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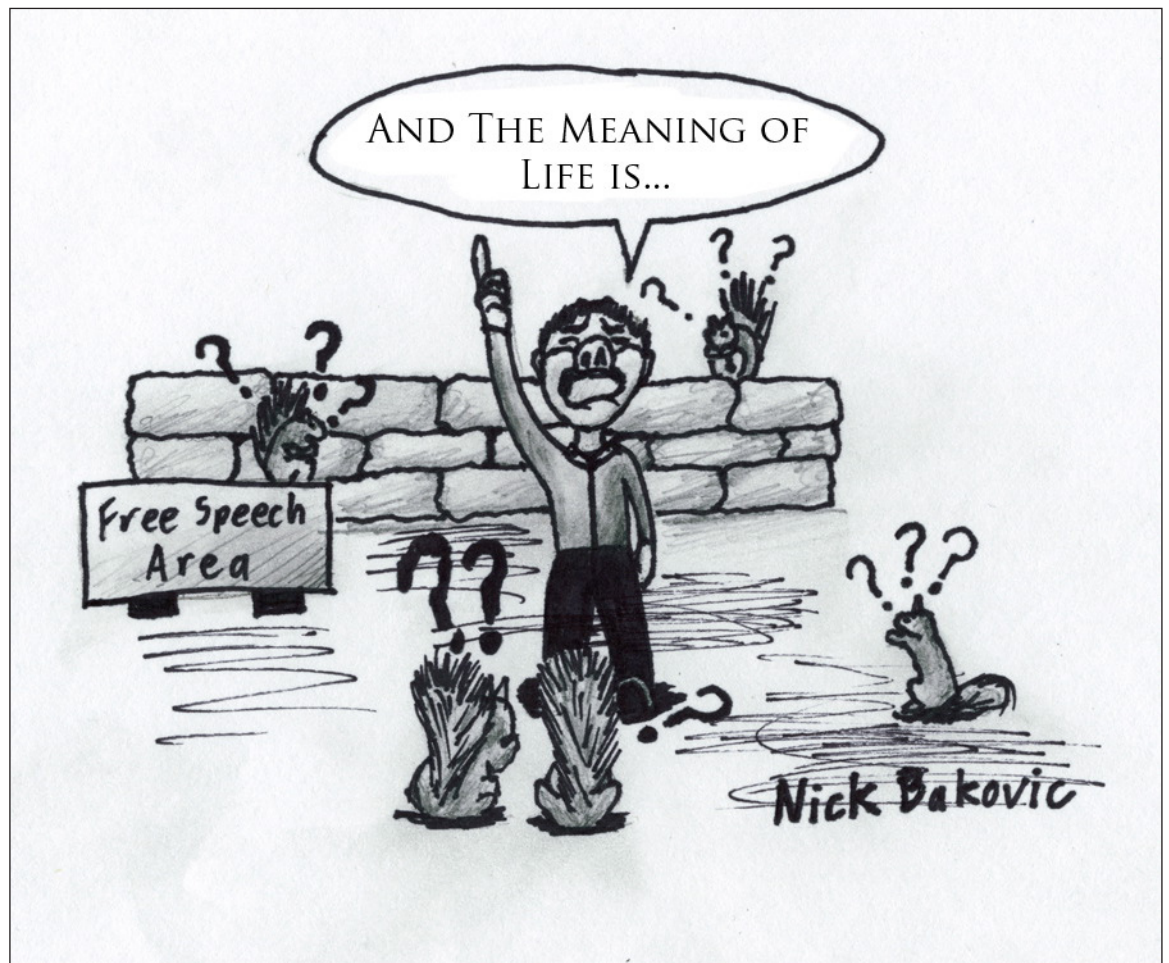


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## OPINION

# Free speech area should upgrade to the Quad

By SANDEEP ABRAHAM  
Staff writer

As far as explosive issues on a college campus go, the restriction of free speech would be the equivalent of a few tons of napalm, enough to ignite and rally a group of students and simultaneously destroy a peaceful learning environment. Now, as much as I'd like to see a good riot, the restriction of free speech on Ohlone's campus is nowhere near outrageous enough to warrant one. It does, however, need to be reevaluated.

I'm willing to bet a good chunk of all I hold dear in this world that most students at Ohlone have no idea that there exists an area designated for free speech near the

Palm Bosque and stairs leading to Building 9. It's a small area, no bigger than a smoking area or room in some airports.

But before anyone goes crazy at the mere mention of something so ludicrous, let me assure you that the content of your speech is not limited anywhere on campus, only the method and volume with which you make your opinions known.

The policy was first established in 1997, back when the Quad and most of campus were open to any and all kinds of free speech. Bands would play in the Quad, and political and religious groups would hold rallies and events there as well.

The only reason all of this was moved down to the Palm Bosque was because the Quad is surrounded

by classrooms and is directly in front of the library, which should be a safe haven for students intent on studying. The new location was selected because, at the time, it saw a lot of foot traffic and so it pleased credit card companies, military recruiters, bands and whoever else wanted to make their message reach student ears en masse.

Another concern with the Quad-based open forum area was the fact that there were many anti-abortionist rallies and evangelical Christian groups assaulting the student populace with what was often unnecessarily graphic and vitriolic hate speech.

There were instances of graphic or anti-Semitic posters on campus, and the women who studied and

worked at Ohlone, didn't like coming to campus only to be called whores or whatever else the hate group of the day chose to throw their way. So in the spirit of cohesiveness, the open forum, or essentially free speech area, was moved closer to the Palm Bosque.

However, that was a different time and foot traffic isn't what it used to be near the Palm Bosque, and highly varies according to the season and time of day.

Though I agree with the original intention of the policy and enjoy the relatively peaceful environment that is Ohlone, there should not be only one tiny portion of the campus dedicated to open discussion and impromptu events and rallies. The Quad might not be the best place

for these either, but there are plenty of other locations on campus that would work just as well.

The issue isn't so much where students aren't allowed to speak as freely and loudly as possible, but more where they *are*. The fact that there exists a sign designating a certain area as free speech friendly is what is so outrageous.

There should instead be a sign in the Quad limiting not the content of, but the volume and method by which free speech is delivered. And if this becomes too much of an issue, at least designate a few more areas of uninhibited, but peaceful expression. Maybe also putting up signs of the First Amendment to the Constitution would make this policy a bit more palatable.

# Dead bodies aren't gross; they're educational

By ELISE LEON  
Staff writer

A major question in people's minds at this time is if the Body Works 2 Museum in San Jose is appropriate for children. Yes it is a museum, however, some of the material shown can be known to

be somewhat graphic.

Yet, aren't other forms of entertainment worse in explicit content? For instance, video games, movies and even music videos.

Most kids these days have a PS or Nintendo, with games showing a person's head being blown off with a rifle, or a knife fight with a zombie exposing guts and blood for com-

mon thrills. Or how about television - let's name one, shall we?

CSI is a great show, don't take me wrong, but nonetheless, you must in some way agree that the majority of the things shown on that series can be unsuitable for children of certain ages.

However, when I went to the museum this past Monday, I saw

kids of all ages enjoying themselves learning about the human anatomy, from what a hemorrhage is, to what the brain stroke looks like from the body of a lady who was 36 weeks into her pregnancy.

The way these children were fascinated with the displays and research was incredible. There was this particular girl, about the

age of 7, who was mesmerized by how the joints of the body worked - especially the hip joint. She kept looking at the acetabulum, which is, by definition, a concave surface of the pelvis, according to Wikipedia.

I feel that this display is appropriate for everyone of all ages. It is educational, plain and simple.

Campus Comment >>>

## Would you donate your dead body to art?



**JERIS AUJILA**  
Aerospace Technology

"Yes; I won't be using it."



**MORGAN BELL**  
Social Worker

"No, I would rather be in peace."



**TOM SHIVELY**  
Kinesiology

"No, but I would donate it to science."



**AMRINDER SINGH**  
Bio Technology

"It depends on what type of art."



**MEGAN MOORE**  
Deaf Studies

"If someone finds enjoyment in my innards, more power to them."