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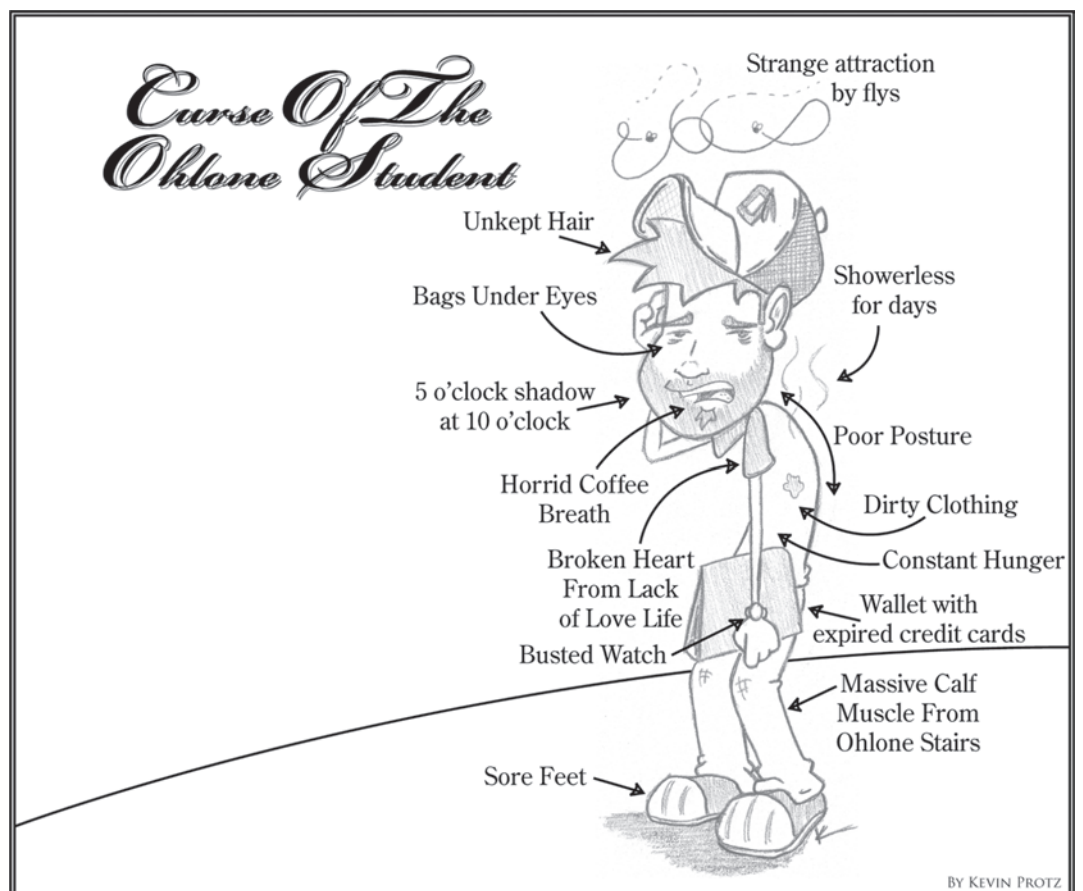


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## OPINION

# What has happened to American originality?

By SANDEEP ABRAHAM  
Staff writer

Originality is a dying art. And if not dying, it has at least retreated underground.

There was a time when America promoted cultural innovation and originality, back when protest and sticking it to the man were the daily modus operandi. Classical music spawned jazz, which spawned bebop and also eventually spawned rock. Originality was seen as "cool" and going against the grain was something to be admired.

These days, "cool" is defined by either how depressed you look or how spoiled you act. My point is that we are a generation lost. What do we do, what do we have

that defines us and gives our youth any meaning?

Just the other day, I was eating lunch in the cafeteria and trying to study when I overheard something I found hilarious. One lone lunchline warrior clad in black was telling a story about how depressed and semi-suicidal he felt when his girlfriend dumped him. What cracked me up, however, was that there was a small crowd of sycophants intently listening to him as if he was Socrates lecturing on the existence of God. Just 50 years ago, these same sycophants would've been sitting around discussing the virtues of war and peace. But no; instead, "deep conversations" now consist of comparisons of depression medication and circumstances.

Maybe I didn't get the memo, but when did Prozac usurp the best friend status once held by dogs and diamonds?

The other iniquitous vice for which I condemn our culture is our brazenly unashamed materialism. The more bling you have, the more expensive your car is, the more state-of-the-art your gadgets are, the more gangster you are.

Never mind that there are child soldiers in Nigeria who see and experience hundred times the violence you do, but also experience more poverty and destitution than you will ever know. Never mind that you don't even belong to a real gang and have never even seen a real gangster. You are still more gangster because you wear your stunna shades, text

your girlfriend on your new LG Chocolate, drive a Porsche, and of course, use the n-word as often as possible because no gangster's a gangster who doesn't degrade at least one person each day, right? But of course, you would already be gangster enough by flaunting all your expensive things and making sure everyone knows how expensive they are.

What I find truly sad is that this is seen as an ideal to strive for, that this is the life many of our generation want for themselves.

Now I'm not saying that people should never feel depressed nor that they should never enjoy the nice things they get. Just don't let these things define you as a human being. I realize I sound like an old man,

ranting and raving, bemoaning the sins of the youth. That is not my intention. I just think that we, as a generation, can do so much more.

Rather than constantly consuming, whining about what little we don't have, and simply fueling the world's hatred of America, we should look for ways we can use all the resources we've been blessed with to make a difference. We come down from a line of warriors, poets, musicians, revolutionaries, mystics and thinkers. We have a chance to leave a legacy as well; let's not waste it.

I ask you – no, I beseech you – my brothers and sisters, to leave sexy where it is and bring back originality instead, to give meaning to our generation.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Learn about yourself: join Psychology Club

DEAR EDITOR:

Why take a psychology class? There are so many reasons. Psychology is learning about yourself and others, how we relate to one another, and what makes us tick.

Learning about psychology does not mean you will be a psychology

major; many students learn about this field for the benefits it brings to themselves on a personal level. One of the most important skills one can learn is how to get along with others. Employers consistently value good interpersonal skills in their employees.

On the educational side, psychology is a great career choice and has so many paths one can choose from.

This was recently highlighted when the Ohlone Psychology Club hosted Dr. Benjamin Caldwell, Psy.D, for "Careers in Psychology" event on March 21.

Recently, Paul Malkin LCSW spoke to our club and presented Social Anxiety to us. We plan on having one more speaker for the semester on April 18. She is doing a presentation on Eating Disorders.

The Psychology Club feels that by presenting these topics to our students, they can learn not only about the disorder, but further focus on their choice of field to go into.

We are very lucky to have such a great Psychology Department here at Ohlone; we have a great faculty and many courses to choose from. We also have the Psychology

Club which focuses on promoting the field of psychology both for personal benefits as well as for educational goals.

Anyone can attend our events. The club hosts fieldtrips as well as a pot luck at the end of the semester. Visit us at OhlonePsychologyClub.blogspot.com.

ADELE M.

## CAMPUS COMMENT >>

# Do you prefer college or professional sports?



**ADRIAN GUTTEREZ**  
Sports Medicine

"Professional; because I grew up on it."



**JOSHUA FERRIANTE**  
Undecided

"College; they have more pressure to play well."



**GUSTAVO ZAMORA**  
Video Broadcasting

"College; because the players are more passionate."



**SHAINA MABALO**  
Digital Arts

"Professional; I'm familiar with the teams and it's mainstream."



**MARY TEJEDA**  
English

"Neither; I'm not interested in sports at all."