Fraternity Fight Night knocked down and dragged off campus

Holly Burke
MUSTANG DAILY

Months of student work and planning were thwarted when an event put on by the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity was cancelled Monday by Ken Barclay, director of Student Life and Leadership at Cal Poly.

The Fraternity Fight Night event was to be held Saturday, March 11 in Mont Gym. The event was to feature 30 men, representing many Cal Poly fraternities, in a series of boxing matches.

Because of the cancellation, it will now be held on Saturday at 7 p.m. at SLO Kickboxing. The fighters will meet in "smoker matches," matches arranged for people who have not boxed in a ring before.

The Fraternity Fight Night was planned primarily by Tommy Van Cielder, a biomedical engineering graduate student and member of Pi Kappa Alpha. Van Cielder began planning the event in September 2005. The event was approved, with a few stipulations, by the athletics department on Dec. 6, 2005.

Although the cause might be very well-intended, the risks to the individual participants far outweighs the value of this event," Van Cielder said.

Van Cielder had spent months planning the event that was cancelled only four days before it was to take place.

"Yeah, time spent planning the event went down the drain ... money spent on the event went down the drain, but the hardest thing for me was telling 30 guys from separate fraternities that there wasn’t going to be an event," Van Cielder said.

The fighters had been training since January for the event.

"One of the things I feel badly about is that (the event) got under my radar," Barclay said. "I wasn’t aware of it until Friday (March 3)."

Barclay is also concerned that the effort that you and others have given to it." Van Cielder had spent months planning the event, including SLO Night were to be given to the San Luis Obispo Special Olympics and Cal Poly Athletics. Van Cielder anticipated earning up to $26,000, and planned for the majority of the money to go to SLO Special Olympics.

A number of community sponsors were involved with the event, including SLO Athletics, which included the money to go to SLO Special Olympics.

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Students will continue to express their views and we will continue to make available forums for students (to voice their opinions),” she said.

In an interview before the December hearing, Chemerinsky explained that law schools must maintain an anti-dis­

Diversity policy.

“Every aspect of our law school must be open to all of our students,” he said.

“Nothing about recruiting suggests that law schools agree with any speech by recruiters, and nothing in the Solomon Amendment restricts what the law schools may say about the military’s policies,” Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in the Opinion of the Court.

With the Court’s decision finalized, Chemerinsky said those opposing the amendment must look to the future.

“Now what is important is to have protest and to have outrage expressed,” he said, noting that the new goal must be to change the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy of the military and its “hom­

ophobic stereotypes.”

The government can’t offer a benefit on the grounds that a person has to forego a constitutional right," Chemerinsky said in December. Katharine Bartlett, dean of the School of Law, said the court’s decision will not change students’ ability to protest the Solomon Amendment.

The Solomon Amendment was passed in 1992 to grant military recruiters the right to recruit on such campuses. Congressional legislation in 2000 and 2002 denied federal funds to any university that barred military recruiters.

Students who disagree with the views of military recruiters were given access equal to that of other on-campus recruiters. In 2005, Congress declared that access for recruiters was not sufficient and demanded that military recruiters be given equal access to that of other on-campus recruiters in order to receive funds from the federal government.

Although the Duke School of Law never adopted policies that would bar military recruiters from the campus, opposition to the Solomon Amendment was voiced through groups such as OUTLaw—a student-run organization seeking to support the rights of gays, lesbians and bisexuals on campus—and the Duke Chapter of the American Constitution Society.

Professors like Chemerinsky also opposed the amendment. Chemerinsky explained that denying campuses funding based on the Solomon Amendment is, in itself, unconstitutional.

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ophobic stereotypes.”
The worst thing about Europe is that you can’t go out in the middle of the night and get a Slurpee.
— Tellis Frank

There is only one admirable form of the imagination: The imagination that is so intense that it creates a new reality, that it makes things happen.
— Sean O’Faolain (1900 - 1991)

Wordly Wise

Prevaricate: To depart from or evade the truth.

Breaking News

The student/industry banquet will take place on the evening of March 10th, 6pm-9pm in Chumash Auditorium. We are charging SCE members just $5 to attend this great event, and $15 for non-members.

Career Fair is 10am-3pm in Chumash Auditorium. FREE for students! Make sure to sign up for your choice company before they fill up!

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Black and Veatch
Boyle Engineering Corp.
Bryan A. Brutat & Assoc.
County of Santa Barbara, Dept. of Public Works
County of Sacramento, Municipal Services Agency
California Department of Toxic Substances Control
Carlile Macy
Carlsons
Cannon Associates
Cartoon, Barbee, & Gibson, Inc.
Carlton Engineering
CDM
CSG Consultants, Inc.
O&G Consulting, Inc.
Cunningham Engineering Corp.
Dokken Engineering
Faithful & Gould
Fehr & Peers
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Los Angeles County Dept. of Public Works
Los Angeles County Sanitation District
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Mark Thomas & Company, Inc.
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SCE Scarborough A

SCE Scarborough A
San Bernardino deputy to face attempted manslaughter charge in airman shooting

Greg Riding
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN BERNARDINO — A sheriff’s deputy, who was video-taped shooting an unarmed Iraq war veteran after a car chase, will be charged with attempted voluntary manslaughter, authorities said today.

The decision to charge Deputy Ivory Webb, 45, was announced by San Bernardino County District Attorney Michael A. Ramos.

Sheriff Gary Pilon said Webb will remain on paid administrative leave during the investigation into the shooting of Air Force Senior Airman Elio Carrion, 22.

“I respect the decision of the district attorney’s office,” Pilon said. “I’m steadfast in my belief that the county’s prosecutors have filed charges against a lawman for an on-duty shooting.

Webb’s arraignment was set for Wednesday. If convicted, he could face up to 18 to 26 years in prison.

The charge includes the special allegations of infliction of great bodily injury and use of a firearm, Ramos said at a news conference. In California, such enhancements can result in extra time in prison.

An attempted-murder charge was not filed because there was no finding that a fetus died.

Carrion, an Air Force security officer just back from Iraq, was a passenger in a Corvette that police chased at high speed on the night of Jan. 29 until the Corvette crashed into a wall in Chino, about 45 miles east of Los Angeles.

A grainy videotape shot by a bystander showed Carrion on the ground next to the car with Webb standing and pointing at gun at him.

Webb once appeared to order Carrion to rise, but when the airman appears to begin complying, the deputy shot him three times. Carrion was shot in the chest, shoulder and thigh and was hospitalized for several days.

Authorities found no weapons on Carrion or the driver, Luis Escobedo.

Prosecutors announced they were charging Escobedo with a felony of attempting to evade a peace officer while driving recklessly and a mis­demeanor for driving under the influence. He was expected to sur­ vive the Wednesday. The maximum penalty if convicted would be 3 1/2 years in prison.

Webb did not make any public com­ment since the incident.

Carrion’s sister, Monique Carrion, 22, was surprised by Tuesday’s announcement.

“We’ve just been trying to stay strong and help my brother get bet­ ter,” she said in a telephone inter­view. “Just give him support, which is what he needs right now.”

Michael Ramos, center, San Bernardino County District Attorney, announced during a news conference Tuesday his office filed a charge of attempted Voluntary Manslaughter against San Bernardino County Sheriff’s Deputy Ivory Webb in the shooting of Elio Carrion.

GOP needs to agree on public works plan, Assembly speaker says

Steve Lawrence
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger must round up sup­port within his own party if he and lawmakers are to have even a remote chance of meeting a looming deadline to place public works bonds on the June ballot, the leader of the state Assembly said.

“The Republican leadership and the governors are not on the same page at this point, four days before a deadline...” Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, D-Los Angeles, said Monday.

“Once they get on the same page — Republicans, that is — we can have negotiations that are more fruitful.”

The Republican governor and legislative leaders have been trying to agree on a massive public works spending plan that Schwarzenegger announced in January. They are seek­ ing a package of bond measures to help pay for highways, public transit systems, levee upgrades, new schools and a number of other infrastructure projects.

Secretary of State Bruce McPherson has set Friday as the cut­off date to put bond proposals in the June ballot, but Nunez suggested the secretary would stretch that deadline as much as five or six days if Schwarzenegger requested.

“With a six-week deadline we can print ballots, how fast the infor­mation can get out to the voters,” Nunez said. “Obviously, you want to be careful that voters (living overseas) get an opportunity to vote, but I think there is some wiggle room there.”

A spokesperson for McPherson, Nghi Ha Nguyen Dernovsek, reiterated a letter that the secretary of state sent to Schwarzenegger in January saying that any bond measures passed by the Legislature after Friday would go on the November ballot instead.

“Based on the information we have today, the drop-dead deadline is still March 6th,” Dernovsek said.

Nunez said Democratic lawmakers in the Assembly and Senate are “pretty ready on the same page” as far as how to use the bond funds and are close to agreeing on how much bond borrowing lawmakers and the gover­nor should ask voters to approve.

But Schwarzenegger’s so-called Schwarzenegger and his Republican counterparts in the Legislature as being further apart.

Schwarzenegger’s original plan envisioned $222.6 billion in spending over 30 years, part of which would be funded through $66 billion in voter­ approved bonds in a series of elec­tions through 2014. He hoped to put the first of those bond proposals on the June or November ballot this year.

Last week, the governor asked for another $35.3 billion in bonds for levee repairs, but aides said the overall amount of bonds was negotiable.

Democrats, however, have said they have other spending priorities, and want a bond proposal of at least $30 billion that would be voted on in one election, Senate President Pro­ Temp Don Perata, D-Oakland, said Monday.

Some Republicans are also con­cerned about whether the state can afford the level of borrowing pro­posed by Schwarzenegger. Republicans, at least those in the Assembly, want a package of bonds that they say would reduce the need to sell bonds.

“The biggest problem we have is (reaching an agreement) is...” Assembly Republican Jacqui Irwin, D-Thousand Oaks, said.

“They are at zero They do not believe we should have bonds.”

Assembly minority leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Bakersfield, did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment.

Schwarzenegger needs the votes of at least two Republicans in the Senate and six in the Assembly to muster the two-thirds majorities required to pass a bond bill.

Representative of Assembly Speaker H.D. Palmer, the governor would continue talking to lawmakers in both parties to try to reach a deal.

“There are also differences with what the governor has proposed and some of the other Democrats. Democrats have put forward,” Palmer said.

“Just that an observation of where the process is.”

The governor has said he wants the first of the bonds to go on the ballot in June, but he’s given different signals about how important it is to reach an agreement in time to make that ballot.

On Sunday, as he wrapped up an appearance at his Arnold Classic Spor­ts exposition in Ohio, he said he and lawmakers should work around the clock this week to get a deal by Friday.

“If you don’t shoot for June, you don’t have a chance to make it,” said Palmer, spokesman for the state Department of Finance. “That’s clear.”

Pereira added that he has said and other leaders have said. We’ll see where this week’s discussions take us next. Wednesday, March 8, 2006
illegal immigrants rise to 12 million; 5 percent of workers in U.S.

Stephen Oldmacher • WASHINGTON — The number of illegal immigrants in the United States has grown to as many as 12 million, according to government and private estimates. The government has not accounted for one in every 20 workers, a new estimate says.

To curb illegal immigration have not slowed the pace, a said report Tuesday by the Pew Hispanic Center. Instead, the report's author said those efforts are having an unintended consequence: People who failed to enter the United States from Mexico are staying longer because it is harder to move back and forth across the border.

"The security has done more to keep them in Mexico than it has to keep them from coming in," said Jeffery Passel, a senior researcher on immigration.

"It is difficult to accurately measure the number of illegal immigrants in the United States, but most public agencies and private groups had set a figure of about 11 million. The Pew Hispanic Center used Census Bureau data to estimate that the United States had 11.1 million illegal immigrants in 2005. The center used monthly population estimates to project a current total of 11.5 million, or five percent of the country's workforce, the Pew report said.

The report estimated that 850,000 undocumented workers in the U.S., or about 4 percent of the country's adult workforce, the Pew report said.

It estimated that illegal immigrants fill a quarter of all agricultural jobs, 17 percent of office and house cleaning positions, 14 percent of construction jobs and 12 percent in food preparation.

NATIONAL

Bush administration tells Iran it must not enrich nuclear fuel

Anne Gearan• WASHINGTON — The Bush administration drew a hard line on Iran Tuesday, warning of "meaningful consequences" if the Islamic government does not take steps toward denuclearization.

Speaking to the pro-Israel lobby Tuesday, Vice President Dick Cheney said the United States and other allies are "clearly that we will not allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon." He said, "They know right now that if it stays on its present course, the international community is prepared to impose meaningful consequences.""""The United States has been very clear that enrichment and reprocessing on Iran's part would be unacceptable because of the proliferation risk," said a senior administration official.

A diplomat told The Associated Press that Iran made the suspension offer during talks in Moscow last week. The offer reflected Tehran's attempts to escape Security Council action over the enrichment, which can be used to make nuclear arms. The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity because the information was confidential.

"There is no compromise new Iranian proposal," Lavrov said. "Russia, which has veto power as a permanent member of the Security Council, is perhaps Tehran's most important ally and business partner. Russia has gone along with U.S. efforts to refer the nuclear issue to the council but has never said it would support sanctions or other harsh punishment there.

"Have you seen a proposal for any sanctions?" Lavrov snapped at reporters as he arrived for a luncheon meeting with President Bush on Tuesday. "This is a hypothetical question, yes?"

At the State Department earlier, Lavrov appeared to warn the United States not to push Iran so hard that it withdraws from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty or kicks out international inspectors. "The treaty allows for some U.N. oversight of a nascent nuclear program that Iran says is meant to one day produce nuclear energy, not bombs. The International Atomic Energy Agency has accused Iran of violating the treaty and con­ trolling the extent of its nuclear activities. A possible Security Council rebuke could be based on those findings, along with anything new that inspectors turn up.

"The thing is, we thought they had it made, and then that" said the 77-year-old retired longshoreman, who evacuated with his wife to Houston. "The problem is, they didn't have a plan. I don't think they had a plan."
Ten Ruminations
Upon Watching MTV's 10 Spot

1. The brains-in-a-vat behind MTV's prime-time programming emphasize modern ambiguity tenfold over actual comprehension. The 10 Spot intro, once the destination site for "Daria" clips and off-color jokes, held a brief flirtation with actual music videos last year. Now it settles for the self-promoting image of a clicking, grunting silver orb in a middle-class living room. A terrifying prophecy of times to come?

2. "Real World/Road Rules Challenge: The Gauntlet 2" forces me to reach for the dictionary and then promise to read "Anna Kerenina" for intellectual debt repayment. What is a gauntlet? Apparently, a crude form of torture that involves two rows of spear-wielding warriors. Sounds remarkably narrow-minded for the network, whose original "Real World" season spawned a virtual galaxy of spin-off shows, including entire 30-minute reunion specials where cheesed-off castmates bellow at each other like the spaceships in "War of the Worlds."

3. There is no man in the entire "Gauntlet 2" I wish to shamelessly flirt with actual music videos tenfold over actual comprehension. The 10 Spot intro, once the destination site for "Daria" clips and off-color jokes, held a brief flirtation with actual music videos last year. Now it settles for the self-promoting image of a clicking, grunting silver orb in a middle-class living room. A terrifying prophecy of times to come?

4. There is a vocal inflection used by all MTV reality "celebrities." It's a vowel extension placed on a whine after a new-age, upchuck-inducing office cliché. Example: "Derrick is a team player, a real solid competitor, but the Gauntlet is nooooooot about friendship; it's aaaaaaaaall for the glooooorrrry." Try it for your speech communication final.

5. Boy bands will fade over corporate media's icy dead body. Introducing "There and Back." Ashley Parker Angel, basic cable's latest oeuvre about a little blond bitch who can't stop whining.

The former O-Town singer gamely commutes on an existential train wreck of self-reflection with endless complaining, shallow Freudian analysis, and flat singing. This is somehow tolerated by his exhausted fiancée, who tends to their newborn son (horriﬁcally named Lyric). Will this be interesting anytime soon? As evident by Angel's proudly sported "Don't Worry, It Only Seems Kinky At First" T-shirt, truly refined taste comes only with repetition.

6. If you're an average-looking, hairless guy, you can really make a lucrative living starring in body spray commercials. They're omnipresent.

7. The best reason to watch "There and Back" is for the ravaged expressions/hairyles of Angel's former teen dream comrades, including that one redhead who used to sport a scraggly goatee. These chaps are the saddest indication of the concealment.

8. Didn't the programming used to include news, at least about Britain's navel? The end-of-hour headlines are M.I.A. during The 10 Spot. The most assumedly interesting expressions are that of youth alive and not letting society crush its spirit.

9. The best reason to watch "There and Back" is for the ravaged expressions/hairyles of Angel's former teen dream comrades, including that one redhead who used to sport a scraggly goatee. These chaps are the saddest indication of the concealment.

10. Marc Shapiro, THE DANKONDERK (a. m. goldstein)

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Oftten when a little-known band receives mainstream attention, it tends to compromise its sound for something trendier. This is not at all the case with Matisyahu.

With "Youth," the Hasidic singer Matisyahu has achieved what many rising stars strive for but often fail at miserably. He has greatly expanded his sound while staying true to the elements that garnered him respect in the first place — rocking familiar reggae rhythms while throwing dancehall, hip-hop, and rock into the mix.

The album is chock-full of musical departures. Bassist Josh Werner trades melody for thumping bass lines on "Indestructible" and "Jerusalem," which exemplify the hip-hop and dancehall influences in Matisyahu. "What I'm Fighting For" is a raw acoustic song about Matisyahu's quest for something "worth far more than silver and gold."

From rapping to beat-boxing and melodic scatting, Matisyahu busts out a whole range of vocal abilities on the CD. The title track addresses the importance of keeping the flame of youth alive and not letting society crush it in spirit.

Part of the genius of Matisyahu is that his messages, like those of most reggae bands, are not just for one particular group of people, they are universally appealing. In "Dispatch the Troops," for example, Matisyahu sings: "Many names for one God! Trottin' on, through the facade! You were all my children! Gotta dig for that feeling! Love will break through the concealment."

Another aspect of the album that deserves much praise is that Matisyahu's band, Roots Tonic, sounds tighter than ever. Guitarist Aaron Dagon is more melodic in his playing, Josh Werner carries the album with dance-cable riffs and Jonah David ties it all together, blowing listeners away with a one-minute no-holds-barred drum solo on the track "Ancient Lullaby."

"Youth" will no doubt please the fans of all Matisyahu while expanding the audience beyond its core of Jews and reggae supporters.
Waves
continued from page 1

VCRs or DVD players so surfers and surf buffs gathered together at film previews, and sometimes it got out of hand.

"I had guys riding in on motorcycles, lighting off cherry bombs. I'd show one of those films and age 20 years," Noll said.

Premieres were events where devoted surfers gathered together to watch and sometimes meet their heroes, and to see what was happening in the world of surfing.

"At a premiere in Santa Monica I had burnt out two of the projection lamps and was down to one. I knew if it went out I was a dead man," Noll said.

Steve Gibby is hoping to bring "Riding Giants," premiering tonight at the San Luis Obispo International Film Festival.

"It was a no-brainer to bring these films and age 20 years," Gibby said.

Gibby now owns Cur4Media out of Coronet Beach.

The showing will conclude with a raffle and a question-and-answer session with the stars, who are some of the most experienced people in the world of surfing and skating.

Stacy Peralta began his career as one of the Z-boys, an innovative skate team that pushed conventional skating, and where skating superstar Tony Hawk had his beginnings.

Jeff Clark, or Mr. Maverick's, is the founder of the big-wave surf team Maverick's, in Half Moon Bay. After proving to himself that he could ride the waves, he surfed the break virtually by himself for 15 years, trying to convince surfers that you don't have to leave the country for big waves.

Now Maverick's, along with Jaw's in Maui, the home of Laird Hamilton, is one of the world's premier big-wave breaks.

Clark now owns and operates Jeff Clark Surfboards.

After riding the largest wave in history, Noll moved to Alaska and started commercial fishing, leaving the world of surfing, which was changing quickly during the shortboard revolution of the early '70s.

Noll now lives in Crescent City, Redwoods and makes specialty custom surfboards with his son. His life story was recently purchased by a Hollywood studio to eventually turn into a film.

"I told them 'Pay me enough so if you screw it up, I can move to Alaska, and won't have to look at anyone I know again,'" Noll said of the deal.

These celebrities of the surfing and skating community will walk down the red carpet on Thursday night, after a limo ride from Mission Grill, where there is going to be a VIP party before the show.

All of the stars of "Riding Giants" have some connection to the Central Coast. Noll ran his commercial fishing boat out of Port San Luis for three years, and Peralta and Clark met on the Central Coast when Peralta picked up a hatch-biking Clark.

The group will be back tomorrow to show the educating and entertaining film, but as informative as the film

is, it cannot teach the experience of surfing. Only going out and actually surfing can do that, Noll said at a New York press conference.

"Surfing is the kind of thing that if you do you know, but for you son-of-a-bitches who haven't done it, I can't explain it," Noll said.

- DiversionS editor: Maricar Mendoza • mustangdaily@kcal3.com

Waves
continued from page 1

Triple Crown of Surfing and the ASP tour for both ESPN and Fox sports.

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"Riding Giants" is the perfect film for the president Central Coast surf culture, Gibby said.

"It was a no-brainer to bring these guys here," Gibby said.

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Thousands protest in Kenyan capital after police raids

Anthony Mitchell

NAIROBI, Kenya — About 3,000 opposition supporters and human rights activists marched Tuesday in downtown Nairobi to protest police raids on Kenya's oldest newspaper and its sister television station.

Waving signs and shouting the Interior Secretary John Michuki "must go," the demonstrators walked peacefully through the Kenyan capital as police stood guard from a distance.

Michuki had ordered Thursday raids, during which heavily armed and masked police smashed The Standard Group's printing press and disrupted Kenya Television Network's broadcast for 13 hours.

Last week's raids were the first time since Kenya's 1963 independence that the government shut down major media operations. Reports of the country's media have been reporting on corruption scandals swirling around President Mwai Kibaki, who has been seen as increasingly politically isolated.

The raids were condemned by Cabinet ministers, diplomats and citizens.

"It is vital that we have a free press in Kenya," said translator Rhoda Atieno, 31, who participated in Tuesday's protest. "The assault on the Standard newspaper group was outrageous and shouldn't happen in a democracy, and those responsible should go, without negotiation."

Some protesters held signs that read: "Mr. President, stop sponsoring State Terrorism."
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Cal Poly, SLO
Letter to the Editor
Building 26, Room 226
SLO, CA 93407

Dear Editor,

I am writing to you today with a serious problem that is affecting millions of women in America. And I must be clear when I say it's not just the responsibility of women to put an end to the violence. It is time for men to stand up and take the lead as well.

The most severe problem affecting women in America is sexual assault. One in four women is likely to become victims of sexual assault while in college, and women 16 to 19 years-old are four times more likely to be assaulted than any other age group. Sexual assault is by far one of the most heinous crimes and unfortunately these crimes occur quite regularly in San Luis Obispo.

A recent national study showed that, on average, sexual assault occurs every 90 seconds and domestic violence four times every minute. Last year the Sexual Assault Recovery and Prevention Center (SARP) of SLO reported 367 sexual assault crimes, an estimate that approximately twice that many went unreported.

Even more frightening than the sheer number of assaults that occur, are the candidates surrounding the incidents. More than 80 percent of sexual assault crimes are committed by acquaintance, and over 75 percent of these

acquaintances involve alcohol or other debilitating drugs, like moodlifters and GHB.

Clearly there exists a severe problem that is affecting millions of women in America. And I must be clear when I say it's not just the responsibility of women to put an end to the violence. It is time for men to stand up and take the lead as well.

The answer is that we just don't care. This year's Oscar ratings dropped 10 percent from last year. Maybe in these times of war and public distress, we just don't want to be reminded of the fame and fortune of movie stars and their penchant for using award shows, such as the Oscars, for voicing political opinions.

I was surprised at the speeches of this year's recipients. They were relatively tame. Most of the political jabs came from this year's recipients. They were relatively tame. Most of the political jabs came from

Megan Schulz

ROCKY MOUNTAIN COLLEGE (SOUTHERN COLORADO STATE)

FORT COLLINS, Colo. — I usually catch the Oscars every year out of habit. Being a movie junkie and a reformed E! Television addict, I love to check out my favorite stars walk the red carpet and get emotional while making acceptance speeches. That being said, there are always peculiar trends (and not just in clothing) that I find at the Oscars each year.

Usually, I tend to agree with the decisions for best picture, best actor, etc. These films are great representations of public opinion.

The top domestic grossing movie of 2005 was "Star Wars: Episode of the Sith." This year's best picture winner, "Crash," was No. 49. Even "The Pacifier," a movie with Vin Diesel and a cream-colored house, did it. But if you ask me, the most enjoyable movie of 2005 was, you will probably hear "Wedding Crashers." So why is it that Americans just don't flock to Oscar-caliber movies?

The answer is that we just don't care. This year's Oscar ratings dropped 10 percent from last year. Maybe in these times of war and public distress, we just don't want to be reminded of the fame and fortune of movie stars and their penchant for using award shows, such as the Oscars, for voicing political opinions.

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Obviously, this is to be expected. In general, everyone is very well behaved. Let's not forget that it was only three years ago when we had to listen to Michael Moore's tirade about a "fictitious war and a fictitious president" while he accepted his Oscar.

I just want to know where celebrities stand on things like domestic violence. When we think about all of the disasters that happened in 2005, such as Hurricane Katrina, we do not want to be reminded of just how ridiculously rich these celebrities are. Just for being a presenter at the 2006 Oscars, a star could expect to receive a goody bag valued at more than $50,000.

The least expensive item in the goodie bag was worth $600. An amount of money that many inhabitants of this world are likely to never see. I would like to believe that all of the celebrities entitled to receive a goody bag other than this one or flat-out denied it. But I doubt this is

Celebrities and Oscars: Who really cares?

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Volunteer Graphics Systems

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Basketball continued from page 12
Division II teams. However, a 300 conference record nestled Cal Poly at No. 4 seed in the Big West tour­
nament and a first-round bye.
With the bye be enough for the Mustangs, though? Probably not, as Cal Poly has failed to win more than back-to-back games all season ... and that’s with more than a day’s rest in-between. To punch a ticket into the NCAA tournament, the Mustangs will need three wins in three days.
Still, Cal Poly does have several big wins and close calls worth mentioning. The Mustangs went on the road to beat Cal State Fullerton in their Big West opener and had a win stolen by Irvine when an off-balanced Aaron Forazel three-pointer with under 10 seconds remaining sunk the Mustangs. Cal Poly also played Pacific tightly, dropping a 64-62 decision in a game that came down to the final possesion.

Inter-Ac coaches pointed to Long Beach State as a potential upset bed. The 49ers perhaps take even more momentum into the post-season than Pacific following a 20-point drubbing of UC Irvine (By the way, the Anteaters led the game 51-31 at one point).
The 49ers are no strangers to double-digit comebacks this year. Each State trailed Cal Poly by 14 at The Walter Pyramid and put 46 on the board in the second half to win.

“I think we have some very intense coaches on our team and when they feel a sense of urgency that they might lose, they turn it up a notch,” 49ers coach Larry Reynolds said. Another “dark horse” could be Cal State Fullerton (13-12, 3-9), although coach Bob Burton was quick to downplay his team’s recent surge. The Titans came into the season picked first in the conference and with two pre-season coaches and media polls.

“I don’t think the talent is as good as everybody thought it was,” Burton said. “I’m not just saying that because we underachieved, but I think the expectations put on this team were ridiculous.”

Often overlooked is the loss of Ralphly Holmes, the Titans leading scorer and rebounder, and Yaphett King to graduation, Burton said.

The Titans have won five of their last seven games and finally appear to be living up to the pre-season hype. With the No. 6 seed, though, comes the daunting task of winning four games in as many nights.

“I don’t know if we’re playing consistent enough to win four games,” said Burton. “We can play with anybody and we can lose to anybody.”

And then there’s Irvine. The Anteaters (16-10, 4-4), despite earning the No. 2 seed, weren’t even mentioned in coaches’ picks to win the conference tournament. Don’t forget, Irvine swept through the first half of Big West play and won three of its last four games.

The Anteaters certainly aren’t the most talented nor the most athletic team in the conference, but wins over Pacific and Long Beach State shouldn’t be ignored.

The reason the Anteaters are a threat to win the conference boils down to simple mathematics. Two is less than four. Irvine needs just two wins to claim the championship, and that in itself is reason enough to believe in the Anteaters.

Seven teams are about to be sent packing and the question is Can anybody top Pacific?

Lost and Found ads are big wins and close calls worth considering. The Mustangs went on the road to beat Cal State Fullerton in their Big West opener and had a win stolen by Irvine when an off-balanced Aaron Forazel three-pointer with under 10 seconds remaining sunk the Mustangs. Cal Poly also played Pacific tightly, dropping a 64-62 decision in a game that came down to the final possession.

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Seven teams are about to be sent packing and the question is Can anybody top Pacific?
Frank Stranzl  

T he anomaly that was the 2004-05 season will not repeat itself this year—lose and the season is over, become the winner of the Big West tournament will receive the lone conference bid to March Madness.

Four months of intense competition and all that matters is a win on March 11 at the Anaheim Convention Center Arena. Just like last year, Pacific will be the favorite to earn the Big West automatic bid to the NCAA tournament, but this time there is less room for error.

Pacific’s success this year didn’t come without doubters. Following the program’s best season in school history, including a trip to the second round of the NCAA tournament, Pacific was picked to finish second in the conference in scoring while averaging 17.2 points per game and leading the conference in rebound in all-time per-game. Teammate and senior guard Johnny Gray, also had a large bid last season.

The Tigers (22-7, 12-2) are led by the lone conference bid to the Anaheim Convention Center Arena. Just like last year, Pacific will be the favorite to earn the Big West conference call on Monday.

Last year the Tigers were the favorites to win the tournament after navigating conference play unscathed at 18-0. However, Drake State upset the Tigers in the tournament championship, and Fiji had to sit through “sunday” knowing its fate rested in someone else’s hands. They wound up large berth!

“Those are always fun things to talk about,” Thomson said. “We don’t get mentioned at all, we haven’t all year. We understand we need to win the tournament to go to the NCAs.”

The ESPN.com “Bubble Watch” lists a pair of teams the Tigers beat but not Pacific: Texas A&M (22-7, 10-6) is in the “Should be in” category, while Western Kentucky (22-6, 14-2) shows up in the “Work left to do” section.

The rest of the Big West field is notably better than the Big West this season with six teams in the top 50, Pacific, the top-rated school in the Big West, sits at 104.

Experts predict anywhere from four to six teams from the Missouri Valley Conference could qualify for the NCAA tournament. Multiple bids for mid-major conferences are an increasing trend. Several experts have a legitimate shot at sending more than one to the NCAA tournament. Both Hofstra and George Mason are tournament worthy from the Colonial Athletic Association while the University of North Carolina Wilmington won the conference tournament and an automatic bid. Conference USA also has a good shot to send two teams with Memphis a lock and University of Alabama-Birmingham recently entering the equation.

a huge difference between the top of their league and the top of ours.”

Based solely on the Ratings-Percentage-Index, the MVC is not nearly better than the Big West this season with six teams in the top 50, Pacific, the top-rated school in the Big West, sits at 104.

Talent and coaching aside, the Tigers also have momentum in their favor. Pacific has won 10 straight Big West games and 11 of their last 12. There’s no doubt UOP is playing up with an at-large bid, giving the Big West a rare two-team representation in the tournament.

What if the Tigers lose this year? Do they stand a chance of another