

Why carry guns? If it ain't broke, don't fix it

EDITOR:

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it," would be my short answer for why our campus police officers should continue to not carry lethal weapons.

But I have strong personal reasons as well, relating to me nearly killing a loved one. Jim is not the loved one, just a classmate I used to wrestle with in eighth grade, who will reappear late in this tale of love, passion and violence.

It all started innocently enough. I was about 17, trying to study. My mother was in the next room watching TV. It was on too loud. I've forgotten if she ignored a polite request to turn it down or if I was just being a brat (probably, the latter).

In any case, I pulled the plug,

which was in my room. She plugged it back in and went to watch, whereupon I again unplugged it, whereupon she re-entered my room and began hitting my face.

I grabbed her wrists to prevent her from hitting me. My beloved father, hearing the commotion, then entered the fray. He demanded I let my mother go. I refused until she agreed to stop hitting me.

Not good enough! He judo-chopped my wrists, which was totally inconsistent with our relationship. So now he and I started scuffling, again totally inconsistent with the loving, nonviolent, relationship he had done so much to nurture.

He had about a 50-pound weight advantage on me, so I think it surprised us both that I was able to send him sprawling all the way across my bed and into the bed headboard that we had spent many

hours crafting. He got up dazed and lunged at me. Again, I handled him surprisingly easily, this time sending him crashing through a window on another side of the room!

I could have easily ended the fight right then, pushing his head down quickly so that the few jagged glass shards still vertical would slit his throat. I recoiled on seeing how easy it would be to kill him. I decided I would do nothing more except protect myself.

I covered my face and gut and said, "Go ahead. Beat the s---t out of me!" He did hit me again and again and again and again, but between every blow, he sobbed uncontrollably. I learned that day how easily violence escalates and takes people to places they could hardly imagine. My pacifism started that day. It hasn't always been easy. A year later, a military science cadet

mistakenly believed I had expropriated his ROTC cap. When I said I hadn't, he slapped me hard in the face. It hurt, but I just stared at him. He slapped me in the face again with equal force. When I did not meet his violence with my own, he skulked away muttering.

Of course, I was familiar with the successes of Gandhi in India and Martin Luther King here, but it was only on that day that I personally was witness to the power of nonviolence.

What does Jim, my old wrestling buddy, have to do with all this? Well, he grew up around guns, so it was not surprising that he distinguished himself in Vietnam. One night after his return, there was a get-together at his house. After a while he wanted everyone to leave. To eliminate the sass factor, to show folks that he was serious, he pro-

duced a gun. There was a scuffle and in the end, Andy, a kid who grew up one house away from me, lay dead.

Violence escalates to terrible places. One reads frequently in the newspapers of unarmed people being shot dead by well-trained police officers. With our officers unarmed, we have not encountered such tragedies. Why risk it?

One reason I have heard is that most Bay Area college campuses have armed their officers. Do those campuses have the same pacific campus we do?

And just because others are doing something doesn't mean we should, too. Let us be the beacon on the hill - literally!

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NEWS

Geekster rap at Ohlone

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science and technology cater to people's thoughts and intellect, said Bajaj. When he decided to make a video, he thought of Ohlone. "Neil responded quickly," said Bajaj. "Having an academic environment is more conducive to the process."

Strudwick thought the idea was a good one. "I think it's a cool idea, I listened to the music and thought it was cool." He has enjoyed working with Bajaj, "He is very open minded, takes suggestions well."

Although Strudwick is a new multimedia instructor who took over the class in January, he is well versed in art design. He was one of the creator's of Pac Man 3-D and redesigned the Pac Man logo. He has extensive experience in the video game industry.

The students are thrilled to be working on the CD. Modeling and animation are difficult and a chance to work on something like this is a great experience, said Strudwick. He is also working with Gary Kauf in the broadcasting department to create a new logo identity for Ohlone TV Channel 28.

You can buy his CD at Amazon.com or at RLPKrecords.com. Cost is \$11.98. Here are the lyrics from one of the cuts:

Enjoy the Ride

In a machine made of silicon and steel
My brothers in mechanical, electrical and chemical field
Created a chip with 50 million transistors
Lots of capacitors and resistors
CPU, math coprocessor and graphics engine
Rely on transistor switching fine
It takes electrons flowing across the gate
A short distance from source to drain
A journey obviously not made in vain

Chorus

Sit back enjoy the ride
Computer geeks have arrived

The internet is a creation devine;
Plumbing every line;
modem, Router; cable network and wireless
put together to criss-cross the globe
round the world criss cross the globe
WAN and LAN, WAP and SAP
Stop and think
How the world shrinks
Stop and think
How the computer blinks

It's an on demand world now;
Do you want me to show you how
User-interface, middleware and backend combine
To make communication across platforms flowing fine
Fine you chech my rhyme, I got no time to stand in line
(No no no no...)

Sit back enjoy the ride
Computer geeks have arrived

I pack more heat in a computer chip than any man
there is more than most can handle
the trick is to protect the circuit and conduct the heat
without causing to short circuit

Hot electrons can ruin my day
Switch the transistor to go the other way
I make my software self healing
To prevent such a calamity from dealing
A deadly blow to my directory root
If all else fails... YO. REBOOT

Sit back enjoy the ride
Computer geeks have arrived x 5



Photo by David Mohammadi

Play and classroom area at new Child Development Center is bright and airy. The building was dedicated Wednesday evening.

Ohlone board dedicates child center

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ing room to discuss issues ranging from the new Newark Ohlone Center to the 2004-2005 financial report.

Vice President of Business Services Deanna Walston hopes to award a bid on the New Newark Ohlone site ultimately by 2007 and would like to have it open by fall of that year. Walston introduced architects Karen Cribbins-Kuklin and Keven Olcott, who displayed a blueprint of the planned Newark center.

Trustee Robert Brunton raised concerns over putting the building on the most valuable parts of the site. The board voted to increase the architects' contract by \$202,149 and the Newark Center package received only one "nay."

The board also voted to fill two new positions: the Director of Institutional Research and Director of

Grants.

The board then considered the 2004-05 financial report. Trustees looked closely at enrollments and the amount of revenue coming in and increased revenue projections. Certain categories of revenue have declined.

Trustees said the college may not have reached its target of student enrollment, so the board hopes to reduce the budget by \$438,000. The board approved the report unanimously.

Trustee Brunton used a recent development in Hayward to illustrate the value of an elected board. He said CSU Hayward changed its name to CSU East Bay, "even though the students were opposed to it and the faculty was opposed to it, and the people of Hayward were opposed to it, but their board, who isn't elected, unanimously changed it."

Pell Grant outlook is clarified

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ing others completely.

Most of the affected will be students whose family income ranges from \$35,000 to \$40,000, Staff Director of the Advisory Committee on Financial Assistance Brian Fitzgerald said.

Jacqueline Bradley said California schools do not need to worry.

California community college students' fees per unit were recently increased so much that even if Pell Grants lower the amount of financial aid, there would

be "no penalty," Bradley said. Unit fees were increased from \$11 to \$26 last fall.

"[The changes] won't affect California schools much," Bradley said.

Congress maintained the maximum amount for Pell Grants at \$4,050. Students will not be receiving more money from the Pell Grants; the additional funding is intended to satisfy the growing number of applicants.

Bradley said that despite the current circumstances, it is never too late for students to apply for financial aid.