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National Scholastic Press Association
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1990 1991 1992
Regional Pacemaker
1988
Journalism Association
of Community Colleges
First in General Excellence,
Northern California
Fall 1994
General Excellence
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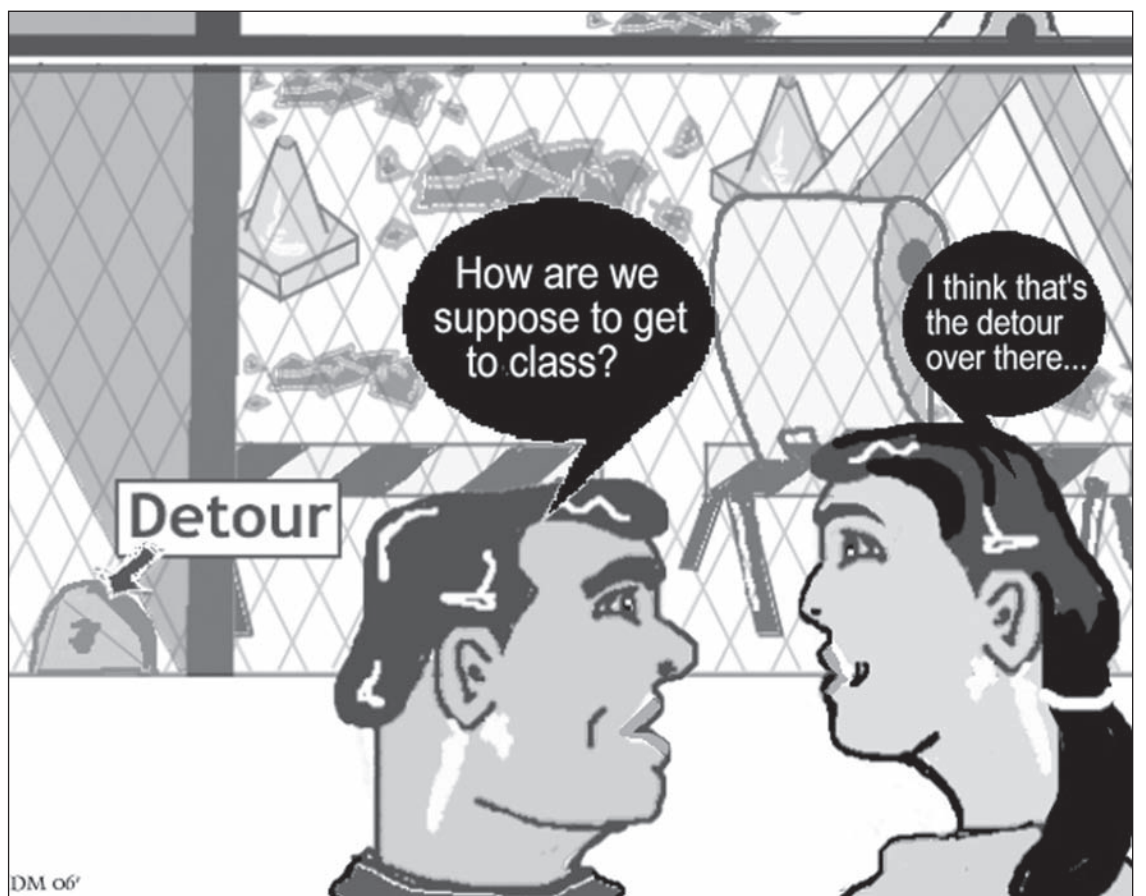


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OPINION

Freedom of press good for students?

By **OMER AHMED**
News editor

The first amendment to the constitution of the United States is, quite simply, a wonderful thing. As long as we don't say anything blatantly destructive or libelous, the powers that be will let us be, thanks to the freedom of the press and freedom of speech. At least, this is true most of the time. Until recently, student-run college newspapers in California did not enjoy the full privileges of the first amendment.

Previously, the level of protection

provided by the first amendment college newspapers was somewhat unclear. The assumption was that student papers were protected fully under the first amendment, except in cases of obvious libel, slander and obscenity. Basically, student papers were thought to be just like regular papers.

Ironically, laws were enacted in California guaranteeing freedom of the press for high school publications, whereas no such protection was expressly given to college publications. Everyone just assumed that college papers, such as the Ohlone Monitor were already

spoken for. Not so, it seems.

When the student paper of the Governors State University in Illinois ran a number of articles criticizing school officials, the school halted printing and required that school administrators review all future articles before publication. In the inevitable ensuing lawsuit, the Seventh Circuit Appeals Court ruled in favor of the school administration.

This is unfortunate news, as participation in the production of collegiate papers are the best training grounds one can have for a future in journalism. Nothing prepares you

for the real thing like practice, albeit it not being the 'real thing'. This is why most school papers are setup to resemble a commercial paper as much as possible. Here at Ohlone even, the students are the ones who make the decisions about what gets published, who becomes an editor, and what format the paper follows. The instructor is a respected advisor, not an administrative overlord.

Part of emulating a real paper is giving students real responsibility. If a paper is censored or directly overseen by some outside administrator, responsibility is taken out of the hands of the students, who

need to learn to handle it. Learning ethical journalism without the necessary burden of responsibility is like trying to learn calculus without the necessary knowledge of basic math.

Our government has finally recognized this and, with as the signing into law of AB2581, school administrators, trustees and other officials are further prohibited from interfering with student papers. This will probably result in a number of public screw-ups on the students' part, but that is how people learn, and schools should not hinder the learning process.

Tobacco companies exploiting smokers

By **NOAH LEVIN**
Staff writer

Like a sexual predator on the prowl, big tobacco companies seek to profit from and exploit young people by steadily increasing the amount of nicotine in cigarettes, thus making them all the more addictive. But it is not merely the addiction, so much as the combined forces of blatant capitalization off of said addiction and the terribly detrimental affects of the product being

sold that truly chills the blood.

A recent report released by the Massachusetts Department of Health says that nicotine levels in U.S. cigarettes have risen about 10 percent since 1998, making it easier for people to become addicted and harder for smokers to quit.

From the 179 cigarette brands tested for the 2004 report, 93 percent were in the highest range for nicotine, compared to 84 percent of 116 brands tested in 1998, the Associated Press reported. Some brands most popular with youths - Marlboro, Camel, and Newport

- contain the highest levels of nicotine. The study also showed that there was no significant difference between "full flavor," "medium," "light," and "ultra-light" cigarettes, and also indicate that health-care providers need to adjust the strength of nicotine-replacement therapies to match the rise in nicotine levels.

This leaves a light smoker like me in a rather awkward position. Already I am demonized by many of my peers for a habit that many, myself included, consider "bad". I sit and wonder if I want to smoke a cigarette when I'm waiting between

classes because I genuinely would enjoy it, or because I'm "craving" a nicotine fix. And not being allowed to smoke on campus, I typically refrain from smoking at all till later in the day.

But whether or not addiction to smoking nicotine is bad shouldn't be the issue. People of all cultures all over the world are addicted to one thing or another: TV, food, cars, music, sex, or coffee. These examples all feel good to one person or another, and therefore warrant repletion to keep the person happy.

These things (in most cases) are not as detrimental to one's body as the affects of smoking cigarettes heavily. Not only should the cigarettes companies be ashamed for their ruthless advertising campaigns aimed directly at getting kids to start smoking earlier on, but the product that is hocked at America is, at this point, small doses of poison.

Tighter regulations need to be put on what goes into the cigarettes, in addition to controlling the marketing techniques of cigarettes companies.

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

Thoughts on smoking on campus?



CHELSEY BRODERICK
Interpreting

"I want to smoke on campus."



RYAN THEIN
Computer Science

"Smoking's bad."



TERRY THOMAS
International Trade and Business

"Give them a spot, some people don't like the smell."



CASSANDRA LUONTELA
Interpreting

"I'm allergic to smoke; please don't make my life miserable."



CAYLIN UYLA
Interpreting

"Just in designated spots; I have asthma."