



Associated Collegiate Press /
National Scholastic Press Association
All American
1984 1985 1986
1987 1988 1989
1990 1991 1992
Regional Pacemaker
1988
Journalism Association
of Community Colleges
General Excellence
Fall 1994
General Excellence
Fall 2000
General Excellence
Fall 2004
General Excellence
Fall 2005

Editor in chief: Eric Dorman
News editor: Jake Benson
Opinion editor: Noah Levin
Features editor: Nicole Johnson
Sports editor: Jeff Weisinger
Photo editor: Japneet Kaur
Online editor: Suchi Gupta
Staff writers: Ankita Chhabra,
Theodore Harrison III, Esmeralda Leon,
Alex Lykins, Nazia Mastan, Sean Nero,
Tomás Ortega, Anna Biaritz Roldan,
Devery Sheffer, Zunera Syed, Farnoosh
Vahedi, Isaac West
Photographers: Anna Alfafara,
Jorge Gomez, Tara Lynn Lanning, Dan Yuan
Ad manager: Jacque Orvis
Ad staff: Inez Black,
Christ Marovich, Harpreet Singh
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

Opinions expressed in the *MONITOR* are those of the respective authors and are not necessarily those of the staff, the college or the Associated Students of Ohlone College. Unsigned editorials reflect the majority view of staff members. Advertising material is printed herein for informational purposes and is not to be construed as an expression of endorsement or verification of such commercial ventures by the staff or college.

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.

The Real Reason why the San Mateo Bridge was closed



OPINION

'Reality TV' is dirty and delightfully depraved

By **DEVERY SHEFFER**
Staff writer

The genre of television that has become known as "reality TV" could be reasonably regarded as anything but realistic. Whether in pursuit of love or a modeling contract, participants all seem to be seeking their 15 minutes of fame. These shows are packed with melodramatic scenarios and characters, and for some reason I just cannot seem to get enough of this stuff.

Ever since this trend emerged years ago, I've been hooked. It is my guilty pleasure, and in my opinion the trashier the show, the better. I've seen a multitude of fist

fight, cat fights and broken hearts; you name it, it's been on one show or another.

As the years have gone by, it seems the shows have become even more disgusting and degrading. So what's the draw? Something about these outrageous characters pulls me in.

As human beings, we enjoy laughing at other people's expense. The first show to be considered "reality TV," "Candid Camera," aired 60 years ago. This show played innocent pranks on unsuspecting passersby. Even this early example of reality TV was a smash success because people enjoyed laughing at others in awkward and surprising

situations.

This has become the underlying formula for all reality TV shows. People are put in out-of-the-ordinary situations and we, the audience, sit back and watch their reactions. Popular shows like "Survivor," "The Real World," and "The Bachelor" all showcase highly irregular circumstances in comparison with actual reality.

I do not know why I find humor in the misfortune of others, but I know I'm not the only one. Shows like VH1's "Rock of Love with Brett Michaels" just ended its third season. No network is going to run a show for three seasons without the ratings to back it up. Charac-

ters from VH1 shows are actually making a career out of reality TV, going on to other shows like "I Love Money" and "Charm School."

Maybe we like laughing at others because we are self-conscious and like pointing the finger at someone else. I'd rather talk about the ridiculous version of Ricky Martin's "She Bangs" performed on last night's American Idol than my credit card debt. On that note, reality television can be used as an escape from, well, reality.

Besides finding pleasure in other people's problems, I think we also like to see ourselves in their shoes. How would we act if that were us? I personally would never want to

be on a reality TV show. Making a fool of myself as a means of entertainment for the whole world is not something I'm interested in. But when I watch shows like "Fear Factor," I try to imagine how I would react if I were asked to eat a camel spider in order to advance to the next round. Normally, I would never do it, but for \$50,000... maybe. Attempting to relate to a situation so out of my realm of reality is what pulls me in.

Reality TV may not be everyone's cup of tea, it may not be intellectual or particularly uplifting, but it sure does make for a good laugh, and who couldn't use a good laugh here and there?

Praise the iPhone, for it rocks prodigiously

By **JACQUE ORVIS**
Ads manager

"I want an iPhone, but I despise AT&T."

I wrote those very words in a November 2008 issue of the *Monitor*, explaining my torn feelings between my hostility toward AT&T wireless service and desperately wanting an iPhone. I vowed that I would not dump Verizon Wireless for AT&T so that I could jump on the iPhone wagon, but the despair eventually broke me down.

Last month, I marched right

into the Apple store in Palo Alto and waltzed out 20 minutes later - iPhone in hand.

After telling you about my impasse in November, I felt confident that I could wait until Apple and Verizon got their acts together and produced a CDMA-powered iPhone. January came, and the rumors did not pan out in my favor; there would be no iPhone for Verizon (at least not yet). I went through bursts of excitement, telling myself Okay - that's it! I'm switching.

But soon afterward, the excitement would wear off, and my apprehension would lead to admiring

my iPod Touch and knowing that I could still call people on my good ole' normal cell phone.

Then March came when my mom asked me what I wanted most of all for my birthday. All I could think about was the iPhone. Seriously - I could not think of anything else that I could possibly want or need. Car? I have one. Shoes? Can't complain. Other fun gadgets? Why? My iPod Touch can do it all, except be an iPhone.

That must have triggered something - My iPod Touch can do it all, except be an iPhone. After that thought, I spent hours online trying

to find ways around the Verizon/iPhone barrier. I found links to instructions for jailbreaking iPhones that are seemingly fraudulent and more news about CDMA and SIM technology, but the story remains the same - APPARENTLY make the iPhone available for whatever service you want or wait until the service makes the iPhone available for you.

Either way it seems like a waste of time and energy just to avoid AT&T. I mean, could the service still be that horrible? After all, I remember hearing similar horror stories about Verizon 5 or 6 years

ago, and here I am today, blessing them as the best of the best. This realization justified my switching to AT&T just to use an iPhone to the full extent.

This was the plan - I would have 30 days to drop AT&T like a rock if they screwed with me. I would keep my VZW service connected, meaning that I would need get a new phone number with the AT&T service. In 30 days, if AT&T disappointed me, I would crawl back to VZW and cancel the AT&T service.

The iPhone would still belong
Continued on Page 3

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

What is your favorite television show?



Aaron Moss
PSYCHOLOGY
"House! I LOVE 'House'."



Annabel Corte
PRE-MED
"Any 'Law & Order.'"



Michael Chen
BUSINESS
"American Dad."



Tauhed Safi
PRE-MED
"The Ultimate Fighter."



Elizabeth Rodriguez
CHICANO STUDIES
"That 70's Show."