the Colin Powell appearance at De Anza College Nov. 11. My intentions were more for knowledge and experience than to support any political agenda. In other words, I went as an observer, to find out why people are moved to protest and how informed they are about what they are protesting.

As I arrived, the protest was under way, filled with chanting and arm-locking, and fully stocked with police in riot gear. I began to talk to random people and within a few minutes had identified three well-represented groups: pacifists, Muslims and anarchists, with a few old hippies thrown in to spice things up. They all agreed that the current administration is bad and that the war must end, but all for very different reasons and purposes. I met

a few people who were well informed about current events, but I found that many were there for superficial reasons and were relatively uninformed. There were several people who thought themselves justified in throwing rocks and eggs at police, or harassing elderly folks trying to attend the speech. I wondered whose side they were on.

Then we had the police. Presumably called upon to maintain peace and order, I found them arrogant and disrespectful to the people whom they are paid to serve. They wore an attitude of authoritarianism and superiority reminiscent of a Roman legion, while also mimicking their tactics. At times, they brutalized people with clubs and pepper spray and then justified their actions by their motto, "We're only following orders." This might sound familiar to your grandparents; it was the same defense that the Nazis used at the war crimes trials at Nuremberg. Someone should tell

the "boys in blue" that everyone is responsible for their own actions, regardless of orders.

I was not a protestor. I did not identify with their cause or their methods of protest. Nor do I believe that this government is leading this country in the right direction, meaning the preservation of freedom. We have been and will continue to suffer intrusions upon our liberties, as were suffered by many innocent people at this protest, until we the people realize that "We the People..." means us. Despite my neutrality, I was assaulted by police and struck in the back more than several times by their clubs, as they advanced upon the crowd without warning. I witnessed the police severely beat and mace one individual who appeared to have done nothing wrong except to be slow to get out of the way.

— KEN STEADMAN III
Student



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