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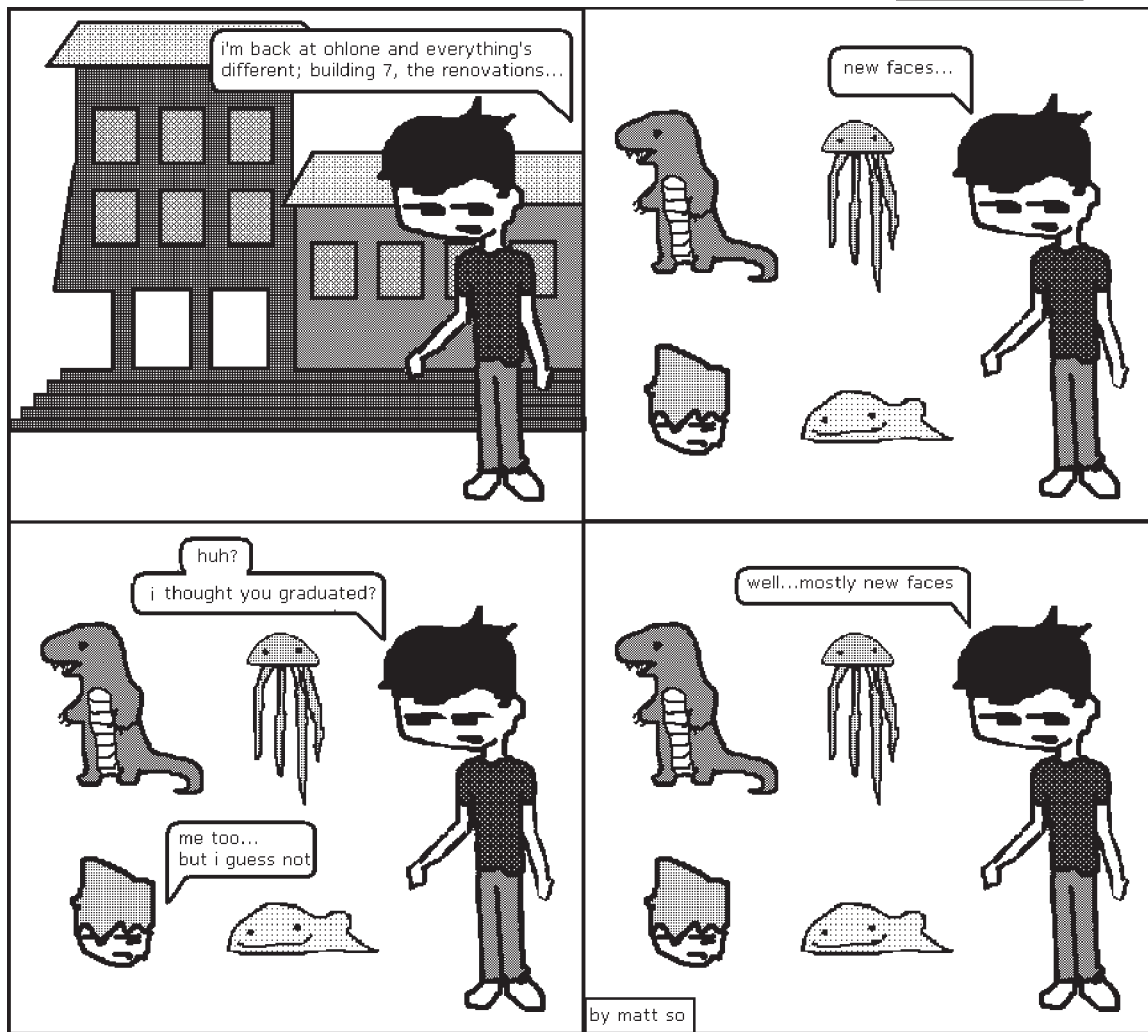


Offices are located in Room 5310 on campus, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont 94539-5884. Call (510) 659-6075. Fax: (510) 659-6076. E-mail: monitor@ohlone.cc.ca.us

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OPINION

You have freedom of speech, but who's listening?

By MICHAEL ABURAS
Opinions editor

The global war on terror has taken a heavy toll on troops and civilians. However, with ever-expanding government authority for domestic spying, the Constitution has become part of the war's "collateral damage."

The most recent attack is the Protect America Act, which was recently rushed through Congress. The act expands the power of the government to "mine" international phone calls and emails for information, without a warrant for the domestic side of the commu-

nication. In effect, it nullifies the FISA court (which the government must petition for warrants for international spying), and erases the Fourth Amendment. Repeatedly, the government has claimed it needs new tools to combat global terrorism, despite the cost of privacy and liberty.

The most aggressive move by the administration has been to place NSA surveillance equipment inside major telecommunication companies to mine for information. According to *USA Today*, companies such as AT&T and MCI have been granting access to their systems without search warrants.

The Fourth Amendment states: "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause..." Yet Bush claims he has the right to carry out warrantless surveillance.

Until recently, the administration has dodged charges of illegal surveillance by hiding behind the state secrets privilege. In other words, it would compromise national security by forcing the federal government to testify about its machinations. However, Judge Vaughn Walker of the 9th Circuit

Federal Court in San Francisco has allowed hearings against the government to proceed, citing that enough information was in the public forum, no longer creating a national security issue.

In the *San Jose Mercury-News* Vaughn said, "The compromise between liberty and security remains a difficult one. But dismissing this case at the outset would sacrifice liberty for no apparent enhancement of security." The story also reported that Bush has invoked the secret privilege more than any other president.

Although the judge has moved to check the power of the executive

branch to spy on citizens, his statements are disconcerting.

Liberty should never be compromised in a democracy, especially to protect its citizens from a threat that is the progeny of an imperialistic foreign policy. We've been told by this administration that the "evil do-ers" hate America and want to destroy our freedom. Yet, Bush has erased the 4th Amendment from the Constitution, which is part of the foundation of our freedom.

Founding Father Benjamin Franklin said it best: "Any society that would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and lose both."

Welcome to Ohlone – hang on for a great ride

Continued from Page 1

at the progress being made on our self study and learn more about accreditation at: <http://www.ohlone.edu/org/academicaffairs/accreditation.html>

The third major project unfolding during the coming year is the construction of our new Student Services Building located at the south end of the campus.

By the way, if you are looking

for Building 7, it no longer exists! It was demolished shortly after graduation to make way for the new building. Although parking and foot traffic around campus will be affected, the new service center for students, scheduled to next fall, will be well worth any inconveniences during the construction period. This center will house all services for students and will be a one-stop center for students to get the information

and assistance they need.

In addition, the Student Services Building will house significant space or meetings and conferences that the college has sorely need for quite some time. Further, a large amount of space will be freed up, particularly in the Student Services areas on the first floor of Building 1, for other college uses.

There are many other great things happening at Ohlone but space here

is limited. The *Ohlone Monitor* is a great way to stay abreast of the happenings at the college. As you are currently reading this article in the *Monitor*, you can see what an excellent newspaper it is.

Another excellent way to find out more about Ohlone is through browsing our very informative and user-friendly website: www.ohlone.edu.

We are very happy to have you

attending Ohlone College. It is a wonderful learning community. And you don't have to take just my word for it. A college-wide survey this past spring showed that 93 percent of our students find Ohlone to be a positive and supportive environment to pursue an education and 94 percent recommend taking classes at Ohlone.

That's an A grade in anybody's book!

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

Does government abuse surveillance power?



JOANNE LEE
Business Marketing

SCOTT HEDDEN
Advertising



MARYAM ARGHARDIWAL
Molecular Biology



THEODORE BROWN
Biology



MEGAN BROWN
Computer Science

"I don't think I ant to answer that question."

"I'm sure there's even a lot more than we are aware of."

"Yeah."

"It depends on what they're using it for. At the moment, I think the motives are all wrong."

"I think it does."