Kicking Up Their Heels

By Howard Oliver

L ife for Cal State Hayward student Jason Graves has been placed on a

definite pause by a telephone message: "The unit has been called to standby status.

This is not for me. I live in Hayward, I don't

want to leave."

Time is anyone for young men and

women enlisted in the U.S. military. Civilian among us earn sixty catch

words, both in the media and in civilian life. It is the element that

ought to be kept in mind, that thirty-year-old male that is to be

thought of first and foremost. It is another world, the one where men and

women enlist in the military, knowing that their lives are not in their own hands.

The military is a world apart, a world where

the idea of "responsible" is transformed into "obligation." It is a place where

one is given the role of a soldier, and there is no turning back.

Jason Graves, a student at Cal State Hayward, has been called to stand-by status.

The unit that Graves belongs to is the 4th Infantry Division, which has been deployed

to Iraq for the past six months.

"I was called to stand-by status," Graves said. "I was given a phone call last week saying

that my unit had been called to stand-by status."

Graves, who is a senior at Cal State Hayward, said that he was surprised to hear

that his unit had been called to stand-by status.

"I thought it was a joke," Graves said. "I called my friends and family, and they

were all in the same situation."

Graves said that he was given a period of time to prepare for the deployment,

and that he was given a week to pack and get ready.

"I was given a week to pack and get ready," Graves said. "I have been preparing for

this for a long time, and I am ready to go."