

OPINION

Cutting right to the chase



Tim Olmeda
Opinion Editor

I'm sitting here looking at my arm as I type this; not completely mind you, as that would mean I have some form of extraordinary ability to type a column without looking at the screen.

No, I'm really glancing off and on at my forearm to look at the numerous scars that are lining it: I used to be a cutter you see.

I've received more than my fair share of stares or snide comments from people who seem to think my marks are a sign of a troubled or freakish individual. I like to believe that I am neither.

Back in high school, I went through many different things, as many of us have, that eventually got the better of me. I've never really been one to be vocal with my emotions or thoughts, as anyone who knows me would readily tell you.

So, as a result, bottling up my problems rather than talking them out eventually led me to take a razor and open the first of many wounds on my arm.

People have a tendency to judge others based solely on superficial observations. Many people who I've thought were friends have turned their backs on me once they find out I struggle with cutting.

I've even had a woman once tell her daughter that I was a bad man because I

enjoyed hurting myself. Let's get two things straight: cutters are not insane and I do not enjoy inflicting pain on myself.

Just as many people deal with certain issues by drinking, smoking, or shouting at someone, I used to deal with my problems by cutting my arm, stomach or leg. Every cutter does what they do for their own reasons; I'm not going to sit here and say I represent all of them, only myself.

I haven't had to cut in quite a while; today I have friends who have stuck by me through many tough times and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

There is someone special who has filled a void that was missing in my life that makes everything feel complete when I'm with her.

But cutting isn't something that ever fully goes away; it's something I deal with every single day because, in some ways, it's a part of who I am.

I don't really know why I'm typing this out except that I know I'm not the only person who is dealing with this type of problem.

It's hurtful enough to go through something like this alone; it's only that much worse when you have people judge you for something they know nothing about.

Open your minds and you'll see that cutters aren't freaks; we're people trying to make it in this world, just like you.

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Associated Press

A U.S. Marine patrols near Haditha, Iraq, Thursday, Aug. 4, 2005. Like most Americans, Iraqis look forward to the day when U.S. and other foreign troops go home; opinions in Iraq are mixed over what the timing and conditions for the departure should be.

OPINION

No time to wait: troops must come home



Wendy Gobin
Community Editor

Last week the *Foghorn* ran an editorial, "Plan needed for withdrawal of troops." As a general rule, editorials are a consensus of the editors of the paper, and reflect a solution that the majority agrees upon. However, I wasn't at that meeting.

I have a problem with the way that the Republican and Democratic parties were pitted against each other, as if they are both equally guilty of the sad state that our country is in.

The editorial stated that, "Recently, Democrats have

begun to accuse the President of deliberately misleading the American people with faulty intelligence leading to the war in Iraq."

Well that's true. The President and his company have proved that, if they were good at only one thing since 2000, it was lying. However, these allegations have been around for a while. I think the reason why it seems "recent" is that the American people are finally beginning to wake up amid Blame-gate, the indictments, and gross mishandling of national disasters, as well as Iraq and ask some questions.

What bothers me is this sense of "politics as usual." The editorial states that "This was bound to happen, especially with the mounting

casualties." Where is the outrage that more than 2,000 soldiers have died? And, we're still debating the real reason why we went to war? Why the complacency? I think it's time we stop listening to the people who illegally and unprepared whisked us off to Iraq. Many of us have stopped listening to Bush, which explains why the President's approval rating has fallen to 37 percent.

Now there is a six-month withdrawal plan that "some Democrats" support. That suggestion came from Congressman John Murtha from Pennsylvania. Unlike the current administration, he actually went to war and spent 37 years in the Marine Corps.

Now, before you go believing Murtha is some

kind of left-wing radical, I think it's important to know that before he stuck his neck out, he was well-respected by both parties.

I am much more interested in what a career military man has to say than the liars who have their hands in the cookie jar.

To characterize the outrage that I feel over the deception that has gone on under this administration as mere annoyance over "past mistakes" is insulting.

I don't think that the solution is for all of us to try and hold hands and wait a little longer for things to get better. The solution is to bring the troops home now.

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OPINION

Kid's movies no longer for kids



Dianna Hamilton
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Once upon a time, Disney, Dreamworks and Paramount promoted movies for children featuring gentle and vocal creatures befriending noble and scrupulous main characters.

Now, however, when the aforesaid charlatans promote movies for children, the productions feature scantily clad love interests like in "The Road to El Dorado" that would cause a Playboy Playmate to blush, and conceited lions that have panties pitched at their heads like in "Madagascar."

Has the concept of age-appropriate material been defeated by the forces of evil?

With the dubious and, at times, shocking content depicted in modern day children's films, it's difficult to believe parents used to be able to trust these empires of innocence with the task of entertaining their children.

Things like make-out scenes in "Pocahontas" and "The Road to El Dorado" and pseudo-swearing in "Madagascar" are unacceptable.

Keeping things realistic is a noble goal for Disney and Dreamworks to perpetuate, but even this endeavor can cross the line. For example, in "Titan A.E.," the main character's butt is briefly exposed.

Pushing the envelope should be reserved for adult media, not imposed upon movies targeted for those in elementary school.

What kind of example are these companies setting for our children?

If a parent ever heard one of their children saying "Shitake mushrooms" or Hoover Dam," they would promptly march them into the bathroom and wash their mouth out with soap.

Most of us never could have predicted the day would ever arrive when they would have to seriously consider viewing a Disney or Dreamworks film prior to allowing their children to watch it.

These companies are well aware of who their audience is and yet they include palpable sexuality and thinly masqueraded versions of profanity in their films.

Disney and Dreamworks cannot be the only ones to blame, however. The FCC, for example, who has rabidly strove to reform television, is insultingly absent in the fight against the deterioration of children's movies.

It is immensely perturbing that George Carlin cannot say 7 particular words on TV, and outrage erupted around the nation when Janet Jackson's breast was exposed during the Super Bowl halftime show, yet Mr. and Mrs. Parr can practically fornicate in "The Incredibles."

Dear mothers and fathers across the United States, this is the state of animation.

Obviously, Disney and Dreamworks believe nothing is sacred, not even innocence; is it too much to ask that children's movies be kept "G"?

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OPINION

New rules for new innovations



Bobby Bush
Editor-in-Chief

The world is changing around me. I've never been exposed to one of those grandfathers who sit around and complain about how things were done in their day, but I do feel like one of those dinosaurs, behind on trends and technology.

Two examples that convey my point come to mind and have made their way onto the pages of the *Foghorn* this semester. I will discuss these innovations in the form Bill Mahr calls "New Rules."

New Rule: Myspace must temporarily shut down until I have time to waste on it.

By now, I'm sure you all

know that Myspace is the website intended for young adults that lets users communicate by posting blogs and sending instant messages.

The site allows its 34 million subscribers to set up their pages with music, videos, photos and backgrounds. The whole practice seems similar to how a bachelor would decorate his "pad" to entice "the ladies." Some "Myspacers" spend hours in the wardrobe and makeup departments finding the right look for this week's headshot. And everyone communicates on these magical message boards.

I've heard that Myspace is addictive. Then I think they should make a rehab program for it. I think I know some people who would perform degrading sexual favors for an Internet connection just for the purpose of checking

their Myspace messages.

New Rule: People who use iPod Nanos must wear a sign that reads, "A Perfect Circle is more important than whatever you've got to say."

Technology is a wonderful thing. They've finally invented a device that's so small and light-weight one can carry it around without the bulkiness of portable DVD and MP3 players and no one is the wiser. Yeah, except for those trademark white headphones sticking out of your collar.

I often wonder if anyone else has experienced the frustration I have on many occasions while trying to talk to one of these trendy people. The first time you ask the question you get "huh?" as a response.

They usually don't even bother to remove the device

from their ears. When you repeat the question you get the squinty eyes and confused look, and finally they take off the earwear.

The third time, if you've made it this far without slapping them in the face, they probably didn't hear you because the music was so loud a medley of metal and techno still lingers in their head. Students should listen to music only in times when they are able to tune out the world around them—like during math class.

I don't know why I get mad. I waste my time on my own little activities. I must be jealous. But after you read this, add me to your Myspace list.

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STUDENT FORUM

Trust vital between parents, children

Teresa Tran
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A woman disclosed to me that she goes and gets a test every other pay period for her 16-year-old son.

She said she had found some weed hidden in his room and confronted him about it.

He denied it was his and said he was holding it for his friend. I remember when I was that stupid and thought my parents actually believed me when I said stuff like that.

The bigger questions are: "Are parents invading privacy, demonstrating a lack

of trust or just taking precaution when testing their kids for drugs?"

I asked several people who have children what they would do in a situation like that. A majority of them said "Hell, yeah I would test them. I'd want to know if my kid was doing drugs or smoking pot."

A small percentage claimed it was unjust. They wondered what a parent could do even if they did find out their teen was abusing drugs.

I asked, "Where should the boundary start and end?"

All agreed that it starts

with infancy; it starts during child-rearing, plain and simple.

The eye-opener is that teens now have different problems and are in a different society than previous generations. This is a society of divorced parents, gay-friendly, technologically dependent and chemical imbalances.

I was once 16, and can still remember every inadequate moment with my self-image, high school and boys (or lack thereof).

If I was approached by my parents with their strong Vietnamese accent attempting broken English

telling me to pee in a cup because they suspected me of doing drugs, I'd be offended. But first I would laugh at how they would pronounce drugs as "rugs" and say "I no do rugs" and then take some offense and think that my straight A report card wasn't sufficient.

I believe every relationship has to have trust, whether it be between parents and children, employers and workers, boyfriends and girlfriends. The fact is, everything is built on trust; to betray that with accusations is just a result of a lack of basic communication.