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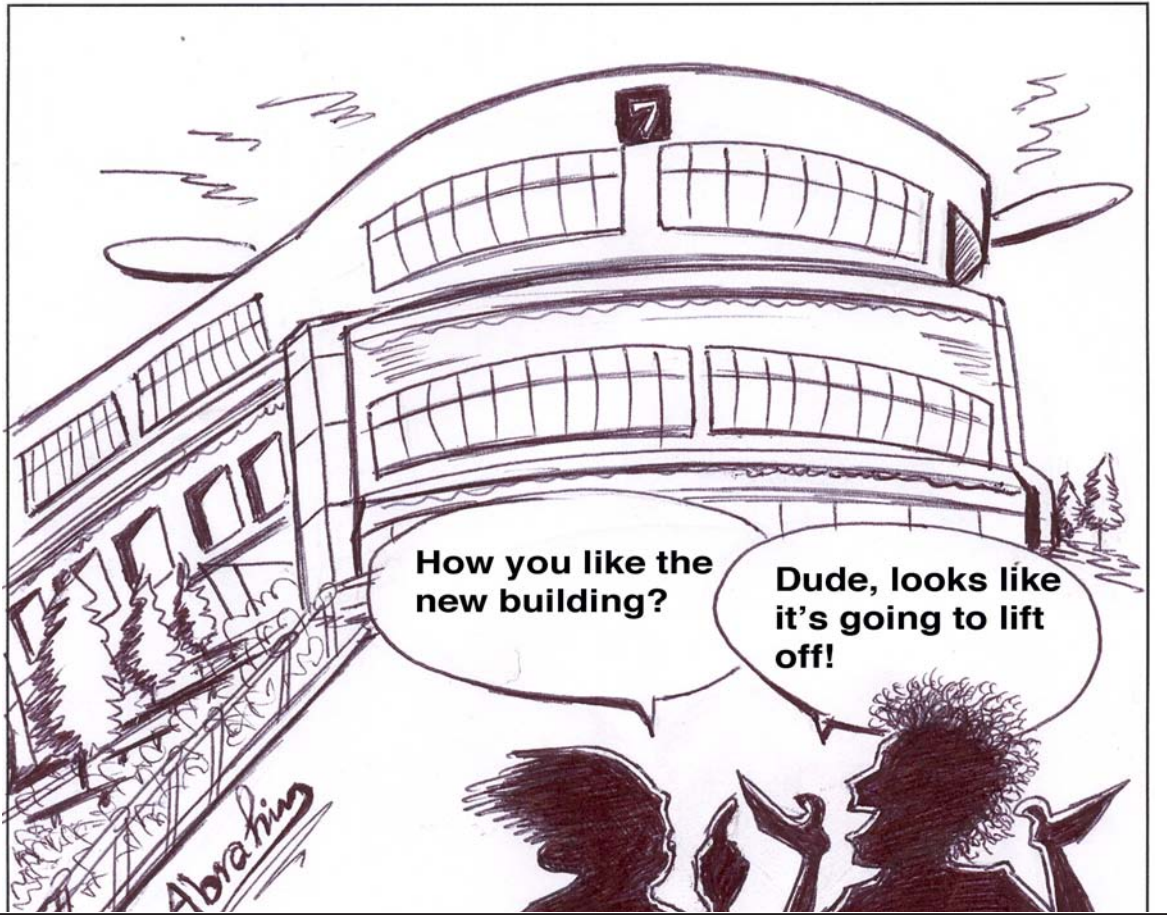
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OPINION



Get ready for a busy, interesting year at Ohlone

By **KEVIN FELICIANO**
ASOC President

Welcome to Ohlone! Whether you are a returning student or a student new to Ohlone, get ready for an awesome year from your Associated Students of Ohlone College (ASOC) Student Government. The ASOC is your voice to the college administration. The ASOC exists to represent you, the students' needs, wants and concerns.

The ASOC is a great way to get involved at Ohlone. You can join as a senator. We learn valuable leadership and networking skills that are desired by both four-year universities and employers. Ap-

plications can be picked up from the Campus Activities window on the second floor of the new Student Services Center Building 7 between today and Sept. 14.

To join you must be available on Tuesdays from 4 to 6 p.m., have a 2.0 GPA, or be a new student at Ohlone; and carry five units. For more information, stop by the Campus Activities Window, e-mail the ASOC at ASOC@Ohlone.edu and come to the Senator Information Meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 8 at 4 p.m. in Building 7, Room 7210.

To give you a glimpse of what the ASOC Student Government has to offer this year, we are currently in the process of modernizing the Caf-

eteria by upgrading the furniture, the acoustics, painting the space, and making it more appealing to students.

Also, we are pleased to be opening the Newark Recreation Room on Oct. 1. The Newark Recreation Room is a social place for students at the Newark Center. It is fully equipped with a pool table, foosball table, video games, laptops, and board games. All of these are available to you with your ASOC Student I.D. Card.

The ASOC will also be holding a special election at the end of October to pass a new proposed Constitution and Bylaws. You, the student, have an opinion on how

your student government works. Look for more information about the constitution and bylaws soon. These two documents are very important because they are what govern the student government. Copies will be made available in early October. Look for those articles and go vote.

In addition, the ASOC has partnered with local businesses to offer students great discounts! All you have to do is show your ASOC Student I.D. Card at the I.D. Window located at the Campus Activities and ASOC office in Building 7 on the second floor.

Be sure to check out the clubs we

have on campus. We have over 20 clubs for students to join. For an up-to-date list, please visit the Campus Activities Website at <http://www.ohlone.edu/org/campusactivities>.

On behalf of the ASOC Student Government, I'd like to wish you all the best of luck this semester at Ohlone.

If you have a need, want, or concern please do not hesitate to stop by the Campus Activities and ASOC windows on the second floor of Building 7, call us at 510-659-6063, send us an e-mail at ASOC@Ohlone.edu, or visit us on the web at <http://www.ohlone.edu/org/asoc> and at <http://www.theasoc.com>. Have an amazing time at Ohlone.

They'll rest in peace and lead the way for all

By **CHERYL WEST**
Staff writer

Was it something in the air? We hope not.

Between May and August there were more than 20 deaths of celebrities (not to mention deaths in the rest of the population).

The name that stands out is Michael Jackson. He passed away June 25 at age 50 due to cardiac arrest, bringing the world to a screeching halt. His music was played repeatedly over the radio as devastated fans across the world mourned for

the king of pop.

Jackson was expected to deliver his highly anticipated "This Is It" tour in London from July 2009 until March 2010. What an interesting title. A foreshadow, perhaps?

Nonetheless, Jackson's death came as a shock as if he was some sort of immortal being. For weeks, the news obsessively covered the story of his past struggles and triumphs in life to the accusations of child molestation, and the possibilities of his death being a homicide. Despite negative remarks and allegations, he was and will always be remembered as an international

leader and an inspiration to artists and people everywhere.

Recently following Jackson, 77-year-old Sen. Edward M. "Ted" Kennedy succumbed to his battle with brain cancer.

Like Jackson, Kennedy had a tough but fulfilling life, but unlike Jackson, he was linked to his "family's curse" of unnatural deaths.

He experienced a loss of several family members such as the assassinations of his older brothers, President John F. Kennedy and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. It's no wonder how his passing is not as shocking as Jackson's was.

Kennedy proved himself to be a great leader in his nine terms in the U.S. Senate. He gave an immense contribution toward civil rights, health care and education.

Although Kennedy was a political leader and Jackson was a musical leader, the outcome of their deaths should be a lesson for us.

Like many other memorable leaders, and people in general, Jackson and Kennedy had their issues, but continued to move forward and made a difference for the better of mankind.

It would be unethical to completely ignore past mistakes and say

that we should follow a leader with a somewhat tainted background.

Of course, we all have our own observations and beliefs, but the negative shouldn't be dwelled upon nor should it be tossed out completely. I guess this is where giving the benefit of the doubt fits in. The proof would be the positive results of such leadership.

All we can do is grow from what we know.

The deaths of this summer should remind us to lead ourselves into making a positive difference in our own lives, if not for others as well, before our time is up.

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

What do you think of the new Building 7?



Thomas Carmen
UNDECLARED
"It's nice."



Mark Holcom
ENGINEERING
"It looks nice so far. I don't know how long it's going to last."



Aliya Lee
PSYCHOLOGY
"It was a nice add-on."



Meagan Crockett
ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE
"It's awesome and different. I feel like I'm at the Newark campus."



Shantall Prado
UNDECLARED
"It's clean and it smells better."