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All American

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1987	1988	1989
1990	1991	1992

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1988

Journalism Association
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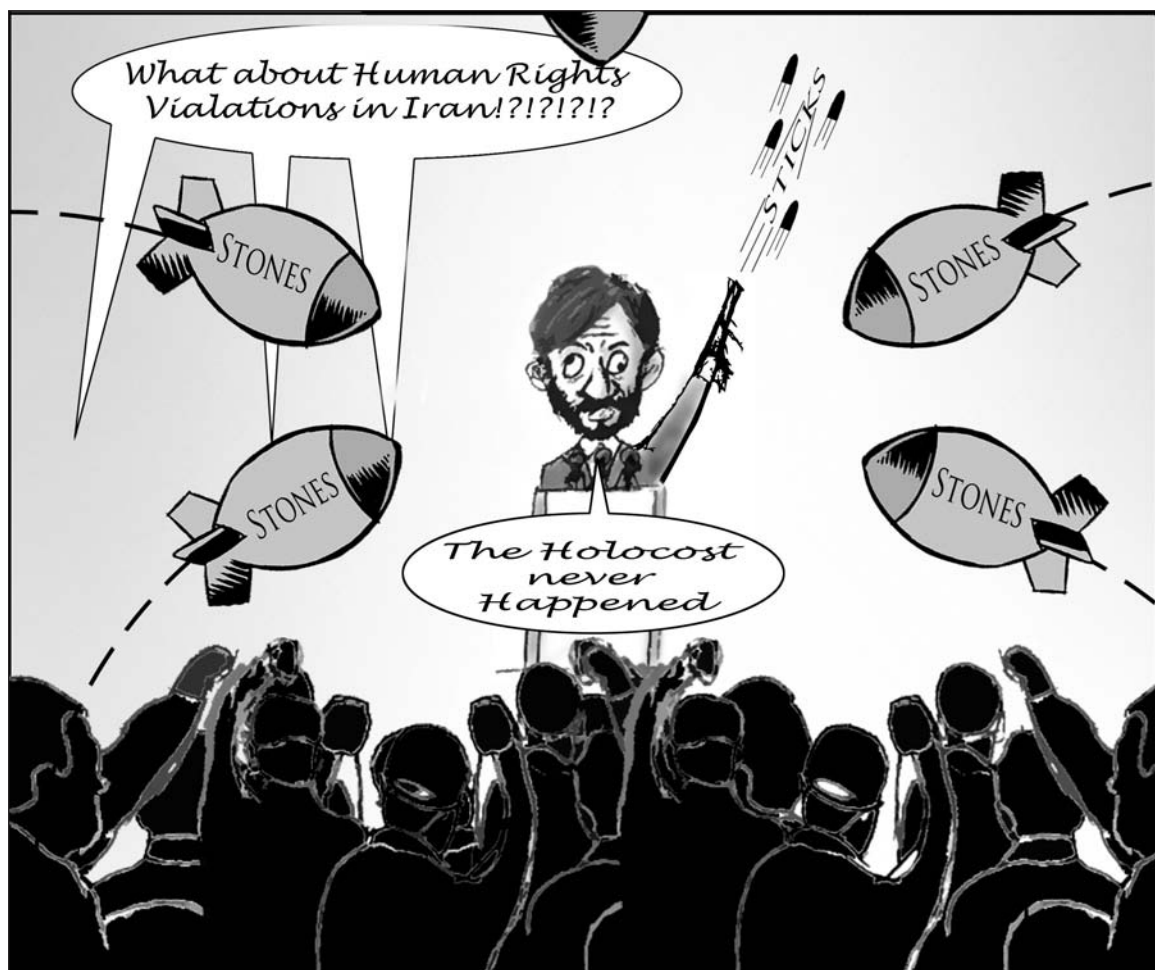


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OPINION

Iran president should be allowed to speak freely

By **ANDREW CAVETTE**
Staff writer

This past month both Donald Rumsfeld, the former U.S. secretary of defense, and Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the current president of Iran, have received invitations to Stanford University and Columbia University, respectively.

Rumsfeld received a one-year appointment as a distinguished fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford, while Ahmadinejad spoke Monday at Columbia.

Both incidents were met with strong protest from students and

faculty because some believed institutes of higher education should not voluntarily turn themselves into platforms for extreme ideologies.

Though there is great potential for such a thing to happen and, in a free society, such invitations should be met with a healthy amount of suspicion, I do not think giving them an opportunity to speak is a mistake.

Regarding Rumsfeld's appointment, members of Stanford's faculty circulated a petition which, in part, reads: "We view the appointment as fundamentally incompatible with the ethical values of truth-

fulness, tolerance, disinterested enquiry, respect for national and international laws and care for the opinions, property and lives of others to which Stanford is inalienably committed."

Ahmadinejad has been repeatedly accused of human rights violations, including torture and denying free speech to his citizens. He is also prone to using anti-Semitic rhetoric including calling the Holocaust "a myth."

By appointing Rumsfeld as a fellow and allowing Ahmadinejad to speak, some believe these universities have fully endorsed men

who have sanctioned illegal imprisonment, torture, governmental suppression and war.

Rumsfeld might use his Stanford appointment to wield even more neo-conservative, hawkish influence over those still in power and on Monday, Ahmadinejad certainly used Columbia's podium to spread his skewed, Anti-Zionist propaganda.

The furthering of their delusional, hate-filled ideology is a shameful waste of a forum, but a university should never strive to provide their communities with a limited perspective.

They should present vastly different world views at every opportunity, even if that means suffering through the nauseating diatribes of the hateful, the dishonest and the cruel, to encourage critical analysis of all of them.

This sentiment can be found in another educational institution much closer to home, the Alameda County Library. Their Book Selection Policy reads: "It is the library's responsibility to provide material which will enable the citizen to form his own opinions. Therefore, the library provides books representing varying points of view."

Frugality at the cost of retail customer service

By **KATHY SUNG**
Staff writer

"Big box stores have no personality... The customer service of small businesses far exceeds that of big box stores," said Balwant Ramakabir, manager of Learning Express.

In this day and age, in order for a big company to survive, they have to provide some level of

good customer service. However, in the back-to-school rush, I've discovered that customer service is nonexistent.

Name any three major chain stores and think about the times you've actually been greeted when you walked in the door. Now walk into Learning Express, or any small store, and at least someone will ask you whether you need help.

The employees know all of their products and can describe the benefits of each one. The prices are

slightly cheaper at major stores, but I say pay the extra money for quality service.

I find that the stores with quality service instruct their employees on exactly how to treat their customers, guaranteeing a higher level of courtesy and respect.

The issue I have with chain stores is the management. In a recent personal experience, I was stood up by an assistant manager of a major bookstore twice.

The assistant manager got away

with it because managers are often too busy to double check what their underlings are doing. Thus, the lower level employees suffer. Small stores have a different policy - a more personal aspect.

Had an assistant manager pulled something like that in a small store, they would be fired. With the way the employees are being treated by their higher ups in a big name company, it is little wonder that they provide lower quality service. Employees will learn how to treat

customers by the way they are treated as an employee.

Major retailers try to increase profit by hiring as few people as possible. I'm tired of seeing the repeated scene of one employee struggling with a cash register while a long line of people are tapping their feet.

It is unreasonable that customers should have to waste their time and money at a store that provides little to no service just because the prices are cheaper.

CAMPUS COMMENT >>> Who do you think should speak at Ohlone?



LUKAS GRIPPA
English

"Barak Obama."



TONY LENZI
Geology

"Jack Horner [Paleontologist]."



MAYRA GONZALEZ
Business

"I really like Hillary Clinton."



REBECA GARVIN
Physical Therapy

"George Bush. So we can all throw eggs at him."



TERAN FINLEY
Nursing

"Calvin and Hobbes."