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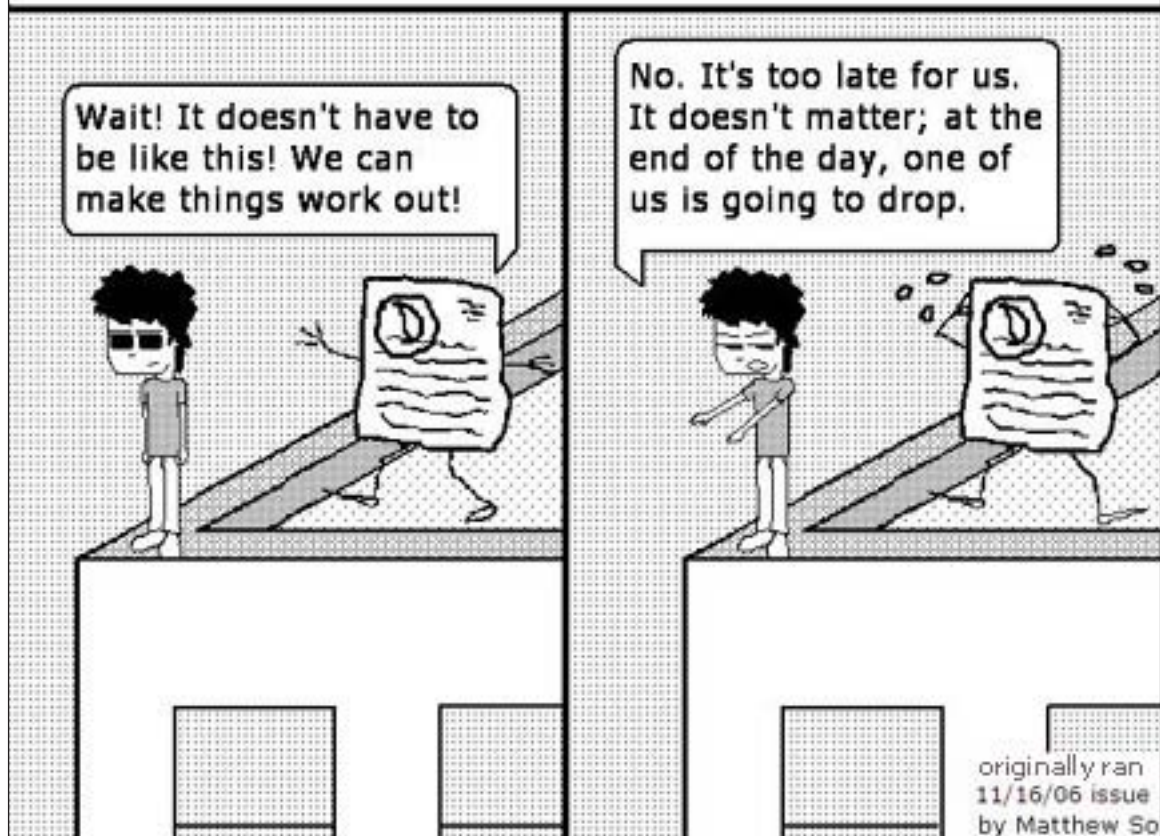
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November 15th--Deadline day for dropping classes



originally ran
11/16/06 issue
by Matthew So

OPINION

Christmas comes too early in department stores

By SANDEEP ABRAHAM
Correspondent

Consumption junction is normally a very disturbing website, a tribute and home to any and every politically incorrect fart/sex/puke joke on the planet. However, America is once again at an equally disturbing consumption junction of our own: the pre-Christmas shopping season.

Halloween has just barely walked out the door of 2007, and supermarket chains have already begun taking down jack-o'-lanterns

in favor of plush Rudolphs, and devilish spears in favor of oversized candy canes. (I'm still waiting for candy cane devil spears. There's nothing quite like a compromise.) Radio stations are slowly but surely beginning their upcoming mind-numbing stream of Christmas music with holiday remixes just around the corner.

In a nutshell, we're continuing our proud tradition of trampling older traditions to appease the almighty dollar, or maybe just the inexplicable yet all-American urge to splurge.

And why do we feel this need to spend even more of our supposedly hard-earned money on more useless crap we know corporations use to tug at our emotions? Because it's tradition.

We're Americans; we spend, we consume; it's what we do. The more we spend, the more we have. The more we have, the closer we are to the American dream. The closer we are to the American dream, the more American each of us is.

Some of us don't even think of why we spend so much. After all these years of holiday after

commercialized holiday, it's all just routine and expected. And don't try to deny that you spend all that money on useless holiday-themed trinkets and decorations. If you didn't spend your money on useless holiday crap, companies wouldn't produce so much of it, much less more than two months before the actual holiday.

This isn't to say that everything we buy for the holidays is useless crap. Turkeys, pumpkins, fruitcakes and such each evoke certain memories in us, memories that bring to mind our childhoods and warm

family gatherings.

But for the love of all things sacred, do you honestly want those memories bottled, packaged and sold to you at Wal-Mart prices? Though maybe it's justified.

Americans live fast lives. Most of us are too busy, too engaged in our careers, relationships and ambitions to indulge in warm, fuzzy feelings we have to create ourselves. It's so much easier to just buy these feelings and at huge holiday discounts. But that defeats their purpose.

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Veterans Day is celebrated on the wrong day

By DAN YUAN
Photo editor

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, the Armistice was signed, ending fighting in the Great War, the "War to End All Wars." Veterans Day, Armistice Day and Remembrance Day are celebrated in many nations with the aim of reflecting upon the bloodshed of war.

And yet to many, the holiday is

on Monday and is little more than a day off. Well, I hate to break it to you, but the date of the end of some of the most brutal fighting the world has seen does not change to make your vacation plans more convenient.

By recognizing Armistice Day on a Monday, the significance of the date is cheapened, relegating it to yet another barbeque, chill-out day similar to what Memorial Day has become. But even more ironically, unlike Memorial Day, Veterans Day is not even supposed to be

celebrated on a Monday.

Although it was changed to the fourth Monday of October in 1968, this decision was reversed in 1975 and since 1978, Veterans Day has been recognized on the historically noteworthy day of Nov. 11.

The carnage and effects of the first World War are not something we should forget so easily. The consequences of the vicious fighting and the treaties that followed reshaped the world. Even the current state of affairs in the Middle East can trace its roots to this conflict.

For example, the state of Iraq saw its creation due to a mandate from the end of the war.

Over 20 million human beings, both soldiers and civilians, lost their lives in the two World Wars, and an entire generation was permanently scarred. Needless to say, the date Nov. 11 carries much significance.

It's disappointing to see the Ohlone events calendar incorrectly list V.D. as Nov. 12. Maybe in the future we'll digitally edit Roosevelt's speech from Dec. 7, 1941, "a date which will live in infamy" to the

second Monday of December 1941, "a date to barbeque and take the kids to Disneyland."

But this is the world we live in. A world far removed from the effects of war, which only manifest themselves in the civilian world as rising gas prices and new subjects for movies and video games.

General Robert E. Lee once said that "it is well that war is so terrible, lest we grow too fond of it," but we live in an age where it is far too easy to forget about war and the people it affects.

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

Which actor would play you in your biography?



REBECCA BOLIBA
Deaf Studies

"Punky Brewster. I always liked her."



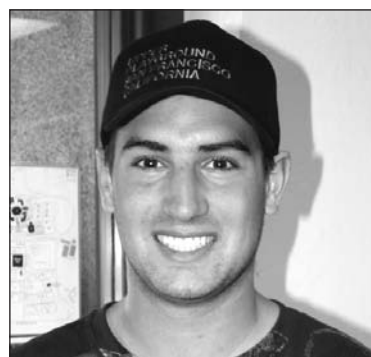
JESS CHIANG
Undecided

"Jet Li. I like the common man who can also fight."



ANGELICA VILA
English

"A bum off the street."



MICHAEL O'BOYLE
Business

"Ashton Kutcher. He's a random crazy guy who will do anything."



DANIEL TAUBE
Business

"Some Ukranian guy."