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Photo staff: Jack Husting
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Adviser: Bill Parks
Printer: F-P Press



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

If we do not pick up the trash, who will do it?

By **MONIKA MOORE**
Correspondent

How many times a day do you walk past trash? Not in a trash can, but lying on the ground. Here in the Bay Area, there is trash everywhere. It lines the freeway medians, it blows about urban streets, it even decorates Ohlone College in classrooms and out in the courtyards.

For most of my life I've tried to ignore the trash that I see in the landscape. It's ugly, it's dirty and

it's not mine. I felt that if I wasn't the one littering, then the trash really wasn't my problem, and I could continue to feel mild disgust toward the people who do litter.

Litter bugs, you know who you are. Flicking a cigarette butt out your window, well that's littering, in case you didn't know. Letting a gum wrapper drift to the ground as you absently shove that gum into your mouth, well that's littering too. But this is not a diatribe against litterbugs.

In fact, regardless of the origin of

this trash, be it litterbugs or spilled trash bins or grocery bags blown in from wherever, it is my problem. In fact, it's your problem, too.

We live in a society that loves to consume and doesn't love to reuse. Most products are made to be disposable, like the excessive packaging your fast-food meal comes in, or the pricey flat screen HD television that will be obsolete in a few years.

It is this lifestyle trend that leads to over-flowing landfills and piles and piles of rubbish that could have

easily been recycled, composted or somehow reused.

When was the last time you bought a small item, had it bagged in a brand new plastic or paper bag by the cashier, only to walk out of the store, remove your item from the bag, and simply throw the bag away? Often we do this without even thinking and it goes against our natural instinct to refuse the bag if it means we are inconvenienced.

I have purchased a plethora of reusable canvas bags for my grocery trips, but probably 75 percent of the

time I forget to bring them with me and end up bringing home a dozen or so plastic bags that I then have to find some way to reuse.

Our hesitation to find new ways to replace these products (or better yet, reduce our consumption) and our natural tendencies to do things the way we've been doing them all these years, even when we want to change, is why there is trash everywhere.

Maybe that bag on the ground is filthy and I'd rather not pick it up. But if I don't, who will?

Handicapped parking allocation and location unfair

By **INEZ BLACK**
Staff writer

Just like real estate, the issue for handicapped parking spaces at Ohlone is location, location, location.

After all the factors are considered, more than 100 disabled students who are mobility impaired, or with fatigue limitations, vie for limited handicapped parking spaces in Lot U on the Witherly Lane side of the upper campus in the morning, or early afternoon, when most classes

are scheduled.

Closing Lot P for construction removed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accommodation of close parking for mobility impaired students. Additional handicapped parking spaces were not added to Lots T and W, and around Building 25. From Lot P, it was 75-100 steps to the center of the Quad.

All but a few mobility impaired students travel from Lots M and N, taking about 400-600 steps, to arrive at the center of the Quad. They are now traveling the same distance

as the able-bodied students, which is unfair.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 uses a formula to determine the required number of handicapped parking spaces. It also requires that the parking spaces be close to the entrance of the buildings.

When I started the semester, the handicapped parking spaces in Lots M and N were so full I had to wait for a space to open. Today, there are only one or two other cars in the handicapped spaces in Lot M, with more in Lot N. Although a

lot of students drop out during the semester, based on the cars missing from handicapped spaces in Lots M and N, the drop-out rate for mobility impaired disabled students could be two or three times the norm.

Of the 500 disabled students at Ohlone, more than 100 are mobility impaired, with a few using motorized wheelchairs or manual wheelchairs who can drive.

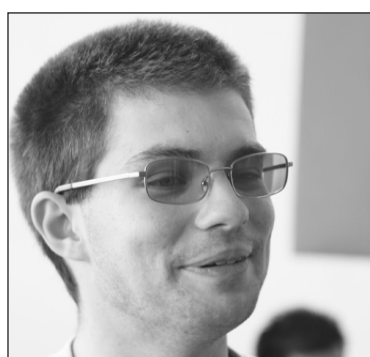
Checking Lot U in the morning and early afternoon reveals that all but two or three of the handicapped parking spots are used by disabled faculty and staff who arrive prior

to 8 a.m. With the addition of this statistic, the reality is over 100 mobility impaired disabled students vie for two or three handicapped parking spaces in Lot U daily.

Motor cyclists have preferential parking next to Lot U. Patrons of the arts buying tickets at Smith Center have a parking space on the upper Witherly Lane side, which is empty most of the time, and there are a half dozen specialty parking spaces which are empty most of the time.

Can't more spaces be allocated in Lot U for wheelchair only?

CAMPUS COMMENT >>> What's the best thing you learned this semester?



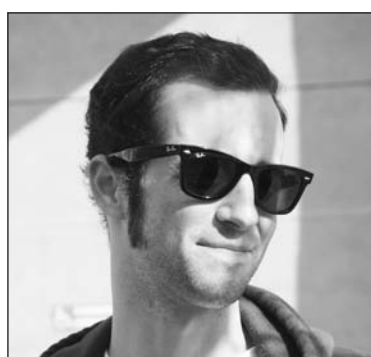
ALEX HILKE
Political Science

"To stay out of trouble."



ASHLEY WHITE
Fashion Design

"Never take things or people for granted."



BRYAN GORDON
Undeclared

"I'm not cool, unless, I like Quiet Riot."



CARLSON THAI
Economics

"Maintaining control of work. Work ethic."



CHRIS CLIFTON
English

"To value your opinion."