Cassandra Carlson
MUSTANG DAILY

One Cal Poly student has been recognized nationally for his pro-active stance and efforts to halt hazing at his fraternity. Aerospace engineering senior and Tau Kappa Epsilon member Adrian Herrera was recently named one of the nation’s Anti-Hazing Heroes by hazingprevention.org.

After attending a workshop at the Western Regional Greek Leadership Conference (WRGLC) last spring, Herrera decided to report his own fraternity, though hazing was considered common practice by most — even he had been harmed — he wanted to put a stop to it.

For over a year, Herrera was concerned with his fraternity’s activities involving new pledges. After Herrera attended an Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute Conference, he realized there was an anti-hazing movement within the organization. This conference stirred a turn of events that the Tau Kappa Epsilon Rho Omicron chapter at Cal Poly was not ready for.

“I definitely pulled the carpet from underneath them,” he said.

After some initial opposition within his fraternity — based mainly on the idea that hazing practices kept with tradition — and his corresponding warnings that he would report them if the hazing continued, Herrera eventually pulled members onto his side.

One member Herrera credits with contributing to the end of hazing is Jacob Lopez, a social science junior, new member educator and chaplain to the group. Lopez presented factual information to the group about hazing, adding even more information to the much discussed and debated topic.

“I think it might be more difficult to remove it from fraternities than sororities because there is very much a childish machismo attitude surrounding hazing,” Lopez said. “I very much believe in the Greek community and believe that it can rid itself of hazing.”

The fraternity as a whole was still divided on the issue even after many of its members went to a leadership conference. That’s when Herrera decided to report his chapter.

“The people at the national headquarters say to report your brother, and if you can’t tell any other chapter what you are doing, it is illegal,” he said.

As a result, TKE was suspended from all new member activities and social events and put on a moratorium.

At first Herrera did not vouch that he was the one who reported his own fraternity. “I didn’t feel validated in telling them, and in retrospect nobody came up to me and asked me,” Herrera said.

“The international headquarters was very supportive of my decision and pro-active about the situation by interviewing every person,” Herrera said.

Already ostracized, he received hate mail from his brothers and was cut off from relationships with long-time friends.

President Bush delivers his State of the Union address before a joint session of Congress on Monday night.

Terence Hunt
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Bush, standing before Congress one last time, urged the nation Monday night to persevere against growing fears of recession and stay patient with the long, grinding war in Iraq. He pressed Congress to quickly pass a plan to rescue the economy.

“We can all see that growth is slowing,” Bush said in a blunt acknowledgment of rising food and gas prices, increasing unemployment and turmoil in the housing and financial markets.

He cautioned against accelerating U.S. troop withdrawals from Iraq, saying that would undo progress achieved over the last year.

“We have unfinished business before us, and the American people expect us to get it done,” Bush declared. It was his final State of the Union address and he faced a hostile, Democratic-led Congress eager for the end of his term next January.

With his approval rating near its all-time low, Bush lacked the political clout to push bold ideas and he didn’t try. He called on lawmakers to urgently approve a $150 billion plan worked out with House leaders to avoid or soften any recession through tax rebates for families and incentives for businesses to invest in new plants and equipment.

“The actions of the 110th Congress will affect the security and prosperity of our nation long after this session has ended,” the president said.

Senate Democrats want to expand the economic stimulus plan with rebates for senior citizens living off Social Security as seen Bush, page 2

C-SPAN buses politics to Poly

Mica Vincent
MUSTANG DAILY

A national campaign to educate students and community members about the presidential election is coming to Cal Poly in the form of a 45-foot tour bus.

C-SPAN’s “Road to the White House” bus will be on Mott Lawn today from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. as an opportunity to interact with key representatives from both parties after taking a 15-minute tour through the multimedia vehicle, which will be running educational videos about the election.

“I really just hope that students will be able to become a little more educated about the political process,” Associated Students Inc. program coordinator Michelle Carro said.

“I think it’s so important these days for students to voice their opinions and really start to learn about the political process.”

The bus, which has been making its way through every state that’s held a caucus, is a collaborative effort between ASI, C-SPAN and Charter Communications.

“We hope that students learn more about the individual candidates, more about how the primary process works and the importance of voter registration,” said Scott Erickson, marketing coordinator for Charter Communications in San Luis Obispo.

According to Erickson, representatives from the Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton and McCain campaigns will most likely attend. Erickson is hopeful that the Mitt Romney, Edwards and other campaigns will attend.

“We’ve reached out to almost everyone we can,” Erickson said, explaining that representatives from the County Democratic Committee, the County Republic Committee, Cal Poly Voter Registration Committee and ASI will also be present.

After leaving the Mott Gym, the bus will park near City Hall across from the library from 3 to 5 p.m. Erickson has invited the mayor as well as other local elected to attend. From 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., the bus will be driven to Dave Congalton’s radio show (920 AM). Admittance to the Mott Lawn event is free for students.
For more good neighbor tips visit www.mustangdaily.net

BUSH

continued from page 1

and extensions of unemployment benefits for the jobless. Bush said those changes "would delay it or defeat it and neither option is ac-
ceptable."

He also pushed Congress to extend his tax cuts, which are to expire in 2010, and said al-
lowing them to lapse would mean higher tax checks and money orders."

His speech lasted 53 minutes, interrupted fre-

He made no commitment about with-
drawing additional troops from Iraq, and he said Ben. David Petraeus, the top U.S. general there, has warned that pulling Americans out too quickly could undermine Iraqi forces, al-

Some may deny the surge is working," Bush said, "but among the terrorists there is no doubt. Al-Qaeda is on the run in Iraq and this enemy will be defeated.

Bush said the mission in Iraq has been hit hard, though "they are not yet de-
feated and we can expect tough fighting ahead."

There are 158,000 U.S. troops in Iraq, a number that is expected to drop to 135,000 by July. There are 28,000 in Afghanistan, the highest number of the war, which began there in October 2001. Congress, despite repeated attempts, has been unable to force troop with-
drawals or deadlines for pullbacks, and Iraq has receded as an issue in Washington. Aides had said Bush would not use the address as a summation of his time in office. But in his Feb. 2, turning to the phrase "over the past seven years" when talking about some of the most-portioned efforts of his administration: tax relief, federal involvement with religious charities, the global freedom agenda and in-
creased funding for veterans. A major challenge for Bush in his address was simply being heard when many Americans are already looking beyond him to the next president.

HERRERA

continued from page 1

to the fraternity and taking an un-

At Cal Poly, there are more than 2,000 students in the greek system, which is comprised of 20 frater-
nies, seven (soon to be nine) cultural and national sororities, and 11 culture-
based greek organizations.

"We educate each class by pre-

With the no-hazing taking effect, they recruited 18 new members this past fall. One of those new mem-
bers is Grant Bailey, an anti-hazing pledge class president of TKE and civil engineering freshman.

"I think there are many positive changes that have come and will come out of our fraternity having

ceded all hazing practices," Lopez said. "I have much more pride in our organization and it is allowing us to live up to the ideals of our founding fathers. Some of the things we did and other fraternities and sorori-
ties do are an embarrassment to the greek community and are where a lot of our negative image comes from. There is no excuse." Daniel Kim, a soil science senior

In the end, the Cal Poly chapter of TKE was not disbanded, as the hazing was self-reported. According to Herrera, all its members had a probate mark on their records.

These alleged marks and the volunteer hours the members were told to complete led many frater-
nity members to quit, Herrera said.

"When people left, it was sting-

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ties do are an embarrassment to the greek community and are where a lot of our negative image comes from. There is no excuse." Daniel Kim, a soil science senior

and Cal Poly Delta Chi associate member counselor, feels that hazing exists both inside and outside the greek community at Cal Poly.

"People automatically assume that only fraternities and sororities have hazing when the truth is that sports clubs, NCAA Sports and other clubs on this campus do haze; it is just not as publicly known," he pers-

People who are greek need to

"It is not easy to speak out against a topic that is kept under the rug, and I think outreach toward changing the culture should be acknowledged," Kim urged.

Herrera, now the role of IFC president in addition to being the rag and Advanc's effort toward changing the hazing culture should be acknowledged, Kim urged.

After all his experiences, Herrera has gained new perspectives and ex-
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Machete-wielding youths disrupt peace over Kenyan elections

Katharine Houreld
Associated Press

Thousands of machete-wielding youths hunted down members of President Mwai Kibaki's Kikuyu tribe Monday in western Kenya's Rift Valley, torching homes and buses, clashing with police and blocking roads with burning tires.

Witnesses described seeing two people pulled from cars and stoned to death, while another was burned alive in a minibus — the latest victims in a month of escalating violence triggered by a disputed presidential election.

The death toll has soared over 800.

"The road is covered in blood. It's chaos. Luos are hunting Kikuyus for revenge," said Baraka Karuma, a journalist for independent Kenya Television in Kisumu.

There was no sign of relief from international mediators trying to persuade politicians to resolve the crisis that has erupted over Kibaki's re-election in Dec. 27 balloting that international and local observers say was marred by a rigged vote tally.

Kibaki has said he is open to direct talks with opposition leader Raila Odinga, who is from the Luo tribe, but that his position as president is not negotiable. Odinga says Kibaki must step down or face a new election.

Acid-wielding youths disrupted peace over Kenya's elections in western parts of the country on Monday, torching homes and buses, clashing with police and blocking roads with burning tires.

The bloodshed has transformed this once-stable African country, pitting longtime neighbors against one another and turning tourist towns into no-go zones.

More than half the 255,000 people driven from their homes this month have been Kikuyus displaced in the Rift Valley.

"This is a land war," said Fred Mwai, 25, who was among 50 young men at a roadside of burned cars and uprooted lamp posts.

"I wish we could live one, a Kikuyu. ... We don't want Luos here," he said.

Kenya men from the Luo tribe armed with machetes and rocks enforce a make-shift roadblock, searching passing vehicles for Kikuyus trying to flee the town in order to kill them in Kisumu, Kenya.

"We want peace, but we (also) want to fight them," said Peter Mwangi, 20. "We don't want Luos here," he said.

"This is a land war," they cried, calling for revenge.

The Rift Valley is home to the Kalenjin and Masai ethnic groups. British colonizers seized large tracts of land to cultivate fertile farms there. After independence in 1963, President Jomo Kenyatta flooded reclaimed farmlands with his Kikuyu people, creating deep-seated resentment that exists to this day.

Kikuyus also are resented for their domination of politics and the economy, a success centered by endemic corruption and a patronage system where politicians favor their own ethnic group.

The bloodshed has transformed this once-stable African country, pitting longtime neighbors against one another and turning tourist towns into no-go zones.

Over the weekend, a gang of Kikuyus chased 19 people through a slum in Naivasha and trapped them in a shanty before setting it on fire, police commander Grace Kaki said. The victims were Luos. At least three other people were killed in the town over the weekend, District Commissioner Katee Mwanza said.

As youths set buses ablaze at Kisumu bus station Monday, police used tear gas, then opened fire. A morgue attendant said one man whose body was brought in had been shot in the back of the head. A school janitor also was killed by a stray bullet fired through a slum in Naivasha and trapped them in a shanty before setting it on fire, police commander Grace Kaki said. The victims were Luos. At least three other people were killed in the town over the weekend, District Commissioner Katee Mwanza said.

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Authorities have captured two dogs suspected of fatally mauling 32 goats kept inside a fenced enclosure.

Owner Elias Marzella found the dogs Sunday morning in the herd of 49 goats. A male pit bull and a female German shepherd mix were caught by an animal control officer and will likely be euthanized unless an owner is found, according to El Monte police Sgt. Jared Novak. The dogs were not wearing collars.

A third dog, also a German shepherd mix, escaped.

**POINT REYES STATION**

The plan to kill nonnative deer at Point Reyes National Seashore was scheduled to resume Monday morning.

The National Park Service has hired a hunting group to eliminate 1,200 fowl and wild deer that officials say threaten the region's native deer species.

The nonnative deer were introduced to the area in the 1940s and will likely be euthanized unless an owner is found, according to the San Francisco Zoo.

**RIVERSIDE**

The government has been trying to close Desert Mobile Home Park for several years because of alleged health and safety violations, including raw sewage in the streets, inadequate drinking water and aerty-rigged electrical system. Because the park is on Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indian land, it is exempt from state and local health and safety codes.

**SALT LAKE CITY**

 Thousands of believers were in mourning Monday following the death of Gordon B. Hinckley, the humble head of the Mormon church who added millions of new members and labored long to burnish the faith's image as a world religion. An announcement of his successor was not expected for days.

Hinckley, the 15th president of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, died Sunday of complications arising from age old heart disease, church spokesman Mike Otterson said. He was 91.

In a statement, President Bush praised Hinckley as a "deeply patriotic man."

**DETRIOT**

Christine Beatty, Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick's chief of staff, said Monday she is resigning amid allegations that she and the mayor lied under oath about an affair.

In a letter to Kilpatrick that was released by his office, Beatty said she believes she can no longer effectively carry out her duties. Her resignation takes effect Feb. 8.

"I painfully regret the devastation that the recent reports have caused to the citizens of Detroit, to my coworkers, to the mayor's family and to my family and friends," Beatty wrote in a letter.

**FARGO**

The 65-million-year-old fossilized hadrosaur found in North Dakota's Badlands a decade ago has been studied by paleontologists, who have found scans by NASA and filmed by students, according to the State Historical Society of North Dakota in Bismarck in early June.

**MEXICO CITY**

A man suspected of running over and killing a U.S. border agent has been held over for trial in Mexico on migrant smuggling charges.

The federal Attorney General's office announced late Sunday that a judge had ordered a trial for Jesus Navarro, 22. It did not say when his ruling was issued.

The agency said officials also believe that Navarro ran over U.S. border agent Luis Aguilar, but are still gathering evidence in that case.

**TORONTO**

Canada will extend its military mission in Afghanistan only if another NATO country puts more soldiers in the dangerous south, the prime minister said Monday, echoing the recommendation of an independent panel to withdraw without additional forces.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative government is under pressure to withdraw in 2005 before an election, and the international panel recommended earlier this month that NATO reduces its military presence in Afghanistan.

**PESHAWAR**

Pakistani officials said Monday that the number of Taliban fighters killed in a January attack has been increased to at least 36.

A Taliban official confirmed to The Associated Press that 36 fighters were killed in a January suicide bombing at a police station in the town of Bannu.

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In a daring ambush, insurgents blasted a U.S. patrol with a roadside bomb Monday and wounded survivors with gunfire from a mosque in the increasingly lawless Mosul. Five American soldiers were killed in the explosions — even as Iraqi troops moved into the northern city to challenge al-Qaeda in Iraq.

Iraqi reinforcements, along with helicopters, tanks and armored vehicles, converged on Mosul for what Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki pledged would be a decisive battle against al-Qaeda in its last major urban stronghold.

The attack on the U.S. patrol — the deadliest on American forces in Mosul in nearly a year — came nearly three months after a six-month cease-fire went into effect in February — a move that could jeopardize the security gains.

In Mosul, the attackers struck in the southwestern Sayid neighborhood, a middle-class district popular with former officers in Saddam Hussein's military and now a suspected hotbed for the insurgency.
Brian McMullen
MUSTANG DAILY

Read for a lesson in the fragility of the human body? "Rambo" can teach you everything you need to know.

If you're looking for an '80s formula action movie with modern special effects, this is it. And it is awesome. An intensely gory film depicting modern combat and the wretched condition of those living under a genocidal regime, "Rambo" should succeed in entertaining the action-film junkie while tugging gently on their heartstrings. And what's more, the anticipated cheesy ending is there, too.

It's no use to argue right out of the gate whether the acting in this movie is Oscar-worthy; no one expects that from "Rambo," or any Sylvester Stallone flick for that matter. You can, however, say that the acting sucks but is made bearable by the fact that not much speaking happens after the film is halfway through. You may walk away from this movie spouting off a couple key mush-mouth lines slipped by Stallone. But the words aren't at all powerful; it's the images that will stick with you.

Speaking of Stallone, the guy is huge. He is bigger in "Rambo" than in any of the "Rocky" movies, making for a truly amazing scene when he is running, or standing beside skinny dudes.

The story begins with John Rambo, a Vietnam War veteran and badass killing machine, living a simple life on the border of Burma, where a military-led genocide against Christian minority villages is occurring. The depiction of this genocide is horrific. In one scene, soldiers throw mines into a soggy rice field and then place bets and exchange money before sending captured village people running through the same field — gore ensues.

Back at his job capturing snakes for a venomous snake show, Rambo seems distant from the realities of the situation across the border until a group of Christian activists from Colorado show up and request he take them, by way of boat, into Burma so that they can deliver medicine and food to the affected villages.

A reluctant Rambo delivers the activists to Burma, but not before asking them if they brought guns with them. When their leader responds no, Rambo says, "Then you're not changing anything" — an instant cheese-ball classic.

While giving their humanitarian aid, the Christian activists are ambushed and abducted by the Burmese military. Then it's up to Rambo to save them, but not before some boring scenes that just seem to fill the time before the action occurs, which will most likely be skipped on the DVD version anyways.

To rescue the activists, Rambo and a small, ragtag group of mercenaries have to take on a platoon of 100 men. Rambo is way casual about this fact — he's done this one before, and he makes it look so easy.

What happens after Rambo and the mercenaries land in Burma is pure action-movie gold.

The Burmese soldiers you've grown to despise for their cruelty are brutally dismembered, disemboweled, beheaded and otherwise slain by sniper rifles, machine guns, combat knives and, let's not forget, Rambo's bare hands (Spoiler Alert: He literally rips out a man's jugular until his hair stands).

The special effects in creating the death scenes are top-notch. You may walk away from "Rambo" with some powerful images that will stick with you.
In a busy world, sometimes you need to remember what’s really important.

Reconnect with your faith once a week over espresso with other members of the Cal Poly and Cuesta Communities.

Café Cristiano is held in the Fellowship Hall at Zion Lutheran Church on Foothill at Santa Rosa — walking distance from Cal Poly.

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Faith Espresso

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Bored with facebook? www.mustangdaily.net
A tale of secrets and lies, race and sex

In 1997, Philip Roth published "American Pastoral," the first in his America trilogy, which examined the evolving socio-cultural-political landscape of the United States in the half-century following World War II. Next came "I Married a Communist" and then "The Human Stain" in 2000, ending the trilogy on an anguished and impassioned reading, "A HUMAN BEING LIVES HERE."" The Human Stain" is a work of both of rage and pitch-black humanity. Narrated by Roth's long-term literary alter ego, writer Nathan Zuckerman, the book begins in the summer of 1991 with the country on the verge of the Gulf War. After leaving the college, Silk embarks on an affair with Faunia Farley, an illiterate janitor half his age — a relationship which, in the eyes of the academic community, seems to confirm the worst about Silk. A tale of secrets and lies, race and sex.

Rambo continued from page 5

from this movie believing you have actually seen a man's head get blown off of his body. The movie definitely solidifies Rambo's place in the Hall of Badass, because no one can take out an entire platoon with as much precision and brutality as Rambo. Nobody. As far as gripes are concerned, it's really hard to complain about this movie if you have realistic expectations. You can't go into the theater expecting good acting, plot or an ending that's not somewhat laughable. The movie does have a couple of dull moments, but the action sequences more than make up for them.

And let's not forget that the movie does attempt at something more than entertainment. It juxtaposes the beauty of the Burmese countryside with the grotesque killing of innocent villagers in an attempt to strike within the viewers a tone of compassion. Mission successful. You will walk away from this movie satisfied that somewhere in the world, people are going through horrific genocides, but you will also be glad that Rambo brought justice in the form of .50 caliber bullets to this one small area of Burma.

---

Quentin Dunne is the psychology graduate student and Mustang Daily columnist.

Little Love Notes

Your message will run in the classified section of the Mustang Daily on Thursday, February 14.

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Top 10 ways to have a healthy Super Bowl

Here it comes again, that fantastic icon of American testosterone, the Super Bowl. Even if you don't like football, everyone can find some enjoyment in it by hanging out with friends, eating, and watching those ridiculous Super Bowl commercials. It is a day traditionally filled with nachos, beer, buffalo wings and just about any other fatty foods you can handle. There is one problem that we have to keep in mind: the post-Super Bowl food hangover. You had a fun day, but you are paying for it with your stomachaches and constant pondering of, "Why on earth did I eat that?"

Just to scare you a little, check out these post-game stats. For Super Bowl 2007, the average intake from kickoff to finish was 925 calories, along with 38 grams of fat and 890 milligrams of sodium. That is just under half of what you are supposed to eat in an entire day crammed into three hours of gorging.

I am here this week to help you and your guests avoid the post-Super Bowl regret by offering some healthy yet still fun ways to eat this coming Sunday.

1. Nachos

Always a crowd favorite, but they don't have to be as heavy. Try using reduced-fat cheese and baked chips for fewer calories and less fat.

2. Dips

Instead of using full-fat cheese and baked chips for fewer calories and less fat.

3. Fruit and veggie trays

Always a crowd favorite, but they don't have to be as heavy. Try making a southwestern salad. Not only is it super delicious, but it also packs a serious vitamin punch. With so many tomatoes and beans, chili has a lot of potential. Sideline those greasy buffalo wings and try making some chicken fingers. Just dip some chicken breast strips in milk and seasoned bread crumbs and throw them in the oven. Don't forget to put out honey mustard and barbecue sauce as well as some buffalo-style sauce for your guests that need the heat.

4. Pizza

Order a pizza with extra veggies and half the cheese on a whole-wheat crust. You could even save yourself some money and make your own.

5. Chili

With so many tomatoes and beans, chili has a lot of potential. With extra fiber and some B vitamins for an energy boost. Home-made fresh salsa is not only more delicious, but it also packs a serious vitamin C punch. Guacamole is a great source of potassium and the heathly type of fats called monounsaturated fatty acids.

6. Sandwiches

Instead of getting a big subsandwich, put out the ingredients for your guests to make their own. Use lean, low-sodium meats with reduced-fat cheese. Whole grain bread or tortillas are a good substitute for those huge French rolls. Make sure to include all of the veggies (lettuce, tomatoes, onions, pickles, roasted red peppers, sprouts, cucumbers) along with mustard and low-fat mayo.

9. Liquids

Try to drink soda, juice or water. If you choose to drink, pick a light beer, but don't get too crazy because you have school the next day!

10. Halftime Show

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Uncle Sam wants high school dropouts

Kia Makarechi

College students have long begrudged that an 18-year-old can fight and die for the country but not purchase a beer. Newly released statistics demonstrate that college students are among the lucky ones—a 18-year-old can fight and die for the country without finishing high school.

Less than a week ago, Time magazine published a story revealing a disturbing trend in recent army recruiting tactics.

The article, titled “Army Recruiting More Dropouts” (Jan. 23), cites a National Priorities Project report that analyzed the army’s most recent recruiting push. That the army is recruiting high school dropouts at alarming rates highlights two main facets of the American sentiment: that the army is desperate for recruits and resorting to unethical tactics targeting those with little education (and poor socioeconomic standing), and that affluent, educated Americans do not believe today’s wars are wars their children should fight.

The report is especially pertinent given that Los Angeles ranked third on the report’s list of cities ranked by raw number of recruits enlisted, with 917 in 2007.

According to the National Priorities Project report, the army is not only continuing to target the uneducated but also the fiscally dependent.

The most productive recruiting done is that on the fiscal group of family incomes of $45,000 to $50,000. The ratio of active-duty army recruits in the 18 to 24-year-old population in this group is more than tenfold that of families with incomes of $145,000 to $154,499.

The report also shows a steep, continuous drop in recruits as families move up the income spectrum. As the Time article puts it, “Recruits from families with annual incomes of $50,000 to $100,000 are over-represented in uniform ... while those from families earning more are under-represented.”

This dynamic connotes that the army is taking those who may have no choice — no access to education, bleak chances at a stable career, and that affluent, educated Americans do not believe today’s wars are wars their children should fight.

Further evidence of the military’s current problem is readily available.

An MSNBC.com article exposed the military as one of five groups of “STD Super-Spreaders,” in the company of convicts, ex-cons and intravenous drug users.

The report estimated that 2.5 percent of all female soldiers on active duty in Iraq have been infected with a sexually transmitted disease, and that viral infections are more common in the military than bacterial ones.

While correlation has not been reported, it seems likely that uneducated and lower-income recruits would fall prey to sexually transmitted diseases, given that lower-income and low education areas in the states themselves suffer from a similar trend.

According to a 2006 Centers for Disease Control study on STD’s, racial and ethnic minorities (among the poorest of Americans) were affected by “contributing factors including limited access to quality health care, poverty.”

Moral implications aside, it is not even in the best interest of the army to recruit what they themselves label “Low Quality Recruits.” According to a Department of Defense report cited by the National Priorities Project, a high school diploma “is the single best predictor of successful completion of a first term of enlistment.”

So when high school dropouts enlist, the army risks spending massive amounts of money (each successful recruiting attempt costs thousands of dollars) on recruits that are less likely to complete their tours.

The consequence is admittedly a highly complex one.

The facts are that America is fighting wars, and the army is failing to meet its army benchmarks, and that “high-quality” recruits are scarce.

However, adding these problems by compromising moral and civil responsibilities is hardly the solution.

Instead of continuing to prey on those with little education or fiscal access, the army should face the truth: the American public is not willing to fight wars they do not believe in.

Until policy changes, recruiting numbers will not rise.

Wealthy politicians will continue to speak of supporting the troops while shielding their own children from the firefight.

Army recruiters will swarm upon low-income areas.

Our nation’s uneducated and low-income young men and women will risk their lives for wars the rest of us choose not to fight — because we can.

Letter to the Editor

Police blotter:

Jan. 21, 2015: Officer pulls over Sahara Outback Wagon and issues citation to driver for parking in fire lane behind Tempe House. Suspect makes ridiculously calm and reasonable attempt to explain to officer that his younger sibling was simply being dropped off, hence the reason the car was still running, a passenger just exited the car, the driver was still behind the wheel, and the reverse lights were on. Officer, just doing his job to protect the student body, issues citation anyway.

Meanwhile, three cars are being broken into in the nearby parking lot, four dorm residents are smoking pot on top of the water tower and at least six rooms are participating in drinking games on the third floor of the Sierra Madre Residence Hall.

Ben Tursor
Civil engineering junior

This guy is totally right. There’s no way to rationalize and ultimately rate entirely subjective (and sometimes really stupid) criteria such as “who’s more now” or “the greatest highlight” because there simply is no right answer. And as someone who also religiously watches the network, I feel qualified (as is Harbeck) in saying that such trivial spectacles are best reserved for the depths of the most mundane sports talk shows. The real bummer about the whole thing is that they’re wasting time and money putting together the flashy montages that comprise these spectacles when they could be better using their resources to cover sports that don’t get much face-time on the network, such as skateboarding. Instead, those sports are relegated to pay-per-channels such as Rush HD. Good Column.

———

Response to “ESPN just isn’t the same today”

I have never been so struck to read a sports article. Passion is persuasion... Thanks for the read.

——— Tara Cohen
Response to “Commentary: Chargers not guilty of changes”
Girls & Sports by Justin Borus and Andrew Feinstein

ARE YOU GUYS COMING TO MY SUPER BOWL PARTY? WE’RE HAVING A BEST COMMERCIAL CONTEST.:

HALFTIME: FORGET ABOUT THE COMMERCIALS, WATCH THE GAME, NOT THE COMMERCIALS!

WE CAN’T WAIT FOR SUNDAY, RAIDERS. YEAH, CAN WE DO SOMETHING?

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NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION WEEK • CAL POLY
Benfield continued

from page 12

with the school." Her father explained that he stressed "family" to his daughter when she was deciding on a school. "Cal Poly will be a part of her forever and so you have to look at it like family, you treat them like family and they will treat you well. Every time I talk to her she's telling me how much fun she's having.

Gloria herself said that coming to Cal Poly was the best thing that's ever happened to her. "I've never been bored since I've been here," she said. "I've found some of my decision to come to Cal Poly on swimming, but the program is really just developing. Tom (Milich) is a new coach and I really like what he does."

Benfield thought Cal Poly was a nice change of pace, as UNLV is more city-like. "I thought I needed a change, she said. "Plus, here they have my major, kinesiology, and I really like the program." Milich added.

"Obviously, her ability to compete is her biggest asset," Milich said. "She's so versatile that she can swim the 200 fly, the 100 fly, the 200 free, the 500 free, the 400 individual medley and the 200 IM, so she adds a lot of versatility to the team."

Milich said Benefield's bubbly personality adds to her success.

"One of the key characteristics of a great swimmer is that they enjoy what they're doing out there most of the time," he said. "She's always up and having fun."

Benfield says the key to her success is her simple love for the sport. "I love coming in and training fast — that's the big thing, training fast," she said. "It just takes so much mental strength to go in there and do it every single day."

"Trying to swim fast isn't the only thing that keeps Benefield enthused about the sport. "If that was all I was doing, just swimming for the time, I don't think it would be worth it," she says.

Team camaraderie is another reason Benefield enjoys swimming so much. "We just have that great brother-sister relationship with everyone, which is really nice," she explained. "I definitely don't think of swimming as an individual sport. If I didn't have my team behind me, there's no way I would have gotten where I am today."

Melody White, a friend and teammate of Benefield, spoke about a trait of hers that doesn't translate into the water. "She can be kind of a klutz sometimes," White said. "She's consistently said the same thing."

"I'm a klutz, so I hurt myself a lot. Just this morning I almost slipped and hit my knee," she said. "I've had shoulder problems, back problems, all there is."

"Her down-to-earth personality, immense dedication and focus are all factors that seem to equate to a successful future, Milich said.

"She's just starting to reach her potential," he said. "She had a great summer, but I think that the next four years will make her even better."

"When asked about her personal goals, one thing came to her mind instantly. "Everyone has the goal to make the Olympics," Benefield said. "Obviously it's going to be really tough in 2008. There's a lot of competition out there, but to get there and get one of the best times — that would be very nice as far as short-term goals go. But in the long run, I'm hoping to make top-32 in 2012."

A premier swimmer for women is starting at Cal Poly. 

Basketball

continued from page 12

The winning effort revolved around two key team statistics. Cal Poly outscored the Aggies in fast-break points 10-0, and the Mustangs' bench outscored the Aggies in fast-break points 10-0, and the Mustangs' bench

The Central Coast Volunteer Corps is still accepting applications for the next corps team. The application deadline is Thursday, March 6, 2008. Interested students should email Nancie Hill at nanciehill@calpoly.edu. The Mustangs will also be looking to make history, as Cal Poly has never started a conference schedule 6-2.
Local prep star commits to Cal Poly

Logan Budd may be new to the Cal Poly football program, but it's not so new to him.

"The quarterback, defensive back and kicker from nearby Morro Bay High committed Sunday to play for Cal Poly on a partial-scholarship package, he said Monday.

Budd, who led the Pirates this past season to their first league title since 1971, was named the San Luis Obispo County Player of the Year and the CIF-Southern Section Northwest Division co-Offensive Player of the Year.

After visiting the Cal Poly campus Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings, he said, he elected to stay close to home.

"I grew up going to (Cal Poly) games," Budd said. "Since I was little, I always enjoyed it. ... (On the visit) I was excited the whole time."

For Budd's family, his going to Cal Poly makes perfect sense.

"It was his school of choice," said Budd's mother, Karen Jackson. "He's been going to Cal Poly events since he was a little person."

Born in San Luis Obispo, Budd has set foot on the Cal Poly campus for events ranging from shows to baseball camps. He said he also decided to become a Mustang because of the school's academic programs, through which he is considering majoring in agribusiness or forestry and natural resources management.

"He knows what a wonderful reputation the school has," Jackson explained. "He's seen people get their (bachelor's) degrees and master's degrees (there)."

The 6-foot-2, 185-pound jack-of-all-trades mastered the field in 2007, leading the Los Padres League in passing, rushing, scoring, yards per punt, total offense, points after touchdown and — defensively — interceptions.

As a senior, he completed 56 percent of his passes for 1,668 yards and 16 touchdowns with one interception, and compiled 189 carries for 1,369 yards and 22 touchdowns. Defensively, he intercepted nine passes, which he returned for 779 yards and a touchdown. On special teams, he made seven field goals and four extra points, and 24 of his 69 kickoffs went for touchbacks.

He also averaged 40.3 yards per punt in his final prep season.

Morro Bay went 11-0 before falling in overtime to St. Bernard in the second round of the playoffs, 48-43.

For three years in high school, Budd said, he operated a spread option not too dissimilar to Cal Poly's triple option.


As such a versatile force, though, Budd says he'd be more than willing to play any number of positions.

"Cal Poly has a bunch of different positions (to play), and I would love to play any of them," he said.

He added that he may redshirt his first year to "let (his) body mature," but that such a decision would ultimately be up to his coaches.

According to the recruiting service Scout.com, Idaho, Northern Arizona, San Diego State, San Jose State, Utah State and Washington State expressed interest in Budd, while Rivals.com additionally listed Utah, Wyoming, Boise State and UC Davis among his suitors.

San Jose State, Utah State and Idaho showed strong interest, Budd said, but Cal Poly was the only school to offer him an official visit.

"(Cal Poly) has a great set of coaches," Jackson said, "praising their breadth of experience."

Part of what won the family over, Jackson added, was that the tour was given on Thursday, Friday and Saturday "so (they) could see the campus alive."

Of the 101 players on Cal Poly's roster last season, seven hailed from San Luis Obispo County.

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KALI BILLS MUSTANG DAILY

Mustangs look to build on clutch performance

January was a tale of two months for the Cal Poly women's basketball team. It was the best of times — a 4-0 start to Big West Conference play, their best conference start in 28 years. And it was the worst of times — a three-game losing streak including a loss to rival UC Santa Barbara and a one-point overtime defeat at Pacific.

But the Mustangs were able to end the month on a good note by defeating UC Davis 62-61 Saturday thanks to senior guard Sparkle Anderson's put-back in the lane with 1.3 seconds left.

In arguably her best game of the season, Anderson led Cal Poly (8-12, 5-2 Big West) with team highs of 18 points and eight assists.

Trailing 59-57 with 1:14 left, Anderson made a free throw to cut the lead to one. The ensuing Aggie possession resulted in a pair of their own free throws, extending the lead to 61-58 with 27 seconds left.

Refusing to go quietly, Anderson drove through the lane to score on a lay-up. UC Davis was unable to inbound the ball in five seconds, committing a turnover that led to the last-second heroics.

The Mustangs missed three game-winning attempts in the closing seconds before Anderson corralled the final rebound to put in the game-winning basket. The victory was Cal Poly's first at UC Davis (10-9, 4-3 Big West) since 1988.

The game was tight throughout, with nine ties and seven lead changes. The largest lead was at halftime, when Cal Poly finished on a 5-0 run to lead the locker room ahead 35-27.

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