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EDITORIAL

Opportunity for change after Archer's departure

By ANNA NEMCHUK
Editor-in-chief

There is no period in human history during which good leadership has not been in demand. To say that the same is more true today than at any other time is justifiable perhaps only by the heights humanity has reached and the impact we command on this earth. Education is by far the most far-reaching of these accomplishments. In schools and universities we see and build

our future - there is nothing more important than that.

In light of the retirement of long-time Ohlone College Board Trustee Dan Archer, the Monitor would like to take this chance to thank him for his years of dedication and wish him the best of luck in other endeavors as well as express hopes that this change will bring about a period of activity in the Board befitting current situations. Community colleges serve a purpose no other arena can offer; they give students of all

ages, backgrounds and financial abilities a chance to improve the most precious thing they possess, their minds. Ohlone has been a proud bearer of that tradition for 42 years and its board of directors is an integral part of the college's and the students' success.

The environmentally friendly Newark campus, the remodeling of the Fremont campus and the planned development of the Fremont frontage property to include businesses benefitting students and

local residents alike are changes that have been sorely needed to support both a city expanding by the hour and a booming student body. Ohlone's enrollment has consistently grown, even when other colleges have not been so lucky and it is hard to imagine that the upsurge is unconnected with the foresight, imagination and courage Ohlone's administration and board have shown in the recent improvements.

But a teacher's job is never done

and anyone connected with the college carries at least an honorary title to facilitate learning in any way, shape or form is to teach - the highest calling there is. Ohlone's Board is at the very heart of the college and in a position to midwife the school, the students and the community to accomplish even greater things.

Change is inevitable but great leadership will steer that change between chaos and progress. Great leadership - from the Board, we expect nothing less.

OPINION

Is America slipping as a dominant world power?

By ERIC DORMAN
Features editor

Empty shipping crates leave the Port of Oakland, heading west to China. An American tech support call is picked up by someone with an Indian accent. GM and Ford both post record losses and cut jobs. The United States budget deficit hits eight trillion dollars, and counting.

As Americans, it's easiest for us to ignore these facts and bury our heads in the sand, saying that it won't affect us in the long term.

However, nothing could be further from the truth. We must accept these indicators for what they are, and understand that as long as problems such as outsourcing and trade deficits increase, the United States may soon be faced with the prospect of conceding the spot of number one in terms of world power.

It's no secret that America's global power has been weakening for the past several years. The U.S. trade deficit—the difference between what the nation sells globally and what it imports—hit a record high of \$763.3 billion in 2006, according to the International Herald Tribune. This was not just a

one-year anomaly, either; 2006 was the fifth consecutive year of trade deficit increases.

While the trade deficit by itself may not appear to be overwhelming proof of America's slipping power, the deficit is actually a bigger economic indicator than it looks. A large trade deficit means that the nation on a whole is spending more than it's receiving, which any debt-ridden college student knows is a recipe for financial disaster. Should the U.S. lose wealth, a loss of power is sure to follow.

Job outsourcing, while a different issue than the trade deficit, contributes to the problem. Outsourcing is

not caused by any sort of Chinese or Indian conspiracy, but rather a concept known as a free market economy. This type of economy, employed in the United States, encourages low prices by letting the vendor set the price of an item. The lower the vendor prices the item, the more likely someone is to buy it.

Few consumers have the foresight or the money needed to turn down a product made in India that's \$50 cheaper than the same thing made by Americans. The reason for this is not necessarily overwhelmingly better manufacturing by the Indians, but rather the fact that the

makers of the product from India were being paid less than 10 times less than the Americans. Few buyers take into account that while buying the Indian manufactured product means saving money, buying the American product means saving a quality of life.

By no means am I trying to demonize buying products that were made overseas. It is entirely possible the worker who made them was able to make ends meet only because he was getting paid that wage, however small. I am merely noting that the outsourcing of jobs has contributed significantly to the

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CAMPUS COMMENT >>

How would you take down Building 7?



LI ZHOU
Accounting

"Just drop a bomb; it saves time and energy."



GINL NO
Nursing

"Wrecking ball."



TOMMY JERNIGAN
Physics

"From the top down; just take a crowbar and sledgehammer to it."



SALVADOR
Political Science

"Termites. I'd infest it with termites."



NABIL HUSSEINI
Undeclared

"I'd blow the heck out of it. Debris flyin' everywhere. That works for me."