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## The battle of the bands



## LETTER

# Clarification of Gallaudet protest article

Dear Editor:

I just read the article, "Gallaudet Protesters Win Point" in the recent Monitor and realized that there are many misunderstandings about what the protest at Gallaudet was all about. Please allow me to clarify the situation so that you understand why many people associated with the deaf community throughout the world were and continue to be passionate about the issue. In addition, all deaf faculty members at Ohlone College except for one are alumni of Gallaudet. Furthermore, three faculty members have children who are currently students at Gallaudet University, all of whom were arrested on October 13th. Finally, a good number of former Ohlone

students are now enrolled at Gallaudet. This is the reason why I'm writing this letter so that you can better understand what it has been like for us these past four weeks.

Although some individuals feel that Fernandes does not have the prerequisite experiences as a deaf person to fill the job, the protest was not about that. The current president, Dr. Jordan, became deaf at the age of 22 and he was much loved and highly regarded by the deaf community. At least 75% of students at Gallaudet come from a public school environment. Many Gallaudet students wear hearing aids, some are hard of hearing, some wear cochlear implants and the list goes on and on. In addition, many deaf faculty at Gallaudet learned

sign language late in their lives. So, in reality, it was unfortunate that the Gallaudet administration chose to play the deaf card which was picked up by the media including the Monitor.

There was no riot at Gallaudet. The protest was not student-run but rather coordinated by a group of students, faculty, staff and alumni (FSSA). The protest was peaceful and civil from day one. There was no act of violence or destruction of any sort on campus. What students did was to shut down the campus after trying for two weeks to establish dialogue with the Board of Trustees (BOT). To this day, the BOT has not formally met with FSSA to discuss its concerns about the flawed process leading to the selection of 9th

president. Interestingly, the board's decision to terminate Dr. Fernandes' contract was made without stepping a foot on campus.

"What's wrong with Dr. Jane Fernandes?", you might ask. Prior to the announcement of Jane Fernandes as the 9th president of Gallaudet, she had received two votes of no confidence over the past six years by the faculty in her role as provost. Likewise, she was declared "unacceptable" as the next president by the Student Body Government and by the school newspaper for her inability to work effectively with student groups. The national alumni association endorsed the FSSA's position. What is puzzling is how and why the Board chose not to listen to the stakeholders that Dr.

Fernandes was not the right person for the job. This led to this unfortunate protest against the Board of Trustees' ill-fated decision to disregard the public opinion and select such an unpopular and ineffective leader to the top position of the university and a public figurehead of the deaf community.

Today, students are scrambling to catch up on their studies. Many of them will be punished for their involvement but they have accepted the consequences because they believed in their cause. The faculty and staff are trying to re-organize after being distracted by the protest. The alumni worldwide are celebrating but also continuing to keep an eye on the process.

-Thomas A. Holcomb,  
Professor of Deaf Studies

## OPINION

# Music elitists are pretentious snobs

By MATTHEW SO  
Opinion editor

Music elitists. They are your typical snobs; bigoted critics who feel they and they alone are entitled to have any opinion regarding music. They have single-handedly taken

ownership of the social aspect of musical society, free to exploit its far-reaching influence of humanity because they believe they have better taste, better sense and exclusive say as to what is superior, musically.

You meet them all the time. These are people who will pass

first judgment on a person based on the music they listen to. It is their principal one-upmanship over other people, their professed extensive knowledge of music. If there is one consolation for the music elitist, no matter how many trials they are going through or issues they have, it is the extent to how

obscure, specific, and progressive their preferred genre of music is. Should you meet one for the first time, chances are that your first conversation will involve queries as to your musical preferences; this can then lead to either prolonged, patronizing, condescending, faux-polite conversation regarding your

lackluster taste, or a full-blown, drawn-out discussion of music and your common musical interests.

What should be done about these egomaniacal fiends? Systematically shun and alienate them from society, until they realize their judgment and snubbing is not welcome. You can start with me.

## CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

# How would you improve the campus?



**AMANDA McCALL**  
English

"I would add more money to the budget."



**KATHRYN CASEY**  
American Sign Language

"The girls' locker room is really disgusting."

**TORI BENNET**  
Photography

"All the construction is annoying because of the detours."



**CHRIS MARTINEZ**  
Undeclared

"I'd improve the elevators, because when they stop, they stick."



**ERIC FRANKS**  
Undeclared

"Get rid of the dean, I guess."