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OPINION

Everyone has prejudices - doesn't make them OK

EDITOR'S NOTE: This letter was written in response to a column by Japneet Kaur in our April 9 issue about her experiences with cultural intolerance.

DEAR EDITOR:

I just wanted to say how sorry I am for the experience you wrote about in this week's paper.

I hear many jokes and derogatory statements about Mexicans and Christians, probably more than most since I do not look like a "typical" Mexican; and it just seems to be

the status quo to mock Christians these days.

I use these experiences to educate people. I am not bitter or nasty as I was when I was younger, but I do think it's important to confront people.

Sometimes this simply means prolonged eye contact, just as if to challenge them on such exceeding rudeness! Most people will have the decency to at least be embarrassed. But I do believe in standing strong and tall for who you are; I won't slink away without letting you know I heard you and I am NOT pleased

and I WILL let you know it.

People may act like they don't care, but trust me, they do. Most people don't want to think of themselves as jerks.

The more you practice this, the better you will become, and you will learn new ways to enlighten people to love and accept everyone; you will walk away proud.

Please, never forget, such behaviors really say so much about the person.

People tell on themselves with such hate. They show where their ugly hearts are, and not to be cal-

lous, but that's their problem. Don't let anyone's stupidity and hatred EVER have any bearing on YOU and your feelings of self-worth.

Secondly, I believe it's important to be honest and realize that this is the uglier side of human nature and every single one of us has our own prejudices.

When things like this happen to me, I also like to remember to check myself, and be honest about where I have been guilty of this (in my own heart or mind, or behind closed doors with my closest friends and family).

I don't think there is a person on earth who has not experienced being a victim of some sort of prejudice, and I just wish we would all be honest with ourselves as a start.

Sincerely,

Lenore Landavazo, Counselor

Got an opinion? We'd love to hear from you, but cannot guarantee letters to the editor will be printed. Contact us at monitor@ohlone.edu.

Modern music won't leave lasting impression

By **ALEX LYKINS**
Staff writer

In the world of music, it seems like we are being bombarded with the next big, new, shiny thing on a daily basis. Yes, it is funkier, fresher; maybe it has a little more kick in the bass or 50 percent more Auto-Tune. My cause for alarm is this burning question: how long will it hold up years down the road?

I ask this because there is another trend, a post-Rock Band/Guitar Hero movement of younger people discovering and embracing music from a generation or two past. It's a bit odd, seeing people of my age

or even younger who are, all of a sudden, singing the likes of Kansas and Journey when I was half-expecting Hannah Montana and Flo Rida. The trend could be the result of some contemporary musicians name-dropping their influences, which prompts fans to dig into the classics.

Suddenly, people are wearing AC/DC t-shirts or bobbing their heads to Hendrix. What was once considered old is now new and fresh, a testament to its lasting power and its ability to connect with fans both past and present.

On the flip side, there are today's hits, which enjoy their 15 minutes of fame before the pop culture machine chews them up and tosses them

aside for a new gaggle of over-produced hits. It is not that any of it is terrible; it is just that it has a terribly short shelf life, made for clubs to spin for a good month or two before throwing it in a junk bin.

The turnover rate is staggering - where once we were hoppin' and boppin' to N'Sync and Britney Spears at the start of the decade, we are now bombarded with acts like Lady GaGa, Miley Cyrus, T-Pain, the latest winner of "American Idol" and Lord knows who else. I just do not believe any of them will produce music with the lasting power of Led Zeppelin or Miles Davis. We are going to remember Beethoven more than we will the Jonas Brothers.

For me, it is a little disconcerting. What music today could I possibly pass on to my children or grandchildren down the road? I cannot imagine ever saying to my kids, "Back in my day, we had great bands like, uh, Fall Out Boy and Linkin Park."

Maybe the whole experience is different for me, being a musician. I tend to hear things in a way others usually do not, and I have come to appreciate what goes into a song more than how I can shake my moneymaker to it.

I am not saying we should go back to growing out our hair, picking up Sunburst Les Pauls and creating bluesy riffs (although that would be awesome.) I am not try-

ing to say that all of today's music is garbage. In fact, beyond all the pop glitz and hip-hop bling, there are musicians out there creating art that could stand the test of time. Artists such as Coldplay and John Legend come to mind, so all is not quite lost.

Still, will we honestly listen to this stuff 50 years from now? Or will we disregard it as all beat but no heart? I think a massive musical revolution is in order, where we either pay more attention to what we are listening to and to what artists are putting into their music, or be doomed to be the generation whose pinnacle of artistic achievement was "crankin' dat Soulja Boy."

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

What is your favorite kind of music and why?



Laurie Scholz
UNDECIDED

"I like wizard rock because it's intelligent and based on books."



Nicholas Clearlake
MUSIC

"Hip-hop. I like the beats, steady rhythm and the bass."



Zuhail Bahaduri
POLITICAL SCIENCE

"I don't have a favorite genre. I like anything with good lyrics."



Julius Naval
NURSING

"I like hip-hop. It makes me feel good and gets me in the groove"



Ahsa Amani
POLITICAL SCIENCE

"Anything that catches my ear. Mainly Bay Area music."