



Tim Olmeda | FOGHORN

EDITORIAL

College should analyze spending before increasing student fees

The cost of attending college seems to be skyrocketing lately.

Tuition, books and transportation are increasingly painful on our collective pockets. The outrageous cost of gasoline is finally beginning to recede, but that is little consolation to the many whose budgets are already being stretched thin.

It's unfortunate, then, that in the midst of all of this, Del Mar College is attempting to raise the student services fee included in each student's tuition by \$2.

While the increase might not seem like much, when compared to the \$5 currently being charged to the more than 12,000 students who currently attend Del Mar, that is a 40 percent increase.

The proposed budget for student services in 2005-2006 totals \$162,480.

Student services consist of intramural activities, such as flag football and basketball, cultural programs, speakers and entertainers and student activities.

Student activities include all registered student organizations, and student publications along with other miscellaneous costs such as parking lot and copy machine rentals. For DMC to pass the burden of rising costs on to students without first closely examining the ways to cut back on spending and how to manage costs more effectively is uncalled for.

One suggestion to reduce unnecessary costs is to actively seek donations. Tax deductions are quite appealing to most business owners and so is good advertising. Through donating equipment to the college, local businesses could gain both.

For example, a television for the Harvin Center cost \$2,500, blazers for the Del Mar Ambassadors club were \$2,200 and copy machine rental is \$800. That is a total of \$5,500 that could have possibly been saved through donations.

Ask a local electronics store to donate a television or a copy machine, or both. It makes little sense to have to pay for a copy machine when most students print their assignments or notes from a computer.

In essence, the school is losing money on these machines because students won't pay 10 cents a page when they can use a computer to do the job for free.

Also, instead of expensive blazers, give the ambassadors t-shirts instead; most clubs already use them to promote their organizations to great success.

Certain luxuries could also be cut back. Does the Forensic Speech team really need \$14,500 for competitions and hotel rooms?

Could fundraising make up some of the difference if funding to certain programs is lessened? These are the types of questions that need to be assessed before increasing costs are passed on to students.

Before the increase in student fees takes effect, the school needs to examine its own budget and look at areas where pointless spending might be taking place. It makes sense that as the enrollment begins to grow, so should the amount of funds needed to keep services available for all students. However, that increase shouldn't be implemented because of an organization's wants. It should be based on the needs of that organization

OPINION

Growing hatred requires unity



Tim Olmeda
Opinion Editor

There's a war brewing in the Middle East.

No, I'm not talking about what's going on in Iraq or Afghanistan, although those two situations will probably serve as a catalyst to the next World War.

It's a fact - we are the lone remaining superpower in the world left from the Cold War Era. No other country in the world spends more than the United States on defense, and the current technology has added plenty to our military might.

We are, however, in a position that finds us very vulnerable and revealing our own weaknesses. Think for a second: countries have watched Americans panic over rising gas prices, which has put our nation's dependence on foreign oil on display for the entire world to see.

Our military is being stretched to its limits while fighting a war in two Middle East countries, conducting recovery efforts at home following a natural disaster, and attending to peacekeeping efforts around the globe.

Four years after September 11, 2001, holes are still being found in our own homeland security, which found itself unable to coordinate a response to the Hurricane Katrina situation. The poor execution of a plan, which billions of our tax dollars had supposedly paid for, showed nothing more than our own inability to protect our own nation and her citizens.

But as the most powerful nation in the world, it is also the responsibility of the United States to help keep our global society from slipping into all-out war. It's unfortunate, though, that our growing unpopularity has made that job

all the more difficult. President Bush's blatant disregard for international cooperation before the Iraq invasion has made America look arrogant in its own power.

This has provided Muslim extremist groups like Al-Qaeda with valuable ammunition in its efforts to recruit new members to its violent cause.

While trying to provide aid to earthquake-ravaged Pakistan, a US military helicopter was fired upon. Anti-US protests in Iraq are growing on a daily basis, a complete shift from the joy and welcome troops met during the "liberation" of Baghdad two years ago.

Despite our billions in military spending, our soldiers are still being killed with means reminiscent of Vietnam. Roadside bombs, ambushes, and suicide bombings - it's clear that our country still has no strategy to counter urban or guerilla warfare.

Iran's new hard-line leadership has expelled more than 40 members from its government; they were considered friendly with the West. Their president has called for the destruction of Israel, a country that the US has supported over the years, much to the chagrin of Muslims everywhere.

As a nation, our government is spending more than it can pay for, causing our federal deficit to balloon to record levels. We don't even like our own president, who would be in charge of leading our nation's forces in the event of war.

If we can't even stay united amongst ourselves, how can we hope to be victorious in this war on terrorism against an enemy who is united in their own hatred for the United States?

It's time to live up to your name America - stay united.

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FORUM | DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Digital era of photography ushers in new age of responsibility



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Aside from the slightly bent corner, it looked practically new.

If it weren't for the dress of the people in the old black-and-white photograph, it would be hard to tell it was taken many years ago.

A man in his mid-twenties, home from an overseas tour during World War II and dressed in an Army Air Corps uniform. He stands with his mother who looks to be in her early sixties. They are standing in front of their house.

Snow covers the ground and they both look to be very cold. The smiles are still on their faces, however, probably because they are able to finally spend time together after such a long separation. The image is still so vivid and crisp, I almost feel like I am the one taking the image. I can feel the cold and share in the moment of happiness for the brief family reunion.

The image, taken in 1943, is of my grandfather and his mother. I can look at an image that was taken over 60 years ago, and it still has the richness to take me back to a time I never knew and put me in a moment I never shared. The feeling of the moment brings a smile to my face and a tear to my eye as soon I realize the moment is gone.

My great-grandmother passed away well before I was born and the handsome young man in the Air Corps uniform is now 89 years old, still in good physical health but with a fading memory.

The same stories I used to find tiresome when I was a shiftless teenager are slowly slipping away and are no longer easily found, no matter how much prompting is done. It will not be long until the only remnants I have of those long past stories are the old black and white images kept in a box under my grandparents' bed.

My grandfather loved to take pictures as so many people do. The difference between then and now is that my grandfather would take his film to the drug store and, in a week or so, would get the images back with the negatives. He would then take both the film and the prints, put them into sleeves or an album and store them in a drawer or shelf somewhere in the house.

Today, it is much easier. We take images; plug the camera into the computer and in a few moments see first hand the moment we just experienced.

I love the instantaneous gratification of the digital age.

I no longer have to shoot two rolls of film and perhaps have one or two images I really like. I just shoot as many images as I want digitally, delete the ones I don't care for, and save the rest on my hard drive.

The problem I fear is the long-term reliability

of the digital system that has become the new overseer of our memories. Though photographs and negatives are susceptible to all the traditional hazards such as fire, heat and water, digital images have an entirely new set of destructive issues.

A digital image, like any program on your computer, is a fragile set of ones and zeros. It takes very little to disrupt the tumultuous system that operates our home computers.

Unlike losing a spreadsheet or term paper, however, you will never be able to recreate a moment captured in a photograph. A child's first step, a birthday or just a great moment with your mother can all be gone forever just as easily as if a fire ran through your home and burned all your memories to the ground.

This is the double-edged sword that is digital imaging. The technology is amazing, but the downside can be heartbreaking. A person unfamiliar with digital cameras and their shortcomings can grow to rely on them too much. They may find themselves opening the wrong email and in a moment all of their most precious moments are gone.

In the digital age we are not just susceptible to power outages and computer glitches but also to the computer hacker sitting in their parents' basement with nothing better to do than make other people's lives more difficult. There are many computer viruses out there and we are all potential targets.

So, what do you do when the film world seems to be slowly slipping away?

First, make multiple hard copies of the image you really like. With digital technology, printing your images has become much cheaper, although the jury is still out on how long the images will actually last.

Second, back up your images on either an external hard drive that is not connected to your computer unless you are copying to it. You can also back up your images to a CD or DVD, these both have reliability and long-term storage issues as well, so if you decide to go this route, store your CD's or DVD's properly and update them every few years.

Third, pull out the old film camera and shoot a roll of film for all those special occasions while you still can; it never hurts to have a backup.

You have to remember to protect the things that are important to you and the images that serve as your memories.

I am going to see my grandfather over the holidays. I plan to pull out old photographs, ask a lot of questions, and hopefully receive many answers.

As the answers start to slow and the glimmer of fond memories leaves his eyes, I will look at old images and remember the handsome young soldier with his mother, feel the bite of the cold air, and the happiness as well, just as if I were there taking the picture myself.

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