

# What we need, see, is some personal combat

By **GABRIEL VILA**  
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What ever happened to honorable singles combat?

Let me explain myself.

Ok. Take the current political situation with Scooter Libby and Karl Rove, and how nobody is able to pin anything on this administration.

Now, while it's nice and all to see Patrick Fitzgerald tag someone in the upper echelons of government (Libby was, after all, aide to Dick Cheney), it seems to be that a much easier and more expedient form of political maneuvering would be to call out the Vice President or Rove in honorable singles combat, say for instance; pistols at dawn, or swords at high noon, or

even (and this is a stretch) silent ninja combat by moonlight.

It would be much more epic at any rate. The news media would have a field day.

Which, really, brings me to my point: that our nation's news services have nothing, and I mean NOTHING to say, especially for 24 hours at a time.

Do you ever get the chance to watch CNN, C-span, or even the BBC? These are people who have to fill a day's worth of news; CBS, ABC, and NBC have a hard enough time filling 22 minutes three times a day on their networks.

Take for instance the recent hurricanes. How many people did you see on the ground out there doing nothing but talking about how bad the storm was, and just how bad the

wind was?

Or how about the recent Bush-Supreme Court nominations; breaking reports about lunch breaks? "News Flashes" about possible later "News Flashes"? And the constant struggle to get new news; don't important stories get left in the dust, unresolved?

Correct me if I'm wrong, but I seem to remember something about a war in Afghanistan. How's that going? In fact, I seem to remember that there was still bad news in Iraq. How are our soldiers doing over there? Better still, wasn't there this guy, Saudi oil billionaire, this tall Arab man on dialysis... what was his name again? Osama Bin what-was-that? Where's that guy at?

And the sensationalism of trials that no one really should care about.

I do not give two hairs off a camel's ass about Michael Jackson's hobbies. That's his business and the business of the children and families he may have offended. And while I don't mean to belittle such tortured persons as Terri Schaivo, it seems a greater disrespect to plaster their faces across a nation's television screens and to dishonor their personal struggles with trite clichés than to admit that I honestly do not care, and would not care if I had never heard of these people.

Really, honorable singles combat is the number one solution to an industry plagued with misinformation and maligned with a crippling dependency on the government's table scraps. If, instead of engaging in war with Iraq, President Bush had instead requested a no-holds-

barred cage match with Saddam Hussein, wouldn't that spike ratings through the roof? I know I would be watching, that would be better than UFC. Of course, looking at how the way the news networks currently work, it seems more likely that the fight would be aired... and then replayed again and again throughout the day with different commentators saying the same things over and over again.

This is why I read newspapers (not to shamelessly plug the *Monitor*). I get the news in an easy-to-digest format that I can dispose of at my leisure, and I can pick and choose what I want to read and what I want to use as papier mache. That, and I get to read excellently worded and interesting opinion articles.

## Ohlone incident in court

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his ex-girlfriend and, concerned about the situation, the officers requested he meet with Associate Vice President of Student Services Ron Travenick for further counseling. Dawson and Peralta then followed Rodriguez from a distance up to Travenick's office. They said they did this to avoid causing a scene and potentially embarrassing Rodriguez.

Once in the office, Travenick and Rodriguez talked calmly. The absence of an interpreter didn't seem to cause a problem.

According to police reports, suddenly, Rodriguez raised his arm at Travenick as if meaning to strike him. The two officers quickly restrained Rodriguez and told him that they would use pepper spray, as the campus police do not carry handcuffs or firearms, if he resisted further. He complied with the officers' orders and was officially arrested.

He was charged with three misdemeanors: attempted assault, disturbing the peace and obstructing a police officer in duty.

Rodriguez's lawyer, Austin Thompson, argued in the Fremont Hall of Justice that his client's request, known as a motion to suppress, was valid because the campus police arrested Rodriguez before his officially recorded arrest when they asked him to exit the weight room and when they accompanied him up the campus to Tranenick's office.

He also attested that the arrest was illegal because Rodriguez was not read his Miranda rights and there was no paperwork.

Judges Donald Squires did not accept Thompson's defense and denied the motion to suppress.

Officer Peralta said, "The police on campus have a dual role to fill, as officers and as councilors." Up until the official arrest, the police say they were acting in the role of councilors and no illegal arrest took place.

Judge Squires described the issue as being "gray," when denying Rodriguez's motion, because it was not clearly proven that the officers were acting in a police role, arresting Rodriguez.



More than 400 students jammed the gym for the World Forum on Wednesday.

*Photos by Daniel Kwan*

## Ohlone speaker explains African poverty

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so than other places," said M'Panya. "All of North America, South America, Russia and Europe would all fit inside the continent of Africa. So why would such a large continent with so much land not be able to feed its people?"

This question was answered by a detailed breakdown, particularly three main reasons why there wasn't enough food on the continent.

Climatic conditions was one reason. "Most people think Africa has many lush rain forests, but only 25 percent of Africa is jungle with the rest being more like a desert," said M'Panya. He also said that even the rain forest is not fit for agriculture because most of the rainwater is absorbed by tree trunks and not distributed in the soils, making the land useless for farming.

"African people became hunter gatherers, as if they knew the land could not provide well. But animals provide only a small portion of the food," said M'Panya.

Colonization by western imperialists was the second reason given



Mutombo M'Panya speaks in Ohlone gym.

by M'Panya as to why food was scarce. "When the Europeans came, they thought that there is plenty of land here for agriculture, but that

wasn't true. They changed land ownership from communal to individual ownership, in order to use the land as a cash crop system for

commercial interests."

Slavery and forced labor was the third reason given as to why Africans suffer today with hunger. "Men were used in plantations instead of on the farm working to bring food."

During the question and answers session, Wayne Yuen, professor of philosophy, asked M'Panya, "What kinds of charities can help build a sustainable Africa?"

M'Panya said anyone who could help Africa in the long term was welcome. "Help by doing something that will help long-term, not something that is using a mask. The way to bring down poverty is to educate the people how to properly grow their own food, not by handing food out. In this case, I don't call this charity, but a local investment."

This was the third World Forum since President Doug Treadway launched the series last year.

M'Panya, a PhD in Planning and Management of Natural Resources from the University of Michigan, is originally from The Congo (Zaire), is a fellow of the Kellogg Institute and works with many African NGO's.

## Ohlone students to protest Powell visit

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and involvement on veterans disability and deaths due to the Gulf War Syndrome, caused by the exposure of depleted uranium," said De Anza MECHA President Anthony Choice.

Choice is also a long time Native American activist and will coordinate with the De Anza Students for Justice protests. "We call on Ohlone students to take a stance against injustice. The time is ripe for speaking out. Enough is enough and nothing is going to happen unless we the youth stand up and refuse oppression in our name," said Choice.

Ohlone students from the MSA, MECHA and others have been invited

to attend a mock war crimes tribunal on Thursday at De Anza's Conference Room A and B from 1:30 to 5 p.m., which will move in front of the Flint Center on campus where Powell will speak. "Students should voice their opinion to make a big impact," said Ohlone business major Moayad Amer, who will be at the demonstrations. "They have a strong position in society, and could change the minds of those in charge. It's good for students to protest because they could one day be sent and get killed themselves."

Those interested in participating or attaining more information about the event can call (650) 879-0778 or email [rend58@peoplepc.com](mailto:rend58@peoplepc.com).