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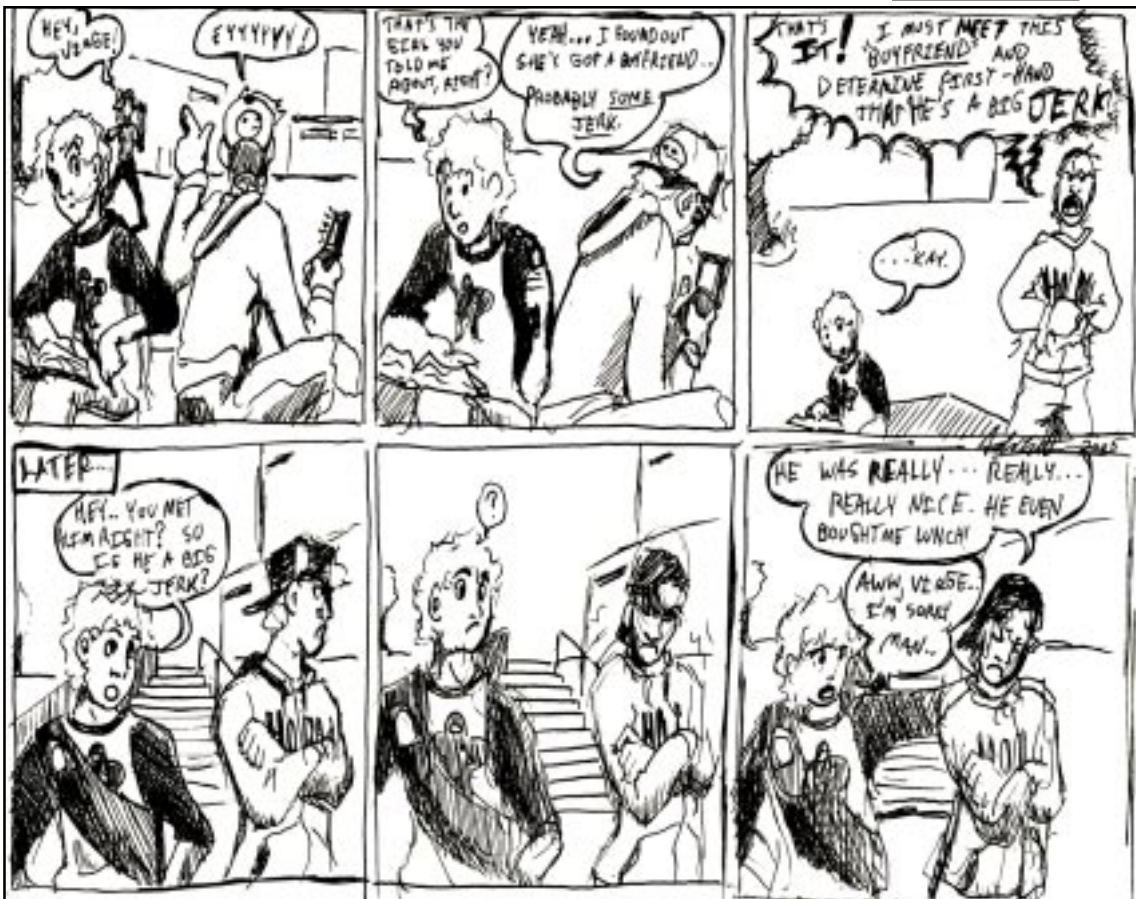


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OPINION

Military recruiters should not be allowed to persuade on campus

By CAMERON WILBERT
Staff writer

Over the last few semesters I have noticed that there have been more and more military recruiters on campus. I have observed Army, Navy, and Marine recruiters talking to students and passing out pamphlets. I myself find this very disturbing and feel that it should be banned for several reasons.

Now, I know that there are legal statutes that allow these recruiters to be on campus and speak to whom ever they please. I respect that, however, I think we need to reevaluate and reconsider these statutes to see who is actually benefiting; is it the students or the government.

First and foremost, I believe that the students attending community colleges are getting younger and younger. Many college freshmen aren't even 18 yet. The greater number of which are still very inexperienced, immature and uncertain about where their goals and future lie. Not to mention that by their second semester a number of these students are barely staying afloat, and looking for any reason to drop out. For a recruiter, this student would be a prime target. These recruiters use every means of bait, including things like education, financial stability, future and everything else, except what they are really recruiting the student to be, which is a soldier or officer.

Today's youth are so easily swayed

and so fickle when it comes to making decisions that when someone in a position of power approaches them, they become very vulnerable. Knowing this, these recruiters try to use it to their advantage by prying and pressuring the students day in and day out, month after month. I am saying this because I have seen it happen with my own friends. They would say things like "this guy just doesn't quit, he calls at least three times a week."

Now for the parents, how do you feel about your teenage young adult who is not fond of college and is mainly going because they still live with you; having to undergo these pressures? Another reason these recruiters shouldn't be allowed to recruit on col-

lege campuses is because these days many high school students are taking advanced courses on college campuses like Ohlone, which count toward college credit. This would leave them open to be approached and persuaded by a recruiter before they have even gotten to college or the legal age to enlist. Now I highly doubt these recruiters ask every young adult they talk to how old they are and if they do, they wait until they're done with their persuasion pitch.

My first main objection is that if young adults are in school working hard and trying their best to keep up, why would we allow outside influences such as the Air Force, Navy, Army, and the Marines a chance to

sway them from what they have already decided or have not, but are working on it. My second main objection is that I am sick of these recruiters talking to students about how the military offers you so much education, financial backing and a secure future. They completely avoid the fact that they are recruiting you as a soldier and your prime objective when the time comes is to kill other human beings in some way shape or form, whether it is in hand-to-hand combat or on a Navy ship. I think there are others out there that feel the same way I do and think that these recruiters should not be allowed on campus. I am just the first to voice my opinion.

The three tiers of school that apply to just about every aspect of society

By JAMES HENDRA
Staff writer

In every school, you find a group of kids, that whether they want to or not... simply do not fit in. What usually happens is that there are three segments of students at any school, and indeed in every society. There are the popular people. You know these people as preppy, jocks, or any form of other social icon. The other two tiers of society always look up to these people, looking for a chance to elevate themselves, to gain the opportunity to get to

know these people and not just show them a blind eye.

The middle tier belongs to two different types of people, who are both totally ignored, but, at the same time, not ridiculed by the tier above them. This tier belongs to the normal and semi-intellectuals. These people usually corroborate information and relations with all the tiers. These people are usually the ones who aren't sent to the office for any reason or another, they are the quiet ones. The ones no one really hears about... unless you belong to their particular group. You can see

this tier as the people who go to social events, but don't really do anything, or are really outgoing but don't really do much outside their group.

The last tier, the one everyone ridicules, or jokes, or sometimes, just sneer at, are the intellectuals and the nerds. These people (when they hit high school) usually are the people that have pocket protectors, thick glasses, or just some weird thing that they like that sets them apart from the rest of the people.

What I really like about schools now is that more people are being encouraged to be included in so many things,

that it is difficult to find much difference between people at all. Most of the time you cannot even find ethnic separation in the tiers.

I am currently involved with a group that has no formal meeting, no formal leader (yet) and no formal meeting place. We meet in the cafeteria every day, and play a multitude of games. Most of them are card-related, and all of them fun. When we all get together, we take up a good quarter of the seating down there. Many of the games are made up, though most of them can be purchased, or bought into.

This part of geekness evolves from the massive oppression that was placed on us from the upper tiers, and from many, many years trying to figure out who we are, and how to have fun without "them." This happened in many ways, most of which I am involved with. Some turned to petty aggressions, and other ways of "sticking it to them," in any way they could. Others turned to the many forms of video and card entertainment: Formulated into Magic, The Gathering and others. The nerds stood together and always will.

CAMPUS COMMENT >>>

What does the day 4/20 represent to you?



AAISHA KHAN
Nursing

"Didn't Columbine happen on today?"



LISA TRUDEL-MORANO
Athletic Training

"The day of the Health Fair."



FARIAH MAQDPPR
Nursing

"Happy High Day"



MARK CHOW
Industrial Design

"A good day to look at a new life."



OMAR CARDIN
Engineering

"It's Smokers Holiday... People get together on 4/20 'n smoke."