City Council cracks down on parking violators

Parking manager hopes increase will deter downtown employees from space hopping

By Britt Fekete
Daily Staff Writer

Students, shoppers and downtown employees will soon pay more for violating parking regulations downtown.

In a 4-1 vote Tuesday night, the San Luis Obispo City Council passed an ordinance which will raise the cost of the street parking fines in order to deter people, mainly employees, from parking in convenient spots all day long, limiting parking for other downtown workers.

The increased fines will be effective beginning April 1. The parking structure rates will remain the same.

Now, a regular citation will cost a parking violator anywhere from $2 to $20. The ordinance will raise the fines between $2 and $15, depending on the violation. Also under the ordinance, drivers who back into parking spaces will have to answer to a $15 fine.

The money generated from the fines will go to the parking manager to pay for additional enforcement officers.

"There have been a lot of issues downtown," Mayor Martin Opalewski said. "We've gone to the point of going undercover, plain clothes, plain cars, and essentially they just come and move the car, and it really defeats our purpose."

A new requirement will force drivers to re-park at least 500 feet (150 meters) from their original spot when the time limit expires.

"By requiring the vehicle to move 150 meters, it will make it difficult for the employee and that's the focus," Opalewski said. "It is to basically deter the employee from parking long-term in convenient spaces."

He said they will mark blocks to help people save time and move their cars.

Presentation raises eating disorder awareness

By Mark Harts
Daily Staff Writer

The Cal Poly Panhellenic Council held a free program on eating disorders Tuesday night entitled "Friends Not Foes: Eating Disorders Who Lead."

Kristen Carnes and Stephanie Shanley, speech communications majors, put on the program as their senior project with the intent of educating people on-campus and the general public about eating disorders. Shanley's concentration is health communications.

"The program was good," said Erin Silva, nutritional science junior. "It wasn't preachy I think that people here who have eating disorders would be interested in this."\n
Mary Kunz, an intern at the Eating Assessment and Treatment Center in San Luis Obispo (EAT SCO), spoke about her own battle with an eating disorder at a young age. She was teased as a child for being too skinny, and then contracted German Measles which decreased her weight even more. Her doctor then told Kunz's parents to force her to eat, and she gained 40 pounds in two years.

Kunz went back to her doctor for being overweight, and he told her to go on a diet. That's when her anorexia and bulimia disorders started. Kunz said she turned herself around eight years ago.

"People with eating disorders tend to be really good people," Kunz said. "But they tend to have Attila the Hun inside them—the journey to freeing themselves is hard."

The audience at the program consisted primarily of sorority members. Each sorority was required to attend the meeting, or she would lose her title. Kunz said she and every student athlete began their program with a free session with the sorority members. Those who attended completed an EAT SCO-sponsored screening survey to determine whether they possessed any of the symptoms which can lead to an eating disorder.

Carnes said she would have liked to see more student athletes and freshmen from the dorms show up because they are at high risk for eating disorders.

"From our survey we get a very small proportion of the entire campus especially because it's not a random sample," she said. "Basically sorority women and some athletes were the majority of the people that showed up tonight."

CETI talks continue

By Ryan Becker
Daily Staff Writer

California State University has resumed negotiations to create a technology partnership with four major corporations, and Cal Poly students and faculty are preparing for a final review of the unprecedented proposal.

Samuel Abere, ASI Technology Committee board member, said ASI still has some reservations about the plan. "We are looking at student issues that will be affected by this," Abere said. "The final business document is supposed to be released by next month."

The plan—called the California Education Technology Initiative, or CETI—outlines an alliance between the CSIU and GTE, Microsoft, Hughes Communications and Fujitsu. The partners would create a for-profit company to finance and maintain a high-speed, high-capacity technology network on CSU campuses.

Negotiations between CSU officials and the four companies resumed earlier this month.

The private-sector partners plan to raise $300 million within three years to finance the system.

here she is, Miss America

Miss America 1998, Kate Shindle, spoke about HIV prevention at the 2nd annual HIV Educational Summit in Chumash Auditorium yesterday.

Rojas D. Dominguez, a health educator at Cal Poly, estimates that she sees between six and 10 people a week about eating disorders, but said this averages on the low side for the country. She said most women with eating disorders are perfectionists and driven high-achievers. She also feels the media has a lot to do with the problem.
California technology funds aren’t replaced by CETI funds,” Aborn said. “We want the state to keep funding technology.”

CSET officials say those concerns will be addressed as negotiations continue to unfold.

The Chancellor’s Office expects to have a hard copy version of the plan available for review on or near March 1. After the complete plan is drafted, campuses will have 30 days to review the proposal and make suggestions. A 15-day period will follow so that suggestions gathered during the review can be considered.

A final decision on the proposal has been delayed until May.

Jerry Hanley, Cal Poly vice president for Information Technology Services, said about 75 copies of the proposal will be available for review on or near campus. The complete plan will also be available for review on or near the Internet site or to Cal Poly President Warren Baker’s office.

We don’t want to attack people who have the problem,” Kunz said. She said the things to do when you realize someone has a problem is to use “I” statements. She warned against being a “food cop” or trying to force someone to eat.

Most of all, Kunz emphasized the importance of educating oneself.

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CETI from page 1

wide infrastructure.
In return, the CSU would give the partners open access to its inter­
national markets—344,000 students and 37,000 employees—and allow the four companies to sell additional products, such as long-distance phone service or Internet access.

But questions about the joint venture linger among students and faculty who fear a loss of academic freedom and believe the partnership would give the companies a total monopoly on CSU campuses.

“We have four main areas of con­
cern,” Aborn said. “It’s a 10-year deal, and we want a way to re-evalu­
ate it after the agreement is signed. We also don’t want our cur­rent capabilities to change.”

Aborn said ASI wants the agreement to include guarantees of student representation. ASI also would give the company a total custom and believe the partnership agreement to include guaranties of dis­

EAT from page 1

because of its images of “waff-like” women.

Aside from the obvious health problems associated with eating disorders—from tooth damage, throat problems and dizziness to hair and fingernail breakage to heart problems and malnutrition with anorexia—she said they also have a lot of personal problems.

“Afflicts their relationships,” she said. “They can’t share things with people because of their fear of rejection.”

Warning signs of eating disor­
ders are perfectionism, warning signs, inability to sleep, high stress, inability to concentrate, depression, low self-esteem or a distorted body image, Dominguez said. She said the earlier a person seeks help, the easier it is to deal with the problem.

Karina, Shandley, Kunz and Dominguez all believe that helping someone who has a problem is a group effort.

“We don’t want to attack people who have the problem,” Kunz said. She said the things to do when you realize someone has a problem is to use “I” statements. She warned against being a “food cop” or trying to force someone to eat.

Most of all, Kunz emphasized the importance of educating oneself.

The Peer Health Education Nutrition Team offers one-on-one counseling for people with eating disorders as well as computer dietary analyses. They also give free workshops and presentations on any nutritional topic to interest­
ed parties. The team is located at the bottom floor of the Health Center.
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OPINION

Efficiency and Cal Poly separated at birth

By Steve Barbaccia

The business school here at Cal Poly touches us things of great importance about Corporate America. We learn how companies must adapt to the demands of a global marketplace. We study examples of blue-chip multinationals, such as IBM and Sony, brought to their knees as a result of having reacted too late to changes in the outside world.

These corporate miscreants sleep all morning only to awaken in time to watch some competitive equivalent popularize with that most valued aspect of capitalism: choice. Hence Cal Poly.

Rather than bore you with a list of complaints, though, perhaps the allegorical method employed by the "Good Book" will serve best to deliver this message.

There was a guy, let's call him Steve, who woke one recent morning to the sound of thunder and rain. This inclement weather would get most folks down after a while, but not him; he popped his daily Prezac and headed out the door.

The bus was full, however, and rather than wait in the rain another half-hour, he ran home and jumped in his car. He dutifully paid the $1.50 daily parking fee and proceeded to look for a spot reasonably close to the business school. Through sheer luck, he found a space way down where they drove the sheep only about a mile away from his class.

Arriving late and soaked to the bone he was informed that his financial accounting professor, fed up with tardiness, had awarded 15 bonus points to those few students who had made it to lecture on time. Our hero's Prezac was starting to wear off, but he still held high hopes for the rest of the day. After all, a positive attitude is the key to life, so they say.

The clock finally struck noon, and Steve headed up to the business school's state-of-the-art computer lab to finish a project due on the morrow. He went there straight away, forgetting any lunch, because he knew of the high demand to use the lab. The green-vested employees, helpful as they are, never checked to see if one is a student, shopkeeper, Martian, etc.; so everyone from here to Needles drops by. Thus Steve also dutifully waited in line.

At 1 p.m., Steve was finally and happily tapping away at a PC. In two hours he had just about wrapped up his 10-page paper when he glanced up at the light beginning to flicker around a maze of garbage cans placed at various points on the floor where the roof leaked. He was then told the wait would be about an hour, and if his team lost, it would be another hour before they played again.

Being a flexible and prudent fellow, Steve decided to go lift weights instead. Half-way up the stairs, however, he ran into a line of more people. Though he found out the delay for the weight room was only a half-hour, he changed strategies once again and opted for a swim in the pool. In the rain, he thought, there won't be any wait for an open lane. Unfortunately, the pool was closed because the state-of-the-art Rec Center has no outdoor lighting.

"No problem. I'll just go home and research for my Marketing class on the net," he thought. Back at the ranch, armed with dry clothes and a warm cup of Joe, Steve cracked up his Apple and dialled the Cal Poly server. Busy signals cascaded as the modem tried again and again. He did a few chores and checked back... still busy. He cooked dinner... still busy. He finally gave up and decided to read the Mustang Daily.

One headline grabbed his attention: "Woman guilty of murdering twin sister.* As he read on, however, Steve discovered that the "murdered" sister was still alive. How could that be? It became apparent that the article came from the Associated Press, but the headline was written by Mustang Daily's staff. "Hmmm, perhaps this editor tried to use the Rec Center as well that he missed," he mused.

It was a long night, so Steve decided to turn to his studies. The subject, operations management, touched a chord as it covered a variety of business methods used to provide quality and value to global markets. The last thing he read as he nodded off to sleep was "... to survive, an organization must foster innovation, efficiency, and a total commitment to the needs of its customer." Steve dreamt of a university that did all that for its students. Is there a power of positive dreaming? We'll see.

Steve Barbaccia is an M.B.A. student.

Your privacy is important to us, too

Editor,

The following comments are offered in response to Jennifer Brewer's letter Feb. 13 regarding student privacy rights and the ASI Student Directory.

The ASI Student Directory has been published each winter quarter for approximately 10 years. It provides information about ASI, a campus office directory and a listing of currently enrolled students. It also contains a sensitive issue for many students. Since this information will now be available on the web, the campus will be making an even stronger effort to inform students of their rights and offer an easy way to register their request for privacy.

Marcia Friedman is the Associate Registrar in the Office of Academic Records and Soncey Lilly is the ASI Executive Director.
Mardi Gras

By Ryan Becker. Arts Weekly Writer

Cajun food, live music and thousands of revelers will spice up the streets of downtown San Luis Obispo this weekend at the city's annual Mardi Gras celebration.

Last year's festivities drew more than 25,000 people, and organizers expect an even bigger turnout this year. "It's gotten bigger and better in every way," said Don Koberg, who co-founded San Luis Obispo's celebration 20 years ago. "It's really caught on." The festivities kick off at 10 a.m. Saturday with a royal proclamation by Mardi Gras King Eric Lowey and Queen Meredith Coffen.

"Mardi Gras is so much fun I can't even see straight," Coffen said. "It's so much fun to dress up crazy and go to parties. The people in San Luis Obispo are so wonderful. There's not a bad apple in the barrel. They are devoted to having fun."

For those wanting to start the party early, booths lining Garden Street will offer the usual mix of food and crafts beginning at 10 a.m. Beads and costume materials will be sold, and New Orleans jazz and other music will fill the air.

Local restaurants will vie for the grand prize in the gumbo cook-off, and samples of the thick, spicy stew-like dish will be available for purchase.

Partygoers who want to skip straight to the main event can wait for the Mardi Gras parade, scheduled to begin at 5:31 p.m. Saturday. The parade route moves downtown, blocks long.

About 2,000 people in 65 different entries are expected to march in the parade and 25,000 are expected along the streets screaming for beads and doubloons.

Zen Room, a Costa Mesa theater group, will march in the parade as the actors from the Rock Horror Picture Show. This will be the group's third year in the parade.

"Some of our members really like to march," said Erza Ferree, Zen Room vice president. "The whole town just breaks out and goes crazy."

Don Pimentel is one of three new directors of the Mystic Krewe of Karnival, a nonprofit group that organizes San Luis Obispo's Mardi Gras celebration.

"Since this is our 20th anniversary, we will be throwing twice the number of beads and doubloons," Pimentel said. "And the quality of beads will be much higher."

In order to raise the $10,000 required for the event, Mystic Krewe staged a media campaign to attract donors.

Results were mixed, Pimentel said, but increased visibility of the celebration and increased visibility of the celebration organizers predicting a huge Mardi Gras parade.

"We are concerned that we may have a小说 imposed parade route," Pimentel said. "It has been very crowded in the past. The only route and place people need to be about 400 people, about 20 vehicles, the parade route."

The parade begins just at a half past two, said Mark Jorgenson, a Mardi Gras director.

"There are increasing security concerns at the event's boundaries. Twenty-five additional sheriff's deputies will patrol the parade. The increase means more than 50 sworn officers will be present along the parade route," Jorgenson said.

Cal Poly Circle K, a community-service club, will help monitor the parade. "We're there just to keep people behind the barriers, just for basic crowd control," said Janet Kwok, Circle K president.

Last year, 27 people were arrested during and after the Mardi Gras celebration, most for alcohol-related offenses.

Mystic Krewe of Karnival has arranged to have five safe-ride vans available to take people home after the festivities. They will be dispersed throughout the downtown area.

The Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball and Cajun dinner begins at 6 p.m. at the San Luis Obispo Veterans Hall. The party is open to those 21 and older, and a costume or mask is required. Tickets cost $25 and are available at Costume Capers, Fastframe, Boo Boo Records, Patrick James Clothing or at the door.

Organizers are also adding a teen dance this year for high school students. The masquerade ball, sponsored by Friday Night Live, begins at 8:30 p.m. at the San Luis Obispo Grange Hall.

The first Mardi Gras silent auction is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday at the Mission Mall. Mystic Krewe of Karnival will auction items donated by local businesses and proceeds will help Mystic Krewe recoup the costs of the event.
Mobile, Alabama vs. New Orleans: The Battle for Mardi Gras

By Marj Arnold
Special to the Daily

The difference between air, water, and earth, that 60 miles downstream from New Orleans became a matter of belief. At the close of the 17th Century, a band of men led by Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur d'Iberville, camped deep within the midst of the savannas, Louisiana, France's foothold on the North American continent, didn't appear from it here they established a toe-hold on the southern continent. Didn't water and earth huddled upon what was optimistically called high ground?

Thoughts turn toward home during the harsher realities of exploration, and the Siouan remembered the significance of March 3, 1699. He returned to his men and said, "I shall call this place the Point du Mardi Gras." So went the first observance of the Gulf Coast's Halloweek holiday.

Discerning the origins of Mardi Gras is about as easy as trying to see through the water that flows through the examples of the delta. Mobile, Alabama and New Orleans both claim to be the home of the holiday. While each of these cities is credited with the invention of important Mardi Gras traditions, the truth of exactly which city started the holiday blends history, legend and belief.

Mardi Gras celebrates a last, wintery wild fling before turning to matters of spiritual concern. People have celebrated the carnal parts of life since the time of the Greeks and Romans. At least one source states that "the carnival of the modern world is nothing more or less than the satirical, the Christian Romans who could not forget their pagan festivals." These pagan holidays were dedicated to the gods, Saturn (Dec. 15) and on spontaneous occasions to Bacchus, Pan and Venus.

Another explanation is that the term, Mardi Gras, originated in France during the Middle Ages as a reaction to Catholicism. Lupercalia, a Roman holiday dedicated to the fertility of the people and their flocks and fields, was celebrated on Feb. 15. The Church, promoting the notion that controlling lustful drives fostered spirituality, created Lent. This was to be a 40-day period of fasting in preparation for Easter, the observance of the resurrection of Christ.

This period, coincidentally, obliterated the observance of Lupercalia. It may be that Lupercalia, with themes easily adaptable to the notion of one last fling before 40 days of fasting, is the source of the modern holiday. The French dedicated the day before Lent began, Ash Wednesday, as a day of feasting. Fat Tuesday or Mardi Gras (Masquer - Gras) was born.

Though the weeks of parades, balls and parties beginning officially on Twelfth Night (Jan. 6) are often thought of as "Mardi Gras," that term applies only to the last day. The term for the whole season is Carnival, which translates loosely as "harrow to the flesh." Mobile, Alabama and New Orleans share so many firsts when it comes to Mardi Gras that the truth of which city celebrated it first may never be properly determined. Records from the late 1600s and early 1700s are incomplete and in dispute by historians.

While it is fairly easy to pinpoint the origin of a city, not many of those who partake in such wild street parties cared to document either the festivity or their part in it. Not only that, but the dates of origin for individual parts of the event are within a few years between the two cities, making it all the more difficult to determine the truth.

It helps to know that Mobile and New Orleans shared duties as the French ports of entry to the new continent. With stories as colorful and tawdry as these, it is hard to care about technicities. The short answer is that while organized parades began earlier in Mobile, it appears that New Orleans was first to put all the parts of modern Mardi Gras together.

A number of Mardi Gras traditions had their start during the century that followed d'Iberville's christening of the Point du Mardi Gras. Private masked balls and street processions gained popular in Mobile and New Orleans. By the 1820s, processions both on foot and in decorated carriages became part of the Carnival season.

One account has a group of students returning to New Orleans from Paris as the origin of masking. They are said to have worn strange costumes with masks and to have danced through New Orleans in 1827. Carnival decorating went up a level in 1839 with the debut of the first float in New Orleans.

By 1857, many of the trappings of the modern Mardi Gras, such as private balls and night parades sponsored by Krewes and lit by flambeaux, were all in place.

The key to the modern celebration, however, lies with two men. One with a short name, Rex, and the other with a longer appellation, Chief Sha'Kabemornion. Joe Cain, alias Chief Sha'Kabemornion, was not a member of the upper classes in 1866 Mobile, and so found himself excluded from the parties.

Legend has it that he and several friends were engaged in an extended bout of libation when he noted that the word Carnival had a familiar ring to it. "I have it! Carnival—Carry naval! It means, carry a boat!" Saying such things made sense during Mardi Gras.) The small band immediately, or perhaps after a few congratulatory toasts, set off to find a boat and a wagon.

They put the boat on the wagon and climbed aboard to "Boat" down the street. The new Krew, dressed as members of the Chickasaw Indian tribe, and, in a sarcastic switch, threw beads (Indian beads) to the white revelers. Most importantly, the Chief established the people's need to be included in the party.

Rex, a.k.a. Lewis J. Salomon, organized the Rex pageant in New Orleans. Rex is never referred to as "King Rex," however, the natives of the Crescent City will assure anyone who asks that Rex is royalty nonetheless. Rex, as much as the events that swirled around him in 1872, is credited with several important Mardi Gras innovations. The sto...
By Michelle Sbyke
Art Weekly Writer

Cal Poly's Pops Concert is an annual tradition, going back almost 20 years. The Cal Poly Wind Orchestra and the University Jazz Band will host this year's concert in the Performing Arts Center Saturday.

"Pops music is a blend of classical and popular music, the kind of music you would hear on TV and in the movies," said William Johnson, conductor of the wind orchestra. This year's concert includes music by American composer Stephen Foster as well as songs from Phantom of the Opera and Disney's Fantasia.

He said Cal Poly's concert style was originally borrowed from the Boston Pops style, in which the audience sits at round tables and munches on light snacks and drink refreshments while they enjoy the music. Before the opening of the PAC, the concert was held in Chamin Auditorium, allowing the audience to sit in a Boston Pops style setting. But since the concert moved to the PAC last year, the seating is now set up in the traditional auditorium arrangement, with refreshments during intermission. Even though they miss the old style, Johnson said the groups like performing in the PAC.

"When you walk into the PAC, you can't believe you're still in San Luis Obispo," he said, because the auditorium has a Baroque, European style to it.

Last year at the band's first concert in the PAC, Johnson said the students were very nervous, but this year they are much more poised. The 72 orchestra players and the 22 in the band have been preparing for this concert since December. They were given the sheet music just before winter break to begin rehearsing. This quarter they have practiced together four hours each week and at least four hours a week individually.

Each year the concert hosts a special guest, a professional musician who works with the student groups. This year's special guest is a group itself, the San Francisco Saxophone Quartet. The quartet performed for the San Luis Obispo Mozart Festival last August and will be returning for this year's festival.

"With their appearance this August, they will have been in the area three times in the span of a year," Johnson said. "They have developed quite a following here."

The quartet will perform three selections alone, by memory in their unique fashion, and some pieces with the orchestra.

Also to be featured is student conductor Anna Rinnerweg, a music senior. Rinnerweg has been conducting for three years, after Johnson noticed her exceptional talent as a sophomore in a conducting class. To give her more practice, he has allowed her to conduct one selection for the wind orchestra for each concert until she graduates.

"She has the potential of being one of the finest conductors in the world," Johnson said. "You have to master non-verbal communication, and completely express yourself through body language. Your eyes and hands have to express the music."

Rinnerweg said a little role playing helps in conducting also. For example, for the piece she conducted for last year's Pops Concert, "March to the Scaffolds" by Berlioz, she imagined herself on that final walk, as a condemned person about to be beheaded, as she took her place in front of the orchestra.

"Being a conductor, you put yourself in another pair of shoes, either in the composer's or in the period in which it was written, to get a feel for the music," said Rinnerweg, who has played clarinet since sixth grade.

This year she will direct the orchestra in Johann Sebastian Bach's "Toccata and Fugue in D Minor," the most challenging, but most exciting piece she has ever conducted.

Tickets are available at the ticket office or by calling 756-2787. Student tickets are $9 to $11, which Johnson said is due to an effort to keep students' prices low so they will come out to hear their classmates perform.

"Nine dollars to get into a world-class hall with refreshments being served is one of the best bargains of the year!" he said.
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HISTORY from page A2
ries surrounding Rex, however, include two versions and one great contradiction.
In the version of the tale told with equal doses of sarcasm and romance, the King of Carnival was inspired by a visit from real royalty—Russian Grand Duke Alexis Romanoff. “We should have our own royalty to treat with foreign princes,” ran the logic. Yet it may have been the behavior of the Grand Duke that inspired the heavily sarcastic portrayal of rival royalty.
Romanoff, you see, may not have cared to be recognized by almost anyone. In this version of the tale, it seems that the Grand Duke was visiting New Orleans in romantic pursuit of a burlesque star, Lydya Thompson. (Her song in the theatrical production “If Ever I Cease to Love” became the official theme of Mardi Gras.)
The pair’s liaison is commemorated each year at the official balls when men dress as royalty (tails, not taxes if you please) and women dress in flambéously theatrical costumes. These costumes modified as burlesque changed from theater to walk of fame of entertainment.
In a somewhat cynical version of the tale, Rex is nothing more than a tool in a public relations campaign. In this version Rex and the reconstruction of post-war New Orleans go hand in hand. In 1872, the Krews were, in the tradition of Mobile, secretive elitist organizations. The need for a daylight people’s parade, specifically for the purpose of enhancing tourism, prompted the emergence of Rex.
One newspaper account, published in the Republican, promoted the event in a way that sounds familiar today: “One of the foremost considerations in this display is to make our city attractive, not entirely for citizens, but principally for visitors. This will bring hither not less than 15,000 people and they will, on an average, expend fifty dollars each, thus bringing capital to our city.”
Regardless of the version, Rex is credited with many of the modern traditions in addition to the notion that the event should have a daytime presence open to the people. Rex established that the celebration be preceded over by royalty.
Rex is also said to have given us the colors of Mardi Gras: purple for royalty, green for justice, and gold for who on you talk to, gold for power, and green for faith. Regardless of the version, there was a liaison between the Grand Duke Romanoff and his burlesque queen that has set the pattern for dress at the balls.
Mardi Gras hasn’t changed, at least much, since then. It’s gotten bigger, definitely, but not different.
Thursday, February 19
Chumash Auditorium

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Employer Representatives on Campus
Career Symposium Thursday, February 19
Interviews Friday, February 20
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Managers are responsible for delivering world class results in People, Quality, Service, and Cost. Team leadership and strong interpersonal skills a must! Please bring a resume and any questions regarding careers with Frito-Lay.
Pyka said he relies on Wyclef to "push" him during workouts. "Whether we're swimming for the team or against the clock, I'll never be mad if I lose to Eric," Pyka said. "We've talked about it and I think we feel the same way. Competing against each other is just exciting.

Pyka's teammate and housemate Blake Seely said that although Pyka is more of a quiet leader, his spirit and energy are a key role in getting the team "pumped up" for big meets.

"He's always of the first that's ready to say, 'Let's go, let's win this meet,'" Seely said. Although mental strength plays a huge role, maybe it's Pyka's mental strengths that have allowed him to compete against some of the biggest competitors in the country.

Head swimming coach Rich Firman seems to think so. "When he gets into a competition, he wants to win, and he'll push himself to the limit," Firman said. Firman added that Pyka's internal confidence helps him to lead by example.

"It's not a very vocal individual but he has a great work ethic that transfers into confidence in the meets," Firman said. "It's that kind of leadership that the younger athletes look up to.

"When he doesn't perform as well as he expects to, Pyka's optimistic attitude helps him to keep from stinking. "It's all mental," he said. "You just have to take a step back and realize that you're not doing a deal and have fun with it."

Despite closeness among members of the team, swimming remains largely an individual sport. Pyka said becoming a leader is dependent upon individual performance, success depends heavily on self-motivation and dedication within each competitor.

"A lot of people can't take it and burn out," he said. "There's huge burn-out in swimming." "I think there's somebody who has made it to the college level has probably been swimming most of their life," Pyka said. "But the key to make it through that is persistence and never giving up.

"At its best it's just hanging out with your friends," he said. Pyka said his commitment and love for swimming has helped him to stay afloat.

"Swimming is my life," Pyka said. "I don't know what I'm going to do after it's over."

"I'm not sure that his performance in this weekend's championships will qualify him for the Olympics," Pyka said. Placing high for Pyka among the top-32 breaststrokes in the country.

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I n Pyka has more than 50 brothers and sisters, all of whom were strangers to him four years ago. It wasn’t some talk show host who brought them together on national television either. It was a visit to Cal Poly in his senior year of high school that led Pyka in the direction of his new family.

“I came for a trip and some seniors on the team walked me around,” said the 22-year-old mini­mation management senior. “They told me that Cal Poly wasn’t a really high ranked team, but it was a family, a close-knit team and that was good enough for me.”

Pyka and his family left yesterday for their biggest road trip this season, the Big West Championships. Competition starts today in Long Beach and continues through Saturday.

Pyka will try and defend his 1997 Big West championship title for the 200 yard breaststroke as well as com­pete in the 200 yard individual med­ley and the 400 yard individual med­ley.

It hasn’t been easy gearing up for the Big West Championships, but if Pyka performs as he hopes to this weekend, the NCAA Division I Championships in March will be the grand finale to his swimming career.

In and out of the pool, it is the Cal Poly family of swimmers that Pyka turns to for support.

Pyka works out with junior breast­stroker Eric Wyles who is currently second in the Big West for the 200 yard breaststroke (2:07.68) with Pyka occupying a close third (2:08.83) in the event.

By Jamie Baran
Daily Trojan Staff

Pyka’s placing in Big West

Defending 1997 Big West champion in the 200 breaststroke.

Current standings:

100 Breaststroke
3rd at 59.14

200 Breaststroke
3rd at 2:08.83

200 Individual Medley
7th at 1:58.21

400 Individual Medley
6th at 4:15.17

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The 1998 Winter Olympics will be coming to a close soon, and it’s been very entertaining—what I’ve seen that is.

I’ve seen the Austrian skier skip across the snow like a stone along water. I also saw the women’s hockey team degree to degree as they chased the gold. Those moments define what the Olympics are all about: “The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat.”

The problem is that CBS, TNT and ESPN have gone out of their way to show as little of the competition as possible.

ESPN, which is usually more than competent at covering sports, has a very simple job, showing highlights. They have the privilege (albeit it cost them millions to get) to show the games that bring the world together. So what have they decided to show?

They’ve decided to tell us about Japanese culture. I actually heard CBS commentator Jim Nantz comment on how Japanese people drink their soup. He said that it’s not made in Japan in soup in public.

I can watch the ski jump now.

TNT and CBS are much more to blame than ESPN. They have the privi­lege (albeit it cost them millions to get) to show the games that bring the world together. So what have they decided to show?

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