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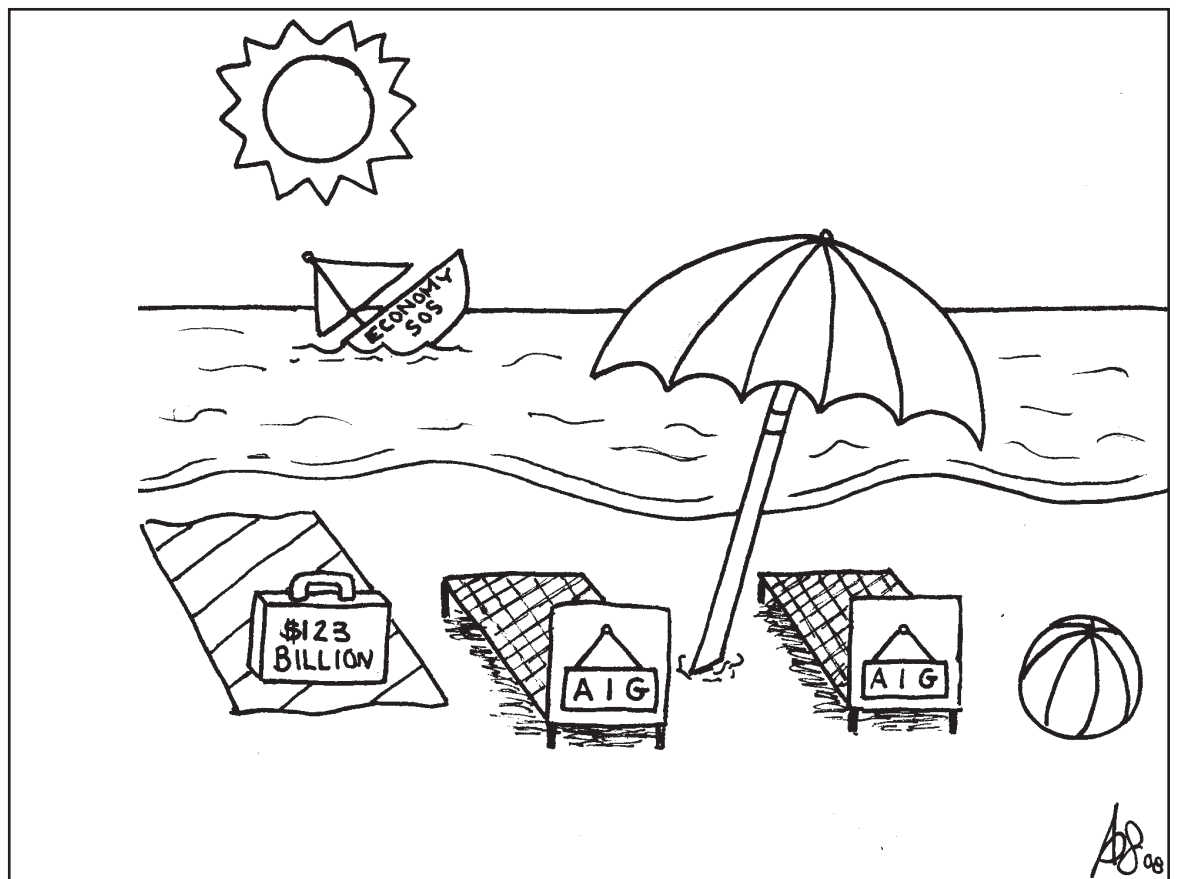


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OPINION

International students face challenges at Ohlone

By ANNA BIARITZ ROLDAN
Staff writer

Ohlone College welcomes international students to be able to share with them the ever-so-good education one can have here in the United States of America, but is it a fair trade? As some of you may know, international students are made to pay about \$200 per unit. Some say it's reasonable, but many would claim otherwise.

International students face the same stress as every other student and more. Most of them have no cars since it just isn't that easy to finance it given the high cost of tuition and housing and not to mention day-to-day living expenses. Given that they do not have cars, they have to deal with public transportation every single day and as we all know, riding the bus takes four times longer than if one had a car.

Try picturing yourself in the place of an international student. Say you have a class at 8 a.m. So you wake up at around 5:30 a.m., eat breakfast, take a shower, get dressed and leave the house. You have to get to the bus stop at 6:30 a.m. so you walk on a street shivering with the cold weather with no sunlight, as if it were 8 p.m.

You get to the bus stop with some kind of fear that something or someone may just be lurking behind you. You get on the bus. You wait until you get to the stop where you have to transfer. You wait there anxiously, wishing you were home sleeping instead.

You get to school and see everyone walking up the stairs and you know you have to face another day learning English in one of your ELI (English Language Institute) classes.

Seem quite dandy to you? Well,

this is just one of those good days for an international student. There are days where he/she wakes up late and misses the bus, you stop and think, "Hey that happens to everyone" but here's the catch: that international student who misses his/her bus has to go through the trouble of talking to bus drivers of the next buses that come, and some of them may be helpful, but some just will not bother. There, he/she is forcing their English to come out right, struggling to say what they want to say and yet it just gets more and more unclear to the listener.

The bottom line is, these are all the things international students have to put up with aside from all the regular frustrations a college student normally endures. The education they get is no doubt very good, but they should be given a break. Things could be made a bit

easier for them and here are some suggestions.

First of all, lower tuition fees. If this is not possible, at least cheap housing should be available for them on campus.

Next is transportation arrangements. Perhaps a carpool that will serve as a "school bus" for these students would be a good idea to help them lighten their stress. A fee for gas and drivers may be asked for this but due to the outrageous tuition fee they have, the service fee should be made reasonable.

Other than this, the rest of the student body should be given an opportunity to interact with these students, notice it or not they have a world of their own and this is not really what they should be getting from a school that boasts of its diversity.

This could be done in the form of an activity or social gathering.

If the school can fund a Bingo or theater shows I don't see why they wouldn't be able to fund such an activity, which is for the goog of the student body.

These may seem like a whole new set of programs that the school might not want to go through, but these will benefit a good number of students currently dealing with an excess of other matters - language barriers, higher fees, transportation and housing issues - who deserve it. This will make their stay here in the United States more pleasant.

Would you want visitors wishing they never came over or would you want them leaving with great experience and want to come again? Remember that these students should not only be here to learn; they are also here to impart something good to everyone else, but why would they even think of doing so if they do not get a good trade?

A note on Afghan challenges

DEAR EDITOR:

I have read your *Monitor* dated Oct. 9, 2008. The topic in the front page drew my attention and I approved of what Mr. Qayomi stated. I would like to comment on one thing about the headline, in which I saw the word "Afghani challenges . . ."; I have to say that Afghani

is the currency of Afghanistan, and Afghan is the Nation. I mean that should have been written as "Afghan," not Afghani. Ohlone is a place where each of its students would be in a position in the USA or other countries. We actually introduced Afghans by a wrong name, so they will know this country by Afghani not Afghan.

Thank you very much for your attention and consideration.

Warm regards,
Homayoun

Editor's note: The *Monitor* always makes a sincere effort toward cultural sensitivity and accuracy. We based our word choice in last week's headline on Webster's definition of "Afghani": "of or relating to Afghanistan or its people." The *Monitor* always strives for accuracy and welcomes reader input.

Tolerance needed

DEAR EDITOR:

I was disappointed that the Governor vetoed legislation that would create a day for honoring Harvey Milk, who was a gay activist that passed away in 1978. It was a shock to me that there was little media coverage on that matter. I don't understand why having a fallen hero can't be honored and recognized by schools where teachers can share his accomplishments and what he fought for.

—The Gay/Straight Alliance Club

CAMPUS COMMENT >>

What do you expect out of the new SSB?



Brittnet Friels

PRE-MED

"I expect it to be a good environment, where people are there to help."



David Dressler

UNDECIDED

"Personally, not much because I hardly use it."



Jonathan Jiang

ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING

"[Better building organization so] it's easier for incoming freshmen."



Lucia Viramonts

NURSING

"It should be easier to find and more organized for the offices."



Samira Sewrat

BUSINESS

"I wish it wasn't that up high and I hope it's up to date."