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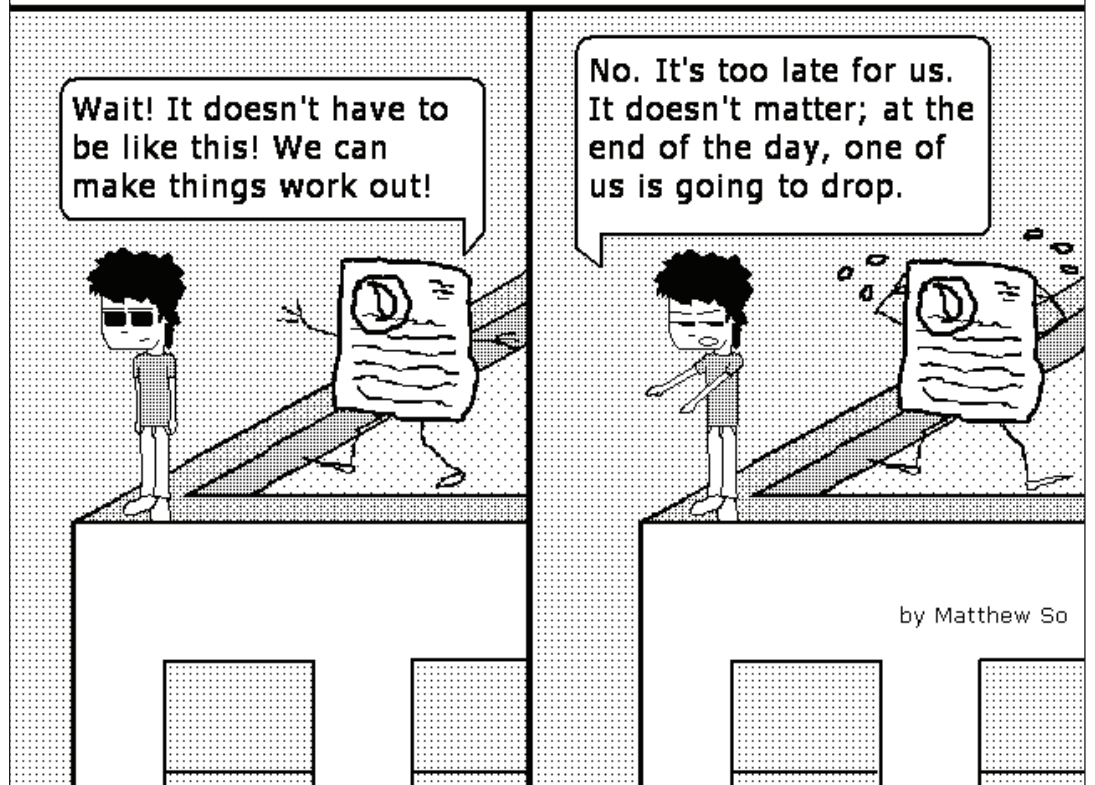
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November 20th--Deadline day for dropping classes



by Matthew So

OPINION

Pond is an unrealized wonderland of opportunity

By MATTHEW SO
Opinions editor

The lake at the back of the school is nice, but every time I see it, I envision wasted opportunity. There is—and I quote, “No swimming, no boating, no feeding the ducks.” Lakes and other small bodies of water aren’t any fun if you can’t be in it, on it, or throw objects at the animals living in/on them. As far as

I’m concerned, it might as well not be there in the first place; I don’t need the extra temptation.

Oh, I know; it’s there to look pretty and all, but aside from boasting a fountain, which I must admit can hold my attention for quite some while, it’s such a disappointment. Think of the possibilities. I want to be in it. I would hit that.

“But, it’s so...dirty!” Whatever. I’m sure if there were no sign for-

bidding entry, there would be no hesitation on the part of some students eager to make appropriate use of that handy little waterhole. Leave the “dirty” element up to the individual’s discretion. It’s not like this Earth came with ready-made swimming pools with built-in filtration systems.

Speaking of swimming pools, “What’s wrong with swimming in the school’s swimming pool,” you

ask? To be honest, the swimming pool is downright intimidating. I can’t imagine walking up to the pool for a swim without feeling obligated to join the water polo team or something beforehand. Or do anything other than swim laps. Lane lines seem to have this unquestionable, unspoken authority.

And what of the ducks? Wouldn’t we disturb their natural habitat? I say kick the ducks out; it’s OUR

land. They can fly north. Or south. Or whatever it is ducks do. But not until they eat all the fish. Koi, I mean.

You know, I’m pretty sure they built in the dock just to spite us.

(Actually, this is an obnoxious rant. I don’t expect anyone to jump into the pond as a result of this article. In fact, anyone who did so would be, in my opinion, an ass.)

Jury duty should turn into a voluntary process

By FRANKIE ADDIEGO
Staff writer

If you or a family member has ever received a summons for jury duty, you know how awful it is to receive that envelope in the mail telling you to call by a certain time on a certain day, only to have to await further instructions.

The government is asking you to put your life on hold for a trial that can be so trivial that you’re surprised the judge didn’t throw it out during the hearing, to a situation that might give a criminal reason to track you down and murder you!

Essentially, Jury Duty is the draft. You may not have to go through the same sort of training, and may not be directly in the line of fire in an ene-

my land, but from the government’s perspective, it presents essentially the same problem: the government is forcing you to sacrifice your time to serve it. People are forced to put their studies on hold, cast their studies aside, and—if they’re being sequestered—leave their families for a matter of weeks, or maybe even months.

Is there danger involved? Sure! Imagine this: you’re called to serve on the jury for the trial of a well-connected member of a large criminal syndicate. You and the rest of the jury—rightly or wrongly—convict him. Is it that hard to imagine his buddies going after you? Unfortunately, no.

Okay, but aren’t there exemptions for people who have one compelling reason or another not

to serve on a jury? Yes, but they only go so far. There are certain things they account for, but not everything. People go to strange lengths to avoid jury duty.

Then there’s knowledge of the law. A team of jurors who do it as a career choice are bound to be more knowledgeable about the law than people called in against their will. How many of us feel that a lawyer could tell us anything about a case that supposedly supplies precedent for a case going their way?

But what if we did get rid of this method of selecting juries? Then what? How would juries be formed?

Well, why would it be so hard to find people willing to sign up for jury duty? We’ve gotten rid of the military draft, and yet, our

armed forces still thrive in numbers. All it would take would be better advertising and more incentives, such as a higher wage than jurors currently make.

But what about trial by peers? While there may be obstacles to getting diversity into juries, it would be weathered by studying demographics, and when one is far too underrepresented, spending more time and effort into advertising the position within that community. For example, if jurors aged 18-21 are in short supply, we can have jury recruiters, the way we have army recruiters, set up on campuses.

Sometimes, they select jurors based on occupation. But surely most of the people who become jurors will have had some previous work experience and it’s not

impossible that they might have this job along with another. Therefore, they can always ask for “prior occupation.”

Should this happen all at once? Of course not. Immediate action would leave juries unprepared. Instead, there should be a ten-year-plan.

Perhaps to start out with, there could be more of an outreach for voluntary jury duty, and have preference given to the people who deliberately sign up over people who are “drafted” into juries.

We’ve gotten rid of the draft. Now, it’s time to make the government stop forcing people to put their careers on hold once again. If we can put an end to jury duty as we know it, the world will be a better place.

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

In your opinion, who’s the MAN?



FRANCO IRACE
Film

“I’m the man!”



RYAN BENTLEY
Film

“Franco’s the man!”



JESSICA STANLEY
Theater

“My dad. He’s a super hero!”



STEVEN BIRD
Radio

“SHAFT.”



SHAMIL PATEL
Undecided

“Tom Carlson, an Ohlone student’s father.”