

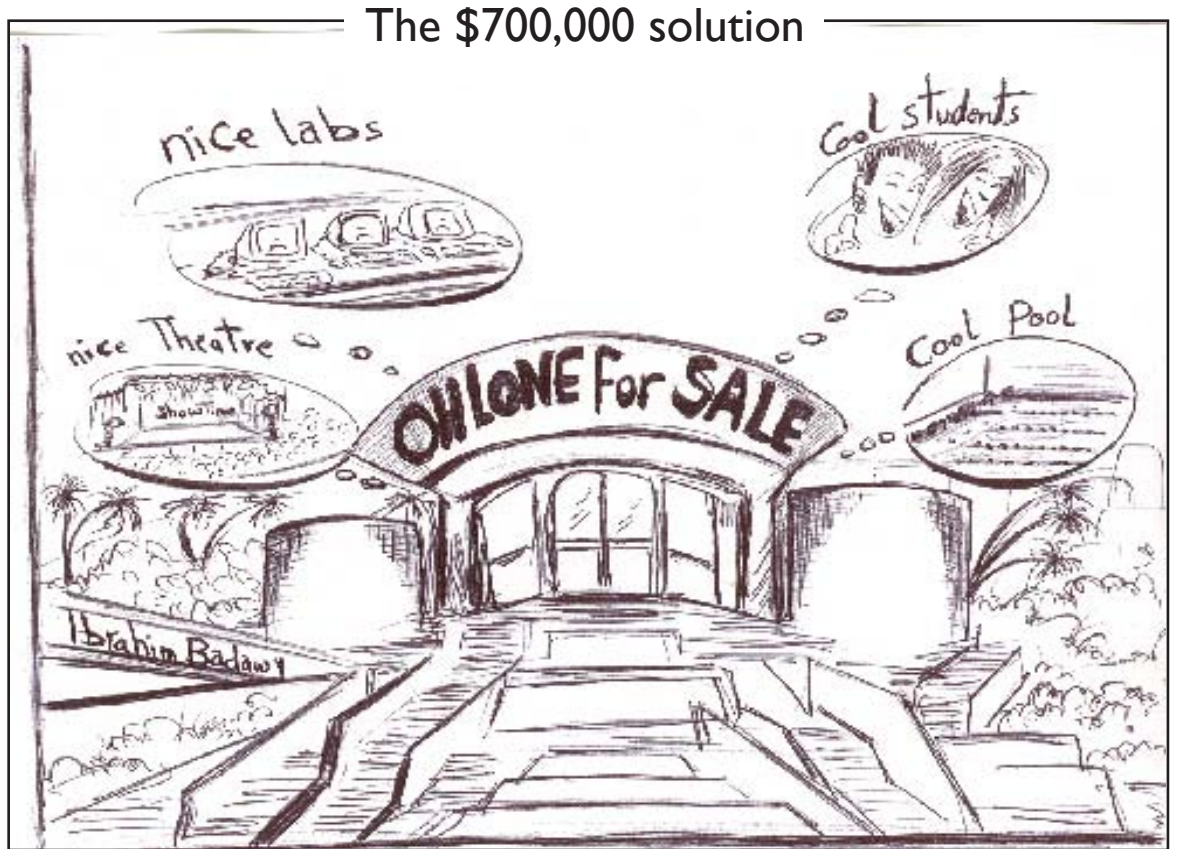


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Offices are located in Room 5310 on campus, 43600 Mission Blvd., Fremont 94539-5884. Call (510) 659-6075. Fax: (510) 659-6076. E-mail: monitor@ohlone.edu
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OPINION

Rome was not built in a day, neither was Qom

By MANIKA CASTERLINE
Opinions editor

The aftermath of the Iranian election was the central focus of the news for the beginning of summer 2009. That is, until the sudden death of a pop culture icon eclipsed the headlines, and our miniscule attention span. Yeah, I'm pointing a finger at those of you who fall asleep in class.

The discourse in Iran was over if the controversial Iranian leader, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had won re-election against opposition candidate Ali Akbar Mousavi.

With a state-run media crack-down, network journalists were not granted unfettered access to report the story. Instead, they had to rely on web-savvy Iranians who took to the streets and utilized social networking websites such as Facebook and Twitter to report the uprising that was occurring within Iran.

The citizen journalism covered the violent atrocities being committed against Iranians who were speaking out because they believed that the election had been rigged. From the standpoint of observers, it was a generational moment reminiscent of the youth-led 1979 Islamic revolution against the shah of Iran. However, despite a summer of tear gas and protests, it did not change the outcome of the election that led to the overwhelming reelection of President Ahmadinejad.

The United States is choosing not to isolate Iran and instead is actively engaging with the nation over their nuclear program and their ambitions. President Barack Obama's administration has made aggressive strides in heralding the change that was proposed during Obama's own rise to power.

Iran's covert nuclear facility in Qom had been the focus of the Oct. 1 six-party discussions with

the United States, Britain, France, German, Russia and China in Geneva, Switzerland. An option that was on the negotiating table as a mechanism of carrot and stick diplomacy with Iran is the idea of a freeze for freeze. Iran would theoretically freeze their level of nuclear activities and the international community would freeze the pressure of further sanctions. The concession that Iran made was that it agreed to allow inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Association (IAEA) access to the Qom site. And the IAEA is expected to do so on Oct. 25.

The IAEA is an international organization that has loose ties with the United Nations since its reports are either addressed to the U.N. General Assembly or the Security Council.

While the IAEA is perceived as part of the U.N. The U.N. was founded from President Woodrow

Wilson's failed League of Nations after WWI. The principle rhetoric behind it being that by the means of uniting as one the ends would be collective security for all. The quandary has been that there is no viable agent of enforcement. Therefore, the U.N. is widely seen as an inefficient governing body that lacks credibility.

Obama said, "Iran must take concrete steps to build confidence that its nuclear program will serve peaceful purposes. Steps that meet Iran's obligations under multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions. The IAEA proposal that was agreed to in principle with regard to the Tehran research reactor is a confidence building step that is consistent with that objective provided that it transfers Iran's low enriched uranium to a third country for fuel fabrication."

Such a statement signals a drastic change in how the United States opts

to approach diplomatic relations with Iran. The previous administration under President Bush was not as willing as the Obama administration to talk to our foes as well as our allies. Obama even went so far as to state, "We support Iran's right to a peaceful nuclear program."

Despite this seismic shift in foreign policy, the concept of the freeze for freeze plan was not agreed upon at the negotiating table. And the Senate Banking Committee has come out on Oct. 5 proposing that should Iran fail to comply with the terms of international negotiations regarding their nuclear program there will be additional "serious" economic sanctions on Iran.

Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg said, "they can negotiate in good faith, prove their willingness to address the concern of the international community, and in turn improve Iran's standing in

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We can work it out

By KYLE STEPHENS
Online editor

I don't know when, where, or what caused me to operate under this mindset, but I like to "do" what interests me. I want to try things out myself.

In doing so, I've grown to appreciate a job well done and notice

one that is done poorly. On one hand it's made me more jaded, on the other, quality stands out that much more. It's a fair trade-off, I think.

I've tried my hand at coffee. I'm hot-rodding my espresso machine with a thermal compensation system for a perfect shot every time (coffee is a very temperature sensitive enterprise). I've had an
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LETTER

Something for olive you

I am writing to both thank you for your piece on the "Ohlone community" and to propose a potentially money making idea.

First, as one of Ohlone's faculty, I thank you for sharing your opinion regarding the importance and appreciation of faculty; it means a lot to know that we (faculty) are

valued. Thank you also for stressing Ohlone as a community within itself and I hope we can all band together as we endure these economic times.

The money making idea was not born of my own imagination; rather, it was expressed to me by one Dominican sisters at the Olive festival held by the sisters. The

sister told me Ohlone has more olive trees on campus than the sisters have. We could harvest the olives and sell "Ohlone olive oil". I can't predict exactly how much money Ohlone would make, but it would be better than nothing.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison E. Germaine, Ph.D

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

What do think should be done about Ohlone's financial situation?



Jason Trinidad
PHILOSOPHY
"Ohlone should act in accordance with agreed-upon policies."



Jennifer Gates
SOCIOLOGY
"I have no idea."



Leeann Patnuge
UNDECIDED
"I think Arnold should start doing his job."



Princeton Saure
OPTOMETRY
"I think its crazy we have to raise that much money."



Mark Nelson
ART/THEATRE PROFESSOR
"Bake sale?"