Event to shed light on human trafficking in Vietnam

Holly Burke

In 2005, between 10,000 and 20,000 women and children in Vietnam were kidnapped and sold into slavery. The numbers however, are incorrect since the business of trafficking humans is deeply rooted underground. Cal Poly students will have the opportunity to learn about the human trafficking in Southeast Asia on Saturday, March 11, and can learn what they can do to help. "A Light of Hope: Helping Vietnamese Women at Risk" will feature workshops, performances and an art exhibit and will be held from noon to 8 p.m. in room 220 of the University Union.

The event was organized by JR Webb, a political science senior who visited Vietnam last year. Before visiting Vietnam with a friend of Vietnamese decent, Webb saw a news program about the trafficking of Vietnamese women and children. "(The show) posed some interesting questions about why (Vietnamese women and children) were being sold to brothels in Cambodia," Webb said. Webb, affected by the show, was determined to help.

In Vietnam, Webb worked with two San Jose-based nonprofit organizations that work to prevent human trafficking in Vietnam. He proposed the organizations use college interns to help run the programs.

"Almost any major can help," Webb said. "The (organizations) help teach medicine, there are corrective surgery programs, even English majors could write the grants to fund the programs."

Prevention programs run by the organizations attempt to educate the children in rural villages and provide them with opportunities for the future to prevent their involvement with human trafficking.

Phyo Min, a communications senior and slam poet, will perform at the event. Min felt touched when she learned about the trafficking through a video Webb showed her. Though Min will perform other poems, she has written one specifically for the event. She will perform "We Are Strangers," directed toward a girl featured in the video.

"I could understand what (the girl) was going through," she said. "She is precious and should have hope and strength, I will start a fire with my poetry to help her. That is what I can do for her."

According to Creating Opportunities in Vietnam (CONV), one of the agencies Webb worked with, 71 percent of the illiterate population in Vietnam are women. CONV also attributes the mistreatment of women in that country to the strong influence of Confucianism, which views women as subordinate figures in society.

The event, sponsored by the political science department, the social science department, the career center, Student Community Services, ASI and local business, will feature artists from across the United States as well as art from Vietnam. Lahn Tran, an award-winning winner featured on NPR, will also speak.

Gerrard Tich Maloney, who appears on albums produced by George Winston, will also perform.

Fire speech sparks concern with PSA

Jenn Hall

The final session of the eight-week Wildland Fire Studies seminar, provided by Cal Poly's forestry resources department, led to some controversy Monday over free speech rights and expression on campus.

The seminar was primarily geared toward students with a concentration in wildland fire and fuels management. Monday's session was led by Dale Bonsness, chief of the U.S. Forest Service, on the topic of the future of managing fire in America's wildlands.

Students from the Progressive Student Alliance (PSA), Environmental Council and Poly Greens planned to distribute flyers at the door expressing concerns about the Healthy Forests Initiative proposed by the Bush administration that includes fighting wildland fires.

The students involved in PSA said that the initiative uses the fear of forest fires to "eliminate environmental protection and boost commercial logging," which PSA strongly opposes.

The students from these organizations claim that they received an e-mail from the coordinator for the seminar, Chris Dicus, notifying them that they would be asked to leave the session if they came to protest. The e-mail was also sent to the police.

"We decided as a group that we couldn't be intimidated by the letter sent to us," said Abbie Livingston, co-director of the PSA and history senior. However, Dicus, a Cal Poly natural resources management professor, disagreed.

"That's not true," Dicus said, when asked about the letter. He said that there was some concern over a protest and that students were asked to be "professional and courteous."

The student organizations were present at the session and were allowed to hand out flyers and attend the seminar without incident.

"You get that when you open it up to the public," Dicus said. "There was no problem there."

Some of the groups that had planned to attend the seminar could not make it due to the involvement of the police.

Members of Cal Poly's Progressive Student Alliance (PSA) handed out flyers Monday at the presentation.
than expressed in the e-mail," Livingston said. "I'm very grateful for that.

The group members attended the seminar along with the 65 other students enrolled in the FNR 470B (special topic) class as well as more than 50 people from the general public.

This was the first year that the natural resources management department at Cal Poly had offered a class of this kind.

Dicus and Ned Saghibzagh, both members of the board of directors for fire ecology in California planned the seminar.

"It turned out to be a fantastic series," Dicus said. "I think it really opened up the students' eyes to how wide and broad the field is."

The class included eight sessions that took place each Monday from noon to 1 p.m. Students were then required to respond to the speakers for class credit.

"It was a dynamic line-up," Dicus said of the eight speakers. "It was a successful effort at equating the surveillances with student-led anti-war protests at UC Berkeley and UC Santa Cruz by the federal government.

"We feel that unless it's expedited, there's a risk that the information might be purged or somehow prevented from coming to light," said junior Ehud Appel, a member of the UC Berkeley Stop the War Coalition who was listed on the original request.

"If the request is not fast-tracked, it could take up to two years for the government to release the information, which could be used in evaluating current government surveillance, said Lisa Sitkin, an attorney for the plaintiffs.

"We are very eager to get these documents as soon as possible because the public debate about national surveillance and wiretaps is right now," Sitkin said.

"It was a dynamite Ime-up," said junior Dominick Hughes, a spokesperson for the ACLU. "It was a fantastic experience."

"It was a great opportunity for us to learn," said junior David Kirk, who was not involved in the request.

"There were some tough questions asked," Dicus said of the question-and-answer session.

"Students from the Progressive Student Alliance, the FNR 470B class, and the general public all asked questions pertaining to the controversial ways of preventing wildfires.

"The chief answered them all," Dicus said. "He's not one to shy away from tough questions."

Facebook opens to high schoolers

Andrew Burumon

STANFORD, Calif. — Too many numbers can be confusing, but here's one statistic that should make everyone think. Facebook.com now has over eight million registered users. That's roughly equal to the combined populations of Los Angeles, Calif., and Chicago, Ill. The popular college networking Web site, which spread to Stanford University in February 2004, has grown astronomically in its first two years and now sits as the seventh most-visited page on the Internet.

Recently, Facebook.com administrators made the decision to allow members of the high school version of its site to be friends with their college counterparts. While the high school version has existed since late 2005, there had not been a link between that site and the broader college community.

Chris Hughes, a spokesperson for Facebook.com explained that the decision was made because of the similarities between college and high school students.

"High schools and colleges, even though they're very different in a lot of ways, are ultimately built on the same concept. An educational institution around which students assemble their everyday lives," he said.

Despite Hughes' insistence that high school and college students share certain experiences, some college students react negatively to the sudden change.

"I hate it," said sophomore Joel Lewenstein. "I felt libel for a reason."

"Our users are spending an average of 18 minutes per day on the site," he said. "Also, according to our statistics, 67 percent of our users log in each day, and we get about 300 million page views in any given 24-hour period.

"Despite the success of Facebook.com and other similar social networking sites, there is concern that these pages will facilitate the spread of Internet vandalism or undesirable content. For this reason, Facebook.com offers its users the ability to complain about offensive advertisements or other content.

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WHO SAID THAT?

If the automobile had followed the same development cycle as the computer, a Rolls Royce would today cost $100, get a million miles per gallon and explode once a year, killing everyone inside.
— Robert X. Cringely, InfoWorld Magazine

Nothing is more conducive to peace of mind than not having any opinions at all.
— Georg Christoph Lichtenberg

Wordly Wise

Timorous: Full of apprehensiveness; fearful.

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State briefs

SANTA CRUZ (AP) — Marijuana users want the city to ease drug laws so recreational pot smoking will be legal on private property.

The group Santa Cruz Citizens for Sensible Marijuana Policy is circulating a petition to get an initiative on the November ballot that would make marijuana offenses the lowest priority for police.

Supporters of the initiative said it would end wasting taxpayer money on policing "cannabis consumers." 

BELLOWS FALLS (AP) — A father of two whose rented Lakeview home blew up when a cache of illegal fireworks blew up pleaded not guilty to nine felony counts.

Brian Alan Miller, 36, entered the plea Tuesday to possession of a destructive device, possession for sale of a destructive device, two counts of child abuse, recklessly causing a fire and two counts of vandalism.

Miller, whose bail was raised to $500,000, faces a minimum six years in prison if he's convicted, said Sandi Gibbons, spokeswoman for the Los Angeles County district attorney's office.

VENTURA (AP) — A bank robber was sentenced to more than 102 years in prison.

James earlier convicted Eddie Hunter on counts of second-degree robbery, attempted robbery while using a weapon and false imprisonment. Superior Court Judge Edward Brodie this week sentenced Hunter to 102 years and four months to life in prison.

Hunter, 42, has prior felony convictions for residential burglary, robbery, kidnapping, assault with a firearm, grand theft auto and drug possession, the prosecutor said.

Hunter allegedly robbed a Bank of America in Simi Valley and fled in a stolen car. Within a mile of the bank, a red dye pack was activated.

Scientists believe Mars and other primitive organisms capable of living in extreme conditions, scientists say.

The findings were published in Friday's issue of the journal Science.

David Morrison, a senior scientist at NASA's Astrobiology Institute, cautioned against rushing to judgment about whether the tiny moon could support life. "It's certainly interesting, but I don't see how much more you can say beyond that," Morrison said.
Bush signs renewal of Patriot Act into law

Deb Richeyman

WASHINGTON — After a long battle with Congress that went down to the wire, President Bush signed a renewal of the USA Patriot Act on Thursday, a day before 16 major provisions of the old law expire.

Bush said he signed the Patriot Act is vital to win the war on terror and protect Americans. He recalled the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, and said the country is still at war.

“We saw the terrorists’ destructive vision for us when they killed nearly 3,000 men, women and children,” Bush said. “In the face of this ruthless threat, our nation has made a clear choice — we will confront this mortal danger, we will stay on the offensive and we’re not going to wait to be attacked again.”

Bush’s signature came less than 48 hours after the House passed the legislation, ending several months of debate on Capitol Hill over how to balance Americans’ right to privacy with a need to foil potential terrorist threats. Political battles over the legislation forced Congress to twice extend the expiration date of the Patriot Act.

“The Patriot Act has accomplished exactly what it was designed to do,” Bush said during a signing ceremony in the White House East Room. “It has helped us detect terrorist cells, disrupt terrorist plots and save American lives.”

Republicans want to take the law into the upcoming midterm elections to show they are acting to protect national security.

The legislation removes the expiring provisions of the original Patriot Act, including one that lets federal officials obtain “tangible items,” such as business records, from libraries and bookstores, in connection with foreign intelligence and international terrorism investigations.

Other provisions clarify that foreign intelligence and counterintelligence officers should share information obtained as part of a criminal investigation with counterparts in domestic law enforcement agencies.

The six-month extension is designed to strengthen port security by imposing strict punishments on crew members who impede or hinder law enforcement officers trying to board their ships.

Dubai company says it is giving up stake in U.S. ports

It was unclear how DP World would manage the planned diversification, and Bilkey’s statement said its announcement was “based on an understanding that DP World will not suffer economic loss.”

The firm finished its $6.8 billion purchase Thursday of Pensular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co., the British firm that through a U.S. subsidiary runs important port operations in New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, New Orleans, Miami and Philadelphia. It also plays a lesser role in dockside activities at 16 other American ports.

Despite the furore, the company’s U.S. operations were never the most prized part of the global transaction. DP World valued its American operations at less than 10 percent of the nearly $7 billion total purchase. But that portion of the deal set off a political chain of events unlike any other in Bush’s five years in office.

Republicans denounced the deal, saying they were worried about the effects it would have on efforts to make ports safer from terrorist threats. Democrats did likewise, and capitalized on the issue as well as a way to narrow the polling gap with the GOP on issues of national security.

Bush defended the deal, calling the United Arab Emirates a strong ally in the war on terror and pledging to cast a veto if Congress voted to interfere.

Senate Republicans initially sought to fend off a vote to block the deal, and the administration agreed to a 45-day review of the transaction. That strategy collapsed Wednesday with the vote in the House Appropriations Committee.

“Their political battles over the legislation, ending several months of debate on Capitol Hill over how to balance Americans’ right to privacy with a need to foil potential terrorist threats. Political battles over the legislation forced Congress to twice extend the expiration date of the Patriot Act.”

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Folk diva to hammer out inspiration

Nick Coury  

Wanna folk? Folk diva Carolyn Cruso will be playing at Limnea’s Cafe today. She plays the hammered dulcimer, writes poetry and sings. Cruso is not sure when exactly the music bug bit her, but she has been playing since she was 11 years old. “When I was about 11 years old I picked up my aunt’s wooden flute and blew into it. The sound that came out was so rich and round. I was astonished, and knew at that moment that I would learn how to play,” Cruso said.

As she grew up, her passion for music continued to cultivate. “As a teenager I enjoyed improvisation, which really is a form of composition in the moment,” she said. “That flexibility of playing that you develop opens the door into actually writing music that can be played again rather than being ephemeral.”

Cruso played at Limnea’s year, and is excited to play again. “I want audiences to feel inspired while listening to the music for a long while after,” Cruso said. “I want them to feel uplifted or moved in some way, to feel connected to the world and to the mystery. Whether it’s thundering applause or quite reverse, I just want them to feel safe enough to be real.”

The show begins at 8 p.m. There is a suggested donation of $3 to $5. For more information about the Cross, visit www.carolyncruso.com.

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Israel will draw border with West Bank by 2010

Mark Latie
ASSOCIATED PRESS

JERUSALEM — Israel will draw its first border with 2010, acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said in an interview published Thursday, for the first time setting a deadline for what is expected to be a unilateral large-scale West Bank pullback.

Olmert, whose Kadima Party is the front-runner in March 28 elections, has been increasingly forthcoming about his agenda in recent days to stop a gradual slide in the polls.

Olmert's agenda also includes a plan for an expanded Jerusalem that alarms Palestinians, connecting the West Bank's largest settlement to the disputed city with new Jewish housing — a plan the U.S. opposes.

Opinion polls published Thursday, less than three weeks before the vote, showed Kadima with a wide lead over its main rivals, the moderate Labor and hawkish Likud. But since Kadima's founder, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, suffered a massive stroke Jan. 4, its numbers have been slowly dropping.

Polls show Kadima winning about 38 seats of the 120 in the parliament, while Labor would win about 19 and Likud 17.

Trying to shore up the center — a new concept in traditionally polarized Israeli politics — Olmert has been outlining a policy that would appeal to dovish Israelis who believe in evacuating much of the West Bank, as well as hawks who favor retaining the Jewish settlements there.

Olmert told The Jerusalem Post daily that within four years, he intends to "get to Israel's permanent borders, whereby we will completely separate from the majority of the Palestinian population and preserve a large and stable Jewish majority in Israel."

Olmert said his broad guidelines for Israel's borders included incorporating in three major settlement blocs — Ma'aleh Adumim and Gush Etzion outside Jerusalem, and Ariel, deep inside the West Bank. Residents of isolated settlements could be moved into the major blocs, he told the Haaretz daily. Most of the 253,000 Jewish settlers already live in the main blocs.

Jerusalem and its environs would also fall within the permanent borders, as would the West Bank's Jordan Valley on the frontier with Jordan, which Olmert characterized as a "security border."

Even with these areas under Israeli control, the plan would mean a pullout from most of the West Bank and removal of dozens of settlements.

Olmert said if negotiations with the Palestinians do not bear fruit, Israel must determine its own future.

With the militant group Hamas about to present a new Palestinian government, resumption of stalled peace negotiations appears unlikely, Hamas, which has sent dozens of suicide bombers into Israel, does not accept the presence of a Jewish state in the Middle East, and Israel considers Hamas a terrorist group and refuses to talk to its leaders.

Hamas leaders met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Gaza late Thursday. Abbas said the talks were an indication of each other's acceptance, but without expectations.

A meeting between Hamas and Abbas' Fatah Party, which was denounced by the militant group in the January parliamentary vote, also failed to achieve agreement on a joint government, participants said.

In the absence of peace talks, Olmert's unilateral approach is meant as a bold initiative to solve Israel's main security problems, in the image of Israel's unilateral pullout from Gaza last summer under Sharon, but he has been criticized by Israelis as hawks and doves, as well as Palestinians.

Labor and other dovish parties are upstaging Olmert for undermining efforts to restart peace negotiations, while Likud and other hawks charge that unilateral Israeli pullbacks amount to a reward for Palestinian violence.

Abbas — who was elected separately and has almost three years left in his term — rejected any further unilateral Israeli steps, demanding that future moves should be the result of negotiations.

But Olmert told The Jerusalem Post he had no intention of meeting Abbas after Israel's elections because he sees him as part and parcel of a Palestinian Authority dominated by Hamas.

Olmert also said Israel would build between its largest West Bank settlement of Ma'aleh Adumim and Jerusalem, three miles away, as part of its border-drawing initiative.

Palestinians object to the planned construction of 3,650 housing units, saying it would cut off Jerusalem from the West Bank and kill their dreams to set up a capital there. Last year, Israel froze the plan under pressure from Washington, which sees it as an obstacle to peacemaking.

A Palestinian fruit vendor attends to customers next to a section of Israel's separation barrier at the Kalandia checkpoint between Jerusalem and the West Bank town of Ramallah on Thursday. ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Report: Gents fake classiness

Mike Matzke and Doug Bruzzone

February 22, 2006

Dear Mr. Barclay,

I am writing to bring to your attention an article that appeared in the weekend sports section of the SLO Tribune on February 5th. The article, written by Zachary Goldstein, seeks to tarnish the reputation of those who are perceived as "gentlemen of leisure." It seems that the author, Mr. Matzke and Mr. Bruzzone, are being accused of having fake credentials.

I am writing to offer an alternative perspective to this article. I believe that Mr. Matzke and Mr. Bruzzone have every right to their opinions, and I respect their right to express them. However, I believe that this article is not fair or balanced.

I believe that Mr. Matzke and Mr. Bruzzone have every right to their opinions, and I respect their right to express them.

I hope that you will consider this alternative perspective, and that you will take steps to ensure that fair and balanced reporting is maintained.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
Sports Balk continued from page 12
over my shoulder, as I run around my apartment chanting "U-S-A" every hour. Chipper Jones home run: Probably the last one.

Either way, this is the first (and possibly the last) World Baseball Classic. As I attempt to dodge the amphitheater-like crowd, the WBC is being held in full glory, and whether the WBC turns into a train wreck or a blueprint for success, I can't wait to find out.

Consider the possible scenarios given by the unique rules in place, as well as the overall impact of the tournament. The fifth inning and seventh inning mercy rule of 15 and 10 runs respectively give the opportunity for countries to be publicly humiliated on new levels. Imagine the disgrace that would be felt by international audiences. David Ortiz and Adrian Beltre of the Dominican Republic turned an international game between the two countries into a blowout that had to be called early like a little league game. Imagine the outrage from the audience as the game in the fifth inning and the unofficial Dominican Republic home run call to a close. The limits on pitch count (60, 85, and 95 as the tournament progresses) and the requirements for rest between starts mean we could have unprecedented numbers of pitchers throwing in game, especially in round one. Already the U.S. used 7 pitchers in its first game with Mexico, six of which only threw one inning. I'm rooting for a game to go into extra innings where teams are forced to keep bringing in their best pitchers when they exceed their pitch counts. I can already feel the drama as Derek Lee attempts to find off strikes, knowing that if he can get Bartolo Colon to throw 2 more pitches, the Dominican Republic will be forced to pitch Alberth Colon.

I'm also rooting for a game to end in a tie (as they can after 14 innings in the first two rounds). If Selig thought America's reaction to ending the all-star game in a tie was bad, wait until he sees the reaction from angry international mobs who are only tolerant of ties in fatigue.

George Steinbrenner has already posted a sign at the Yankees spring training blaming the MLB for taking their star players for a couple weeks. Allow yourself to think what would happen if Derek Jeter, Johnny Damon or Alex Rodriguez were injured during the tournament. Not only would we have to watch Selig to enter the witness protection program; we wouldn't be surprised to read in the next morning's papers that Steinbrenner exploded, opening up a worm hole to an alternate dimension where the MLB had a salarized cap.

Of course, there's always the chance that your native country will win the tournament, thereby increasing your international bragging rights and your country's meritorious sports budget. This WBC can result in an improved national economy, allowing your country to feed poor, starving children. You are in favor of your country, aren't you?

Need one more reason to watch? How about for me; seeing as we do not get ESPNU here on campus in Cerritos, I don't have double-digits scores against Pac-10 on Wednesday. Cal Poly connected on 46.9 percent of its floor shots in the first round, finishing the game with a 27-3 game. The Mustang defense forced 21 Highlanders turnovers, 10 more than Cal Poly.

UC Riverside, which beat the Mustangs twice this season after falling 87-53 in late December, made 45.7 percent of its field goal attempts Thursday and 78.1 percent of its free throws. The Highlanders out-rebounded the Mustangs 49-40, Cal Poly which defeated Pacific 94-67 in the first round Wednesday, is now 2-6 in the conference tournament since becoming a Big West member in 1996.

The Mustangs will lose four seniors — Courtney Cameron, Michelle Henke, Jennifer Dooley and Sarah Grive.

W. Basketball continued from page 12
scored 16 points and, despite her 5-2
night, grab seven rebounds to lead
Cal Poly in both departments. Harrison added 11 points for the Mustangs, who had five double-digit scorers against Pac-10 on Wednesday. Cal Poly connected on 46.9 percent of its floor shots in the first round, finishing the game with a 27-3 game. The Mustang defense forced 21 Highlanders turnovers, 10 more than Cal Poly.

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Freshman guard Seyram Ghyemmo scored 21 points and sophomore center Kenzie Nicle added 17 points and 30 rebounds as Cal Poly advanced to the semifinal round with a 73-63 victory. The fourth-seeded Highlanders earned their record at 14-14 while Cal Poly, the No. 3 seed, finished its season 13-14. UC Riverside lost its third game in the semifinal round with a 73-63 victory. The fourth-seeded Long Beach State (18-9) on Friday at 2:30 p.m., following the first game, which also featured the No. 7 seed Cal State Northridge (9-19) at noon. Cal State Northridge upset third-seeded Cal State Fullerton 74-70 in Thursday’s first game. The championship game is set for Saturday at 1 p.m. and will be televised on Fox Sports Net West 2.

Cold climate of Richmond, British Columbia, is on the Western side of Canada. But while most of the other kids were playing hockey, he did something very few other kids up north do: he played baseball.

"Hockey is way bigger than baseball up there, especially because of the weather, but I still wanted to play baseball," Van Ostrand said. "It was tough, though, since up there we could only play for four or five months of the year because the weather would get bad."

This was no problem for Van Ostrand, however, as he took up baseball in the off-season.

"I actually got pretty good, and I was ranked third in the country in my age group at one point," Van Ostrand said. "But eventually I had to choose between baseball and badminton, and I chose baseball… it was my first love." After high school, Van Ostrand went to Hancock College, which lies in Santa Barbara, California. In his first year, Van Ostrand played first base as well.

"H e's a physical presence on the field," Van Ostrand said. "He's a great connection to the school, and it felt like a good fit, so I came here."

In his first year on the team, Van Ostrand exploded onto the scene. He hit .345 with four home runs and 25 runs batted in, and earned Honorable Mention All-Big West Honors. He also became the leader of the team both on and off the field.

I've decided to extend my deadline for this column to 12:01 a.m. EST on Thursday. You see, I'm having a tremendously difficult time deciding on a topic for this column. Wait, no, I'll just get it done by Wednesday of finish week. Cool!

No, no cool. Nor is it remotely acceptable or professional to be moving my deadline back on the basis purely on my inability to perform my task. But apparently that doesn't matter to NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue, who has extended the deadline for free agency three times (and counting) as a result of the owners and players union's inability to agree on a revenue sharing plan.

Now, there's nothing that inspires sympathy in me quite like billionaires arguing with millionaires. My heart aches for the billionaire owners who want to ensure their teams are profitable, and my soul is saddened for the millionaire players who want just their fair share.

But in the words of Stephen A. Smith (but not at his decibel level, I'll spare your ears bleeding) quite frankly, I just don't care what is classified as "shared revenue" or whether the players get 56 percent of it, 60 percent of it or somewhere in between. Both sides behaved like children who has extended the deadline and should just hammer out a deal, rather than put the future of their sport in jeopardy.

I know a few people from the NHL who would love to be guest motivational speakers in your meetings (and we all know they need the money). The deal will work itself out, regardless of whether the press is covering it like an outbreak of the bird flu.

Instead, I'd rather imploa...