

Freedom to speak

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be altered -- the arbitrary making and subsequent neglect of laws undermines the societal value of legislation as a whole.

But should the right to free speech supercede college code? Certainly not all policies do as, for instance, it is prohibited to smoke or drink on most of the campus.

Another point of interest is who should take down noncompliant posters. Ohlone's "Policies on Time, Place and Manner" 7.9.5 as pertaining to the "Posting of Materials" section J is really quite clear on this: "Unauthorized persons shall not remove materials once posted." In other words, student or faculty, no matter how miffed you may be about posted literature proletarianizing this or that, you do not have the right to tear it down unless formally sanctioned by the college for this purpose.

Unfortunately, no matter how well intentioned or justified the action may be, (I'm simply protecting young, impressionable minds... Kids shouldn't have to look at such toxic dribble...I don't want to put up with seeing this every day on my way to class...This is where hate crimes originate...) it is tantamount to stooping down to their level. And, yes, it is my opinion that posting Bible excerpts on public college bulletin boards is pretty pathetic, generally odious and disrespectful,

Cinco a day of independence

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"It was the day that defined the character of the nation," said Salinas. Cinco de Mayo commemorates one of the greatest and most influential battles held on Mexican soil. General Ignacio Zaragoza's under-resourced and outnumbered army fought against French forces. On May 5, 1862, it won, in the Battle of Puebla. It was a beginning for the revolution for Independence.

ASOC puts off elections

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in candidate for president, was one of the other members that was accused of breaking campaign rules. The source of controversy in Roy's campaign was his online myspace.com profile. Campaign and Posting Regulations set by Commissioner of Elections and Director of Campus Activities state that write-in candidates are only allowed to campaign on the days of the election but Roy's profile was up earlier, possibly as much as a week prior.

Roy said, "I'm slightly disappointed by what happened. I know I followed all the rules on election day." Roy also stated that a number of other ASOC members have been accused of breaking election rules. He said, "My opposition repeatedly, deliberately and knowingly broke the rules."

ASOC President Tristan Tilma has called the postponed elections "the fairest solution" as they will allow the current official candidates to re-run and others to apply for candidacy.

not to mention singularly ineffective for all but the most desperate. (If I pray hard enough, maybe I'll pass that Econ final after all!)

But -- there's always that but -- this is real life, and despite gobs of evidence to the opposite, healthy human relationships are built on understanding and, more than anything, respect, NOT petty grudges and maturity levels of two-year-olds. (Middle East, anyone?)

The playwright Edward Bulwer-Lytton said what is often credited to Shakespeare: the pen is mightier than the sword. What better provocation to virulent class discussion is there but religious and human rights arguments? Fight the battle on the most deciding and deserving battlefield of all-- the written word. Don't like the deistic advertisements? Post some contravening ones of your own. Most people reading this attend Ohlone on a regular basis and have the privilege of doing this with impunity. Hold a forum or organize a Brown Bag Seminar. Send a letter to the editor.

Speak, people! Silence has long been the mainstay of tyranny and the greatest vice of the complacent. Yet realize, please, that the door swings both ways. No, life is not fair, but it is part of the beauty of human nature to endeavor to change that.

The problem with silencing dissenters is that one day, you may be one.

Maria Ramirez, a faculty member of Ohlone, shared through song the life of a Chicana, the peaceful history of Mexico before they were conquered, and acceptance. She stressed the acceptance, respect and love for all colors and races. Several students also shared moving poetry, about the life and heritage of Chicanos in the world today.

MEChA also invited professional photographer Francisco J.

Biotech Fair talk

By OMER AHMED
Opinion editor

Christopher Thomas Scott, the executive director of Stanford University's Program on Stem Cells and Society and author of "Stem Cell Now," spoke on biotechnology and ethics Wednesday at Ohlone's 2006 Biotechnology Fair. Scott covered a broad array of topics focused on stem cells, cloning and the issues these discoveries have pressed upon society.

Among the reasons Scott gave for his enthusiasm are the many different possibilities that stem cells hold for improving the human condition.

These included the theoretical uses for cancer treatment, drug testing, life extension, organ transplants and even HIV vaccination.

Scott stated that ethical issues must and have been considered due to the nature of the science. Obtaining embryonic stem cells has remained controversial because it usually requires the destruction of a human embryo or cloning.

Other sources of stems cells have opponents as well. Due to the vague nature of the issue, Scott encouraged the audience to absorb as much information as they could and decide for themselves what was ethical.

Dominguez. His photographs spoke louder than any words, as he has carefully documented the injustice against the Mexican community. "My goal is to give a face to the immigrants," said Dominguez, as he pointed to a portrait of a girl who was an illegal immigrant, working at a Starbucks in San Jose.

The photographs are showcased in the library, and will remain there until Friday.

Fair introduces new communities

By CHRIS MARSHALL
Staff writer

The Quad hummed with the buzz of activity Monday as the First Annual Learning Communities Fair attracted both students and teachers alike. The fair, besides giving out free popcorn and cotton candy, aimed to inform everyone at Ohlone what learning communities are about.

"Learning communities are blocks of classes that are connected in many ways, from common themes taught in the classes to cooperation between instructors," said Vicki Curtis, ESL instructor and strong learning community proponent. "Another key aspect of learning communities is how the group of students is the same in all the classes, so there is a sense of familiarity."

Curtis said many students aren't aware of learning communities, "We've had a couple in the past, and one of the current ones consists of an ESL class taught by me, and a drama class taught by Tom Blank."

Millie Chen, an Ohlone student currently enrolled in the ESL learning community, said, "I think the learning communities are a lot better. It's a lot more fun and it makes me feel a lot more comfortable sharing classes with the same students."

Grace Chen, another ESL learning community enrollee, agreed, "Knowing the other students helps us overcome some of the fears when we have to do our performance for our drama class."

Currently, there are 10 different learning communities scheduled for

the fall, said Curtis. Some of them are blocks of classes that equate to a full-time load. A lot of them include general education requirements, including English 101A, but the aim is to have all the classes share a common theme and to present students with a "connection of disciplines."

At the Fair were many instructors giving out information on their own planned learning communities. One such instructor was English teacher Sean Brown, who was pushing his learning community called Ohlone College Investigative Analyst. "The focus of this community is critical thinking," said Brown. "I want to help students answer many important questions such as 'Do you know what your government is really up to?'"

Another learning community, designed by Computer Studies Instructor Richard Grotegut, will focus on technology. "I want to apply our computer literacy course to other courses. I also want to connect all the technology available at Ohlone, and teach students and instructors how to take advantage of it."

Brown said, "To be a part of a learning community, a student has to sign up for all the classes in the block. However, if enrollment is low, the classes will be unlinked so students can enroll in them individually."

"Learning communities are really a great thing," said Curtis. "All studies show students have better experiences in them and students even get better grades. We aim to give students an overall better association with Ohlone."

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