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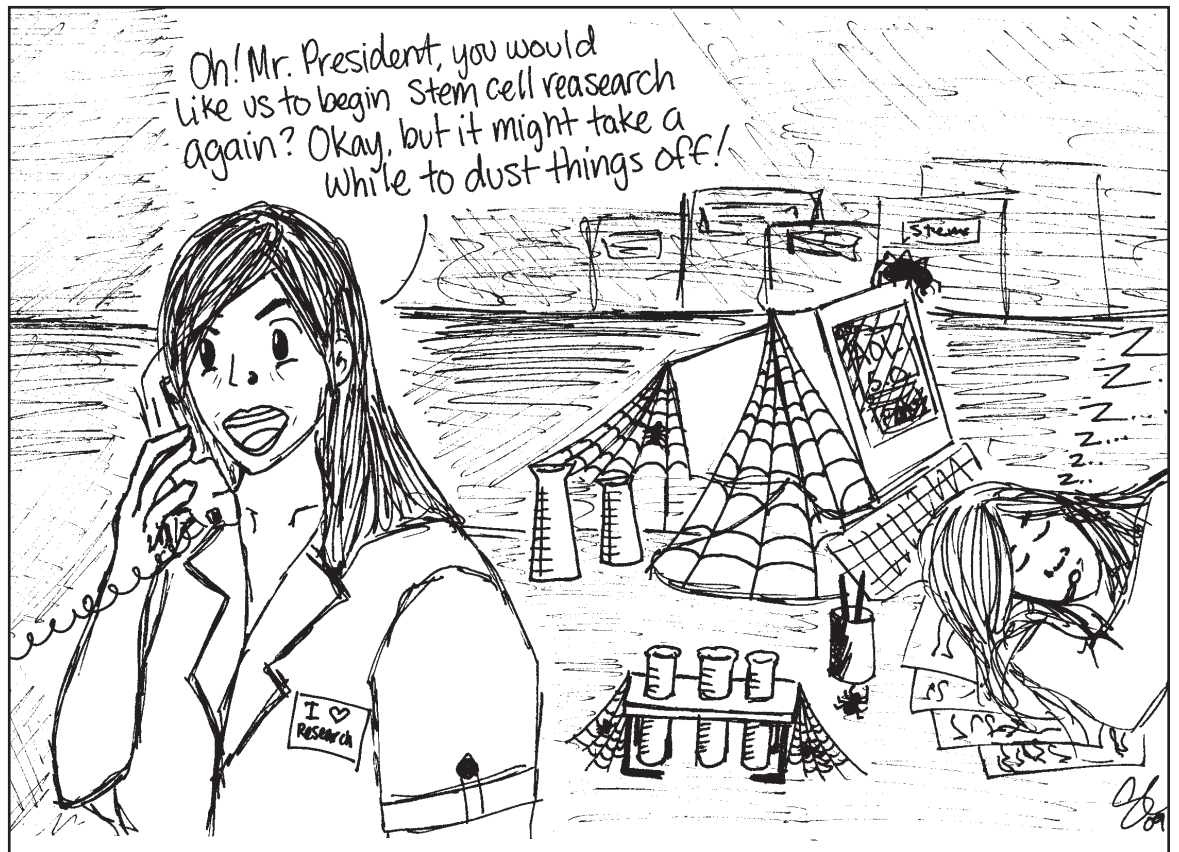


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The *MONITOR* is funded by the district, by the Associated Students of Ohlone College, and through advertising revenue.

The *MONITOR* is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, Journalism Association of Community Colleges, Community College Journalism Association, California Newspaper Publishers Association, College Media Advisers and Society of Newspaper Design.



OPINION

Student offers comments on past opinion pages

DEAR EDITOR:

The *Monitor* has recently been a source of shame for me. I can honestly say that reading it has shifted my view on hoping to major in journalism. I can only hope that sometime in the future I can get over this exposure to this paper. I will be the first to admit that I focus on the bad over the good, but some of the content really needs some quality control.

It's nice to see that "The View From Here" is gone. It's not that I don't tolerate viewpoints that may be more on the right than mine, but I believe you should have to put together a logical argument for it.

"The Decline and Fall" from the Nov. 20 issue was downright laughable. During a debate of America's place in the world today, he brought up Hiroshima. He complained about students calling Bush a fascist, implying that they do not understand the meaning of the word. I'll agree, but then he went on to write "Zieg Heil Hospital" in the very next issue. It isn't logical to complain about one fascist analogy, when you use the same rhetoric in the next article you write.

There are other articles that made me blush as a student from a few months ago. Namely the "Dropped but not broken: survivors stay strong" article that was a trainwreck

of thought. But those are in the past, and I can let them go.

The recent articles have been vicious to read. The "Love Addicts" article showed a scary lack of scientific understanding. The original study the article was based on simply said that people who crave love have the same parts of their brain affected as people who are withdrawing from cocaine. I'm not an expert in neuroscience, but I can see how that would make sense. Increased levels of euphoria can be found with drug use and love. That kind of stuff can be checked, quantified, and recorded. It isn't going "too far" to claim that two stimuli which produce the same result can

therefore result in a similar response when the stimuli are removed. It baffles me that education environment would allow "I understand that love doesn't entirely come from the heart" to be printed. You know what comes from the heart? Blood. That's it. There is no love coming from your heart. Yes, drugs are bad for you and can cause neurological harm. But that is a red herring, the claim that X causes a response akin to Y is not at all related to the side effects of X or Y.

What really raised my ire is the complete junk that was written about 2012. I don't see why people would use Mayan folklore as an appeal to authority. Why only heed

one piece of implied advice? If the Mayans really know what is going on here, why do people look down on human sacrifice? If I said that I created a goblin to work on my farm and summon the rain when I needed it, no one would talk to me anymore. As with all cultures around the world, there is some folklore that just doesn't make any sense. As someone who shares part of his heritage with one-eyed bearded Gods in the mountain and little green men with pots of gold, I understand that it's best to leave our folklore as folklore. That's not to say that we can't enjoy the stories and take lessons from them.

Continued on Page 3

Tyler Perry's Madea films could use spicing up

By SEAN NERO
Staff writer

WRITER'S NOTE: The following story will contain spoilers pertaining to Tyler Perry's recently released film *Madea Goes to Jail*.

Failed then found-again romance, family and relationship drama and over the top comedy seem to sum up every Perry movie. His "Madea" films prominently feature his ill-tempered matriarch character Mable "Madea" Sim-

mons, played by Perry in drag, who hands out life lessons in addition to witty one-liners. After seeing *Tyler Perry's Madea Goes to Jail*, I am beginning to think that his plot elements are becoming rather redundant.

While it is known that he has a target audience of women and young adults when creating his films, Perry should be more mindful of those who have seen the previous movies. I took my 8-year-old niece out to see this movie and even she reminded me of how similar this was to his first film, *Tyler Perry's Dairy of a Mad Black Woman*, saying "Didn't

we see this one before?"

Both films have main characters that are in a relationship but soon realize that they have strong feelings for another person. In the case of *Dairy of a Mad Black Woman*, the protagonist Helen is in an uneasy relationship that soon crumbles due largely to her husband's infidelity. She then finds herself falling for Orlando, a factory worker who had begun to console her during her rough times.

In *Madea Goes to Jail*, the protagonist Joshua is newly engaged and after bumping into his old friend Candace, realizes that not

only is he in love with her, but his fiancée is not the person he thought she was.

Of course, throughout the "Madea" series there is the subplot featuring Madea's slapstick shenanigans, which adds some comedy to a series of otherwise very dramatic romance films. These sub-plots seem to serve more as comic relief than anything else, and do not tend to help advance the story as they are usually dispersed throughout the film after dramatic scenes have occurred.

Another plot element that is evident in Perry's "Madea" movies is

the constant presence of the scorned black woman. This character in his movies has either been cheated on or divorced, and what makes this an issue is that they all deal with their problems in very similar ways. Every one of them falls in love again with a seemingly perfect man, which quickly grows old.

These plot elements tend to make Perry's films very similar to one another and if not for the variety provided by Madea's physical humor, I do not think there would be enough substance in any one of Perry's "Madea" films for them to stand on their own.

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

Should the ban on stem cell research be lifted?



Matt Thatcher
GENERAL EDUCATION
"I think it's a good thing."



Bruna Pantoja
UNDECIDED
"If it helps people, then have at it."



Disree Amaral
LIBERAL ARTS
"I think Obama has a lot of plans. I hopes he stays open-minded."



Victor Valencia
PSYCHOLOGY
"I'm actually really excited."



Von von Lindenberg
MUSIC
"I need more information before I can form a good opinion."