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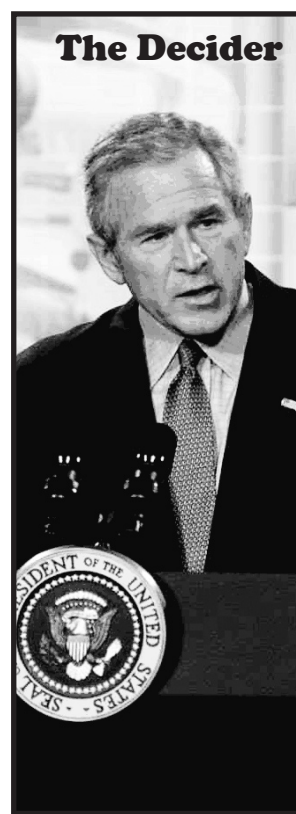


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Education gets a bad Rap.

OPINION

Ohlone's ties with China questioned over Tibet

By **TSETEN DOLKAR**
Staff writer

As images surface of China's violent crackdown on protesters in Tibet, one wonders what we in the Free World can do.

Martin Luther King Jr. has said "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." The cultural genocide and the oppression of my people in Tibet are frighteningly similar to the Holocaust in Nazi Germany.

Beginning March 10, the day the protests in Tibet began to take a violent turn, China did its best to blind the world from the ugly truth of its harsh rule over Tibet.

China ordered tourists out of Tibet, banned journalists from entering the country and blocked YouTube, BBC and CNN in main-

land China – in addition to China's already strict Internet and news censorship. If China doesn't want its own people to see what's happening in Tibet, I can only imagine what it's hiding from the rest of the world.

The People's Republic of China's official Press Agency, Xinhua, an organization that Reporters Without Borders has called "the world's biggest propaganda agency" is the only news agency with an abundance of information on the current situation in Tibet.

On March 17 alone, it listed 17 different state-run articles on the riots and protests in Tibet. What I do not see listed on the site is the factual death toll of 80 that the Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) is confirming.

What I do not see are images of my people fighting with sticks and stones, outnumbered by ever-increasing and fully armed Chinese police.

What I do not see are images of Tibetan protesters being tear-gassed and jailed, merely for chanting "Free Tibet!" Blurry and amateur footage captured on cell phones are the only hint of the harsh oppression Tibetans face daily.

Tibetans, Free Tibet supporters and human rights campaigners worldwide are calling on the global community and the International Olympics Committee (IOC) to boycott the Beijing Olympics.

China, in its desire to rise and be seen as a prominent world power, has made unfulfilled promises to improve human rights practices in Tibet and mainland China. How-

ever, with the violent crackdown on the protests in Tibet in the past week, China has contradicted itself.

As reports from inside Tibet reach the TCHRD, we learn that on March 17, students in various universities and schools across Tibet have staged protests in opposition of Chinese Rule.

People in Tibet know from experience that when they step outside their homes to protest, there are only two endings: detention or death.

After 50 years of being oppressed in their own country, the normally patient, nonviolent and peaceful Tibetans have received little attention.

It is unfortunate that only when violence is involved, does the rest of world pay attention. The justice owed to them is past due.

As a student at Ohlone College,

the district's eagerness to join hands with China does not rest easily with me.

I find it somewhat distasteful that my own college is working closely with the suppressive Chinese government, not only courting students to enroll here (which in-and-of-itself is fine), but also actively seeking to establish a sister college within China.

With their established ties already in place, even a tiny gesture from Ohlone would be received by the Chinese government as a sign that the world is watching.

It is a gesture I think the college should make. It would show that we will not allow China's economic status to compromise our pledge as citizens of a free country to defend the freedoms of all individuals.

Barry is really hacked off about not smoking

By **BARRY KEARNS**
Staff writer

It has now been 28 days since I've had a cigarette. I quit and this time it's for real. I would like to get a few things off my chest to the members of this non-smokers club to which I now belong.

Non-smokers should never talk to smokers about smoking. It's like

a virgin teaching a class on sexual education. They might be able to quote from the book and spout off figures, but they have no real understanding of the act.

Next, all of you should become keenly aware of the face that you make when you see someone smoking. This is going to require a little participation, so tape this article to the bathroom wall, right next to the mirror. Good, now stand in front of the mirror, and close your

eyes (after you read this paragraph of course).

I want you to imagine a birthday party where the birthday boy is crying because the clown has defecated on the cake. It's very specific, I know, but necessary. Picture it. Make that face, hold it and open your eyes. That... right there in the mirror, is the look we smokers get when we are caught.

When I tell people that I have quit smoking, especially when I tell

non-smokers, they smile, tell me I'm doing great things and often give me something to autograph (and I do). They ask me why I quit smoking and I give the correct answers – it's for my health. That's not the real reason though.

The real reason is that I'm tired of playing this game. The fact is we have a huge percent of the population addicted to a government regulated drug whose addictive qualities have been compared to heroin. To

combat this fierce, mind-altering addiction we make ad campaigns. These anti-smoking websites like thetruth.com cost millions of dollars, but honestly, they only make me want to smoke more (and stub my cigarettes out on their faces).

Whether we smokers will admit it, we are addicted and I think we would benefit from some real assistance getting off cigarettes. Instead we get a patch... and that only

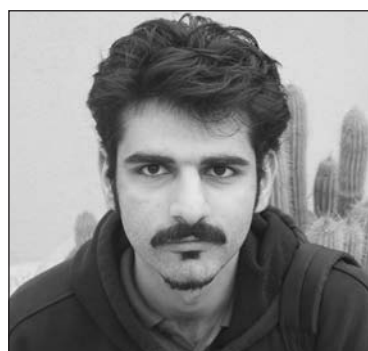
Continued on Page 3

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

What would make you hang out on campus more often?



Adán Ortega
FILM / MUSIC
"Host more activities in the cafeteria."



Ahmad Meher
BUSINESS
"Music...Something jumpin'."



Jennifer Worth
KINESIOLOGY
"A peace festival."



Ajmal Karimi
BIOLOGY / CHEMISTRY
"An open forum for tutoring on all subjects."



Tesa Wroblewski
UNDECLARED
"I'm already here too much for theater tech."