Mardi Gras continues without downtown parade

By Dawn Rapp
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The San Luis Obispo Mardi Gras parade should have happened. Or at least it could have happened, a judge ruled on Tuesday.

The San Luis Obispo law regulating parades is illegal, said Federal Judge Audrey Collins. Trying to install special ordinances against the parade violates the state constitution and the First Amendment, Collins said.

However, Mardi Gras organizers announced that the ruling didn’t allow them enough time to plan a parade for this year.

“We just do not have time to organize a quality, crowd-pleasing parade,” said Carol Pimental, spokeswoman for Mardi Gras San Luis Obispo. However, organizers promised there would be a 2003 Mardi Gras parade.

The ruling came after a long drawn-out fight between the city and the American Civil Liberties Union, who handled the case for Mardi Gras organizers.

Pimental said that she hopes that the city and Mardi Gras organizers can work better together in the future.

This comes as a great disappointment to many students who had hoped that the parade would take place.

“I had really hoped it was going to happen,” said Sarah Skinner, an agriculture student. “It’s a bummer too, because I don’t think there are any activities catered to people our age.”

The city had tried to apply special ordinances to the parade after problems with last year’s parade. San Luis Obispo officials had been worried about public safety and the ability to sustain order after last year’s incidents when San Luis Obispo police had a difficult time with the high number of people considered “drunk in public” and with the overcrowded streets.

Even though the parade did not happen, there were various Mardi Gras celebrations this weekend which began with the “Annual Mardi Gras Fest” at Mission Plaza on Saturday. The event offered food, crafts, contests and entertainment for all ages.

“We’re trying to turn Mission Plaza into downtown New Orleans,” said Natalie Spencer, an organizer of Mardi Gras Fest. “We’re expecting it to be a bigger deal and we’re trying to see MARDI GRAS, page 6.

Survivor of Nazi invasion speaks on ethnic wars

By Amber Hodge
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Evil was the subject of a Thursday lecture at the Cal Poly theatre. As part of the Cal Poly Psychology and Development Speaker Series, Ervin Staub, a survivor of the Nazi invasion of Hungary, discussed global issues such as group violence, terrorism and genocide.

“Even if I, evil, don’t mean forces of nature or religious concepts, I mean human destructive power,” said Staub, a professor of psychology at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. “It can come in one great act or small acts in an amount of time.”

Staub talked about the influences that lead to genocide and how humans can try to prevent it from happening.

Genocide is defined as actions that are taken to destroy a whole group of people based on their radical ways, race or religion. A powerful group usually perpetuates genocide.

Territorialism is usually an act of a small group directed at civilians, such as the acts of violence that recently took place in the United States, he said. Fewer people are affected than in an act of genocide, as occurred in Rwanda, where 700,000 Tutsis were killed.

“The background conditions are social conditions,” Staub said. “I call these difficult conditions of life. These conditions include persistent economic problems, political discrimination and substantial social and cultural changes.

“What unites them is that they all profoundly frustrate them,” he said. “Humans all share fundamental needs.

Staub said humans share needs such as security, a positive identity and, for a positive connection — to feel affective in the world and to live.

There have definitely been more in the past few years,” he said. “I think it’s because we have more students that are having a hard time finding a place to live.”

Because of their greater average resale value, most parents desire to purchase single-family homes, but many are drawn to condos and townhouses because of their lower average cost. The greatest draw is on houses in the $300,000 to $400,000 range and for condos between $250,000 and $350,000, Baldwin said.

Currently, there are only five condos listed on the market, he said.

Because of the rural nature of San Luis Obispo County, Chase did not anticipate that property prices in the area would continue to rise. However, slow-growth initiatives and environmental restrictions have limited the number of new homes being built in the area, thus increasing existing home prices.

That, coupled with California’s economic boom in the past few years, has afforded Chase and other parents the ability to invest in San Luis Obispo.

A booming business
But the number of students whose parents purchase homes for them still represents the minority. For most of Cal Poly’s student population, landlords and property managers are still an inexorable part of the housing process.

And, as many property owners live out of town or in other states, many are turning to property management services, which for a monthly fee, handle rent collection and basic maintenance of the property.

Smith, owner of Farrell Smith Property Management in San Luis Obispo, which manages the homeowners’ association of the popular Cedar Creek student-housing complex, said that the owners of the properties that his company manages range from small-time investors to those who rely on rentals for their livelihood.

“We run the whole gamut,” he said. “We have some people who have purchased the property for their son or daughter going to school here...”

see RENT, page 6
Students not horsing around about new club

By Matt Szabo

Mention horseback-riding to many students and they will conjure up images of cowboys and the rodeo — an action-packed extravaganza being broadcast live on ESPN2. However, a group of Cal Poly students is trying to make a name for a very different style of horseback riding: dressage.

"It's a classical training method for horses and a European tradition," said Katie Hergenrather, a landscape architecture junior. "It's putting the rider and the horse together, like you're dancing." The goal is to look in union or harmony with the horse, she said.

Approximately 15 to 20 students are attempting to start a Dressage Club on campus. They are currently looking for the support of Associated Students Inc., the College of Agriculture and outside sponsors. They hope to become an official club during the 2002-2003 school year.

A number of East Coast schools have dressage horseback-riding teams and are part of the Intercollegiate Dressage Association. The students are hoping to help start some teams on the West Coast. Stanford University, Fresno State University, University of California, Davis, UC San Diego, UC Santa Cruz and UC Santa Barbara are all trying to establish clubs as well.

"We're trying to get this club started so we can compete intercollegiately," said Katie Dougherty, an animal science sophomore. "We're having some moxiks shows this spring." Dressage shows are judged based on certain movements that the person does on the horse. As a person moves up levels, the movements they require to do become increasingly more difficult. Grand Prix is the highest level one can obtain and is performed at an Olympic level.

"We're looking for more people interested in dressage or that have dressage experience," said Suzanne Claytor, an agricultural business senior. She added that the potential club already has riders of many different talent levels.

"We're looking for all majors, all levels of riding, if you have a horse or don't have a horse," she said.

However, at this time, the group is looking for people with prior horse-riding experience. Anyone interested in competing on the Dressage Tour should be a person who is comfortable with riding a horse at a basic walk, trot and canter.

The students didn't all know each other beforehand, but a love of horses is what has united them.

"People are just kind of coming out of the woodwork," Hergenrather said.

The group had their first riding/meeting combination on Saturday and is currently holding practices in town, with the help of Buckleys Stables.

"English (style riding) is becoming more popular at Cal Poly," Dougherty said. "We're trying to take this club off the ground. That's what we're striving for."

The club's advisor is Janine Noland, an animal science professor and the school veterinarian. For more information, contact Katie Hergenrather at khergen@calpoly.edu.

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POLY calendar

* "The Anti-terrorist Climate and Civil Liberties - James Lafferty - Bldg. 26, room 104, 1 p.m.

* "Frankenstein's Hearts" - new exhibit at Cal Poly's University Art Gallery - Bldg. 34, runs from today to March 10.

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STAEUB continued from page 1

Figuers them and that can lead to group violence. They develop a worldview where power and privilege are justified.

"One of the reasons why it is so difficult to work out significant conflict is that there are psychological barriers," he said. These barriers include the past of a group of people. They are vulnerable and see the world as a dangerous place. He said this causes some groups to use other groups as a scapegoat for what has been done.

A creation of a common ideology is profoundly important. It's a vision of societal arrangement and a way of life in a society to be considered ideal, he said. For some groups, this is religion.

Even though religion teaches love, it also divides, Staub said. Terrorist groups start off as political movements, where individuals have needs of belonging and a vision for a better world.

In the case of Rwanda, the U.S. government was incredibly passive in that they refused to call it genocide, and was a very bad bystander, he said.

"We have to work on becoming better bystanders," Staub said. "We need to write to congressmen, write letters to the media, publish as much as we can."


"It's a classic," said Linden Nelson, chairperson of the Psychology and Child Development Department. "It's the most widely known book on that topic."


Staub served as president of both the International Society of Political Science and the Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict and Violence, which is a division of the American Psychological Association.

He continues to work with leaders in Rwanda on projects to prevent renewed violence.

"We need to maintain high human rights," he said.

The Speaker Series is presented in association with the College of Liberal Arts and the Founder's Day Doyle International Lecturer Fund.
National Briefs

Man acquires HIV from blood transfusion
SAN ANTONIO — A Texas ranch fund was infected with HIV during emergency heart bypass surgery. It is believed to be the first case of the virus being transmitted through donated blood in the United States since rigorous new HIV-screening technology was implemented three years ago.

David Autrey, 51, was the only patient to receive the tainted blood, said a spokesman for the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center. The blood bank has located all the tainted blood.

Autrey is taking drugs to combat the virus, but said that his life has been devastated.

There are no other known cases of HIV being transmitted through donated blood since blood banks added new testing technology, said Dr. Michael Busch, a professor at the University of California, San Francisco and an executive with Blood Centers of the Pacific. He also said that while the testing process is highly sophisticated, it is still considered experimental and can fail to detect the virus in blood from donors who gave blood soon after being exposed to HIV, because the virus has not had ample time to multiply to detectable levels.

The FDA requires blood banks to test donated blood for 12 infectious agents. They are also required to do a brief medical history and conduct a physical of the donor before blood can be donated.

Experts on the chance of getting HIV from donated blood is one in 2 million to 3 million transfusions, and they stress that the nation's blood supply remains very safe.

— Associated Press

More human remains discovered at WTC
NEW YORK — The remains of five Port Authority police officers were recovered at the site of the World Trade Center, a spokesman said Sunday. They were among 37 Port Authority police officers killed in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The five included Chief James Ronato, Capt. Kathy Marza — the agency's only female commander, Lt. Robert Cimino, and Officers James Parham and Stephen Huczko. Their bodies were found together Saturday at the base of the first World Trade Center, according to Port Authority spokesman Greg Trevor. All five had rushed from the Port Authority headquarters in Jersey City, N.J., to help in the evacuation of the trade center.

The remains of 14 of the five Port Authority police officers killed on Sept. 11 have never been found, Trevor said.

— Associated Press

Japanese researchers find cloned mice die young
WASHINGTON — The technique used to clone an animal can have an impact on its ability to live a normal life span, cloning experts said in a report. The report was written by Japanese researchers who cloned a dozen mice and reported Sunday that virtually all of the animals died early.

The evidence in the report is expected to be used in arguments against the cloning of humans.

"The possible negative long-term effects of cloning, as well as the high incidence of spontaneous abortion and abnormal birth of cloned animals, give cause for concern about attempts to clone humans for reproductive purposes," Atsuo Ogura and his colleagues at the National Institute of Infectious Diseases in Tokyo reported in a February issue of the journal "Nature Genetics."

The team reported on 12 male mice they cloned that looked normal at birth, although certain liver enzymes, used to monitor liver activity, were abnormal. The mice started to die 311 days after birth. Ten of the 12 cloned mice died before 900 days.

Mice born through natural mating and conceived using artificial fertilization generally live much longer.

The research team also reported that the mice had abnormal livers, lungs and perhaps some immune system anomalies. Two of the clones are still alive.

Also noted, was the fact that some clones had shortened telomeres, which are a kind of cap on the chromosomes, the structures that carry genes. Each time the cell replicates, the telomere cap frays a little. This process is believed to be associated with aging.

One expert said the method used to make cloned mice is different from the method used to make larger animals, such as sheep.

Labs that have cloned animals have reported that the cattle, sheep and goats that make it to adulthood are normal in every way that can be measured. One exception is Dolly, a sheep that was cloned in 1997. She developed early arthritis.

— Reuters

International Briefs

Africa
CAPE TOWN, South Africa — A South African man shot and killed ten people and seriously wounded seven others Saturday night before turning the gun on himself, police said Sunday. The man, Bulelani Valkana, 29, was allegedly outraged at being dumped by his girlfriend, who was one of those killed in the incident. They had had a fight earlier Saturday and she had ended their relationship, a police spokesman said. Valkana went to her house to try to persuade her to change her mind and after another argument, he shot her dead outside her kitchen door.

Valkana then went to a bar next door and killed a man and wounded the owner. He then shot and killed a man in a pickup truck and drove off in the vehicle. After returning to the girlfriend's house, he shot and killed her father, witnesses said. He then began firing at traffic and pedestrians, killing six more people.

Police arrived and chased Valkana in a vehicle for a short time. He fled the vehicle and ran through the suburban, with police pursuing him. He shot himself when he realized he could not escape.

— Associated Press

Europe
LONDON — Princess Margaret, who had been ill for months, died early Saturday at London's King Edward VII Hospital after suffering a stroke and heart problems. The princess was 71 years old. She was remembered at church services across the country Sunday.

Princess Margaret had an independent streak that set her apart from other members of the royal family. She was a colorful character who added spice to her life with scandals, one mourner said.

Margaret's coffin was taken to her home at Kensington Palace, where a spokesperson for the Buckingham Palace said it would rest for several days, to permit family and close friends to pay their respects. Flags were flown at half-mast and there were moments of silence across the nation in her honor. Many newspapers published special sections to pay tribute to her.

Margaret's private funeral will be held Friday at 3 p.m. in St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle, Buckingham Palace said.

— Associated Press

Brieis compiled from various news services by Mustang Daily contributor Anne Guilford.

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This message brought to you by the Office of Neighborhood Services, 781-7317.
Trash the Poly Dolly myth

A tall beautiful blond stroll by inner Feminism, her low cut jeans revealing a navied movement, the piece of her hip accented by the waist of a gray bell-bottom pants. She is the Poly Dolly: the dream girl for men to go out with and the image women would like to resemble. And what do we know of what a Cal Poly woman looks like, has been around for years. Her myth has, since its conception, led into an obsession with the perfect body. It is this obsession, not the exceptions, the not, of what most women look like.

While boyfriend comment on their girlfriend's diet or hair coloring, women bend over to check every pound they gain or lose and count calories. If this sounds like an exaggeration to you, realize that for many it is a reality.

Even the few who come close to resembling the Poly Dolly would probably still complain about the size of their bottoms, the flatness of their thighs or the color of their hair.

Negative body image is endemic to our student body. It affects one of us differently, but it affects all. Try to think of at least one person who would not change a thing about herself or herself?

Body image is the obsession with an unattainable perfection. But what is worse is that we hesitate to speak about this, not only ourselves, but also the reactions for which 1 believe you were just the reaction for which I bet you were not ready for.

Opinion

Letters to the editor

Not all atheists can be called religious

In response to Ben Earl's "Some definitions of religion include atheism" (Feb. 8): Nice article and very well written too! However I cannot let you get away with saying that atheists are religious, which is just the reaction for which I bet you were hoping for.

So, I looked up "religion" in the American Heritage Dictionary and its first definition is, "Belief in and reverence for a supernatural power or powers regarded as creator and governor of the universe." What you have done is assign other human qualities to religion, and because some atheists might have these qualities as well, you are calling them religious. This commits two logical fallacies, that of "divisio" (ex: This puzzle when assembled is circular in shape, therefore its pieces are circular in shape), and that of "hasty generalization" (ex: The 20 or so active members of the Cal Poly College Republicans promote racism and intolerance, therefore it is clear that all other Republicans are racist and intolerant.) Both of those are clearly illogical statements, so I must point out that believing in something greater than ourselves is not necessarily a religious concept. Just because I believe in the Milky Way, or in quantum physics does not make me religious.

Ermologically-speaking, with the word "religion," i.e. "re-(again)" (aig - Signum), what we have here is "re-connected" or "tied-back in again." Math and numbers would not be religious, "neologically-speaking" they would be "how-ligion," i.e. "investigation and search for HOW the laws of the universe (that we have already nicely tied in) work." Yes, math and numbers do prevail, but they are not supernatural. All mathematics requires axioms, so out the door with that argument.

And if you believe that God is just symbolic, or can be reduced to numbers and energy, then He is a mere representative of an "uncountably non-dependent" entity than you are either talking about what many people call "spirituality (lower case 's')" and humanist-outlawwoman-ship, or I should be welcoming you, Mr. Earl, to the world of heresies. As such, that would mean that this numerical or energy-based god might not be a "He," and if you're wrong and God is coming, you know how the old saying goes: "God is coming and she's gotta be pissed!"

F.S. I am an explicit agnostic atheist, not to be confused with an anti-theist.

Rudy Wallenfist is a modern languages and literatures senior.

Science cannot answer religious questions

Editor,

There seems to be an ongoing debate on campus both here in the Mustang Daily as well as in recent on-campus events about science and religion. Which is right? How can science be used to prove or support theological beliefs, etc., etc.? The problem with this discussion is that I do not believe that those who would attempt to either discredit or accept this fashion understanding of what science is and where its limitations lie. How do we know what is true and what is not? We can believe anything we receive in the mail that promises to make you lose 50 pounds in three weeks! Would you purchase a herbal product that guaranteed that? We are just a generation away from the size of your penis for only two easy payments of $29.99! How do you discern between what is true and what is not?

Well, one way to tell would be to measure yourself, but the product, use it, and then measure yourself again seeing how your body has changed. (You may not necessarily be pleased with the results.) A better way would be to get 100 people to try the product, 50 of which were a control group, and compare the results of those who used the actual product with those who didn't. This, my friends, is practicing science (although you may lose 50 friends in the process).

It's hard to see a single scientific fact, or if you slept through the one that you did have to take and learned nothing else, please understand this: Science is simply a way of knowing or basing science on what is observable and what is able to be tested and restated and re-re-tested in the form of experiments. It is a process by which we can see what is real, how things work, and from these results try to piece together a bigger picture of why it all works the way it does.

There are severe limitations to what types of questions can be answered from this process. This does not mean that science can't be used in experiments. Other things can only be approximated with mathematical models, and this does not necessarily indicate even a modern understanding of the world that may really go by.

Science is nothing more assuming than a method of testing ideas, and it does not even attempt to answer questions such as the existence of a god or the resurrection of Jesus or any other question, except that you can't test it in the lab. It requires your faith. You may use whatever philosophical arguments you wish to discuss the necessity of an intelligent creator. Science, however, has nothing to do with this.

I have many questions about existence, the universe, etc., and I leave many of these questions open too, stare up at the stars at night when I'm alone and wonder what an amazing thing it is that I'm here wondering what I'm wondering. But I'm not so presumptuous or arrogant to think that I have answers to these questions. I do believe that there are answers, and I do believe that we are capable of understanding them. But we came out of the treeps just yesterday, cosmologically speaking. We are just beginning to open our eyes and see the true breadth of what's out there. I think that it's anything amazing enough to be alive.

If I've learned anything from history, it is that religion (yes, Christianity too) doesn't do the trick. But if you believe, you believe, then you believe, and this is the only thing you are doing. It can't be more conveniently evolve over time to fit the political arena of the current epoch. What was once heresy is today common fact. No, the earth turned out not to be the center of the universe after all, and unless you really have your head under a pillow, most agree that the earth has been around a little longer than 6,000 years. So we are left picking and choosing what to take literally, and what to interpret figuratively. You start shaving off corners of your nice square shaped dogma peg to fit it awkwardly in the small but growing round hole of what we know as fact.

More question for my faithful Christian friends: If God exists, and the Bible was written as his word for the purpose of us knowing him as the one true god, and he wanted us to know that his word was the one truth that you all are seeking so hard, why didn't he say as commandment number four: "Thou shalt not travel faster than light"? That, or something else along those lines, if written 2,000 years ago, would have provided a far more convincing argument for the validity of the Bible than a book full of inconsistencies and miracles written from supposed eyewitness accounts of people 2,000 years dead. Why do you believe them but hesitate to believe the pens enlargement offer? Ask yourself: How do you know? From where does your faith originate? Did you really ask these questions for yourself, or are you just following along with most of the thinking done for you? You may find that the real questions are far more interesting than the usual shrink-wrapped answers.

Adam Medicus is an electrical engineering and physics junior.

NEW

Letter policy

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit all letters for content, length. Please limit length to 250 words. Letters should include the writer's full, same phone number, major and class standing.

By mail:

Attn: Envelope to the Editor
Building 26, Room 228
California Polytechnic State University
San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

By fax:

By e-mail:

mustangdaily@hotmail.com

Letters to the editor

Letters must come from a Cal Poly student. Do not send letters as attachments. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

Attention:

If you have submitted letters recently with the above information, your letter will not be printed unless you submit it in the correct format.
Students: think twice about owning a pet

I have a confession to make. Almost every day, I consider going home to steal my parents' dog. I absolutely alone him and would probably go for a run every day if he could come along. Besides, my parents don't give him nearly as much attention as I would. We could roam around downtown and go to the beach and...

Then I consider the 4-5 foot plot of dirt that is his backyard, and my fantasy is over. How could I tear him away from a yard where he has plenty of space to run around? Also, if I was caught with him in my "no pets allowed" house and had to give him up, I would be crushed.

Some college students, I fear, don't consider such things when they bring a pet into their lives. Many aren't able to do their laundry, much less bring it home to Mom, let alone take care of a dog. I know this girl -- let's call her Dog Girl -- who treated her dog like an accessory. Just like a pair of studded heels. To Dog Girl, the pup was constantly paraded around for all to see and admire. "She was "the girl with the dog." Just like a pair of studded heels to a woman.

It would be likened to saying, "I can't imagine that the sentence is attributed to a news article."

In the dormitories, Anderson wrote, "The never-ending search for Truth is the root of all things. This is where it belongs flat.

I begin this commentary by saying that I'm not trying to preach to the students, but it's come off that way because that is not my purpose for commenting. What I want to write about is a particular word that seems to be thromed around quite loosely these days. I'm not talking about "love," rather, I am talking about "truth." I have been at Cal Poly for three years now, and I have engaged in many conversations with people about my personal beliefs. This has given me a broader perspective on how many different "truths" there are. There is only one "truth." But how can I tell someone that his or her "truth" is false and mine is right? I can't. Although I believe whole-heartedly, I still find myself impossible to say, "Hey, you are right and I am wrong." Throughout my time as a Christian, I have heard people criticize Christians by asking how we can have the nerve to say good-bye to your new best friend.

Rene Shadrack is a journalism major and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Letters to the editor

Stating students' race adds nothing to story

Editor,

When I read Anderson's article, "Disruption in dorms leads to temporary positions," I was quite surprised that the story included the authors' race. It would have been better to simply say that the "students involved were all Asian." What about the other situations where students of different races are involved? Many people are in need of a good home, and the Human Society, just like the rental management allows pets. Imagine having to say goodbye to your new best friend.

Justine Rutkay is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Race is a useless fact in this article

Editor

Upon reading the story "Disruption in the dorms leads to temporary positions," I was quite surprised that the students involved were all Asian. What about instances where students of different races are involved? Many people are in need of a good home, and the Human Society, just like the rental management allows pets. Imagine having to say goodbye to your new best friend.

Laura Newman is a journalism sophomore.

Number of new dorm plans don't add up

Editor

I was reading Kristy Charles article, "Trustee approve new dorm plan," and I think there has been a mistake. She reports that the new facility will have "350 double-occupancy rooms," and I think that the facility will then house approximately 700 students. Whether transfer, returning or freshmen, this will mean an increase in 700 students living on campus. Kristy goes on to report that the 402 parking spots displaced by the construction project will be replaced by a parking structure of 300 spaces and a lot for other students.

This is where I think there is an absolute truth. Once we increase the number of new parking spaces, it is if this is truly the "plan" then someone has been very clever in their plans. I was reading a story about the Wake Forest monkeys.

Tony Moreno is an electrical engineering junior.
Analysis of weapons calls into question Pentagon budget

By William M. Arkin

(WIRE) WASHINGTON (UPI) - The U.S. military is spending billions on weapons systems that may be obsolete before they are fielded, according to a study by the government's statistical agency.

The study, conducted by the Commerce Department's National Bureau of Economic Research, found that the U.S. military has spent more than $1 trillion on weapons systems since 1980, but only about one in five of these systems are likely to be operational by the end of the decade.

The report, titled "The Military and the Economy," was released last week and is based on data collected from the Department of Defense and the Census Bureau.

The study found that the U.S. military has spent more than $300 billion on weapons systems that are unlikely to be operational by 2020.

The report also found that the military has spent more than $150 billion on weapons systems that are likely to be operational by 2020, but that these systems are unlikely to be operational by 2030.

The report concludes that the military's spending on weapons systems is not only inefficient, but also potentially dangerous.

"The military is spending billions on weapons systems that may be obsolete before they are fielded," said the report's author, Dr. Robert J. Samuelson.

"These systems are not only inefficient, they are potentially dangerous."
Sports

Olympic Games open to seamless start

By Bill Dywre
Los Angeles Times

(SALT LAKE CITY) - The host city of the 2002 Winter Olympics put on a spectacular opening ceremony in its mountain setting Saturday and dashed into the high gear of competition, with two American silver medals and a dramatic performance by an Italian cross-country skier.

On a crisp, crisp day with temperatures in the mid-30s and none of the feared traffic snarls and security delays, American speedskater Derek Parra and skier Shannon Bahrke came close to taking gold medal before being taken late in their competitions.

Parra's effort was perhaps the most impressive, because it was the least expected and had perhaps the best story line. The speedskater, who grew up in San Bernardino, won the silver in the 5,000 meters, but had the gold medal and a world record for about half an hour before Jochen Undich of the Netherlands, skating in the second-to-last group, outdrew Parra by more than three seconds. Parra lost six minutes 17.98 seconds had topped the existing world record of 6:18.72, and then Undich staggered obtained that in 6:14.66.

The American bronze medalist, Jens Beden, was more than seven seconds out of first.

Parra is 5-foot-4 and 140 pounds, unusually stocky in a sport that favors taller competitors. He will run 34 in a month, and he is a 5,000, but the 1,500. Because Parra had little expectations of doing well in the 5,000, his wife, Tiffany, was in Orlans, Fla., on Saturday with the couple's newborn daughter and planned to come to Salt Lake for his 19 race in the 1,500.

U.S. Olympic Committee officials said Parra's medal was the first for a Hispanic athlete competing for the United States in a Winter Games.

Bahrke, a 22-year-old Caltech graduate, competing in her first Olympics, took the lead late in the women's freestyle moguls and held it until Karat Tessa of Norway didn't score 25.94, topping Bahrke's 25.36. Two American men did well in the Nordic combined event, setting the possibility of some history Sunday. U.S.

MVP

continued from page 8

But Jordan, who has returned from retirement to breathe life into the left-for-dead Washington Wizards, and Kidd, who has quarter-
backed the Nets out of the mire of the Meadowlands swamps, are the odds-on favorites.

And their MVP chase figures to break in about the same way the Johnson-Jordan challenges did, with Jordan up early and unchallenged, with five 40-point performances already.

And he is also rebounding and handing out assists on par with his career averages.

Most impressively, his indomitable will and thrust for winning have lifted Washington into playoff contention with more wins than Jan. 24 than they had all of last season.

"One guy is making those dudes play like that, because I've seen those guys play before, and none of them play like that. None of them," said Houston Rocket guard Steve Francis.

"He is the best player in the NBA, and when you have the best player in the NBA, then you'll play with a lot more confidence and cockiness. You can see the swagger that those guys have got when they play, said New Jersey coach Byron Scott.

Meanwhile, Kidd, in his first year in New Jersey after an off-season trade from the Phoenix Suns for Stephen Marbury, has delivered the previously underscoring Nets the best record in the Eastern Conference. He is second in the NBA in assists and steals and leads the league in triple doubles, with consecutive masterpieces last week against the Milwaukee Bucks and Toronto Raptors, the second time this season he's done that.

"He's had the biggest impact that any one player has had on my team, so far," said New Jersey coach Byron Scott.

Kidd was a midseason exam right now, and he stepped the NBA and said the season's over and let's start handing out the awards, to me, Jason Kidd is the MVP," said New Jersey coach Byron Scott.

"Kidd's the biggest impact athlete any one player has had on my team, so far," said New Jersey coach Byron Scott.

In a close vote, the view here is that Kidd gets the nod, for now, because the turnaround from New Jersey earlier than Jordan has taken Washington. But if the Nets ship and the Wizards make the playoffs, Jordan will have earned what would be a record-tying sixth MVP. While Kidd has been named NBA Player of the Month and Player of the Week in seven games, he has yet to win his first NBA MVP award.

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Mustangs ready to take on Big West

By Andrea Coberly

SUNDAY SPORTS

If one team in the Big West Conference knows what it is like to be underestimated, it's the Cal Poly men's basketball team.

Ranked ninth in the preseason coaches poll and seventh in the preseason media poll, Cal Poly has surprised everybody by ending the first half of the season with a 5-4 record and a fifth-place rank.

Though the preseason polls overlooked Cal Poly, the team never doubted their abilities, said senior forward David Henry.

"We knew our potential," Henry said. "It wasn't a surprise to us. I still don't think we have reached that full potential, but if we practice hard every single day and realize what we can do, then we will accomplish the goals we set out to accomplish." Currently, the team has an 8-5 conference record putting them in third place, alongside Santa Barbara.

With only five more conference games in play, Cal Poly must maintain their confidence and improve their consistency, said head coach Kevin Bromley.

"All of our players need to play the same game," he said. "Everyone needs to be on the same page and play to their abilities. If we do that, then we can win." Not only has the team's success surprised those in its winning record, but has been proved by defeating top teams such as UC Irvine, Utah State and Cal State Northridge. By beating the two teams that are tied for first and the team that is fifth, Cal Poly has proved that they have the ability to compete with the better teams, said Bromley.

"We've had some quality wins," he said. "Our success is due to a lot of factors. We are very talented, plus we are better than what people think." The reason that Cal Poly is better than expected is because it paper the team with goals.

"We have definitely kept the success going," he said. "We have a young team and we have made vast improvements. We are just a moving progress. We have to play more consistent." Mustangs are happy with the outcome.

"I thought that was a very good basketball game both teams," Bromley said. "That's just good college Division I basketball right there."

The game began with strong offensive play from both teams. Pacific, the Big West's highest scoring team, shot over 50 percent from the field in the first half and was especially dangerous beyond the three-point arc. The Tigers went six of 11 from three-point range, including three between the 6-foot-9 and 6-foot-10 centers, Mike Preston and Ross Mills.

Cal Poly did everything they could to stay with Pacific in the first half, shooting four of six from downtown and making all seven of their free throws.

Senior Brandon Benson scored 15 first half points en route to his game-high 19. Steve Gentry ended the first half with a buzzer-beating jump shot from just inside the three-point line. The shot closed the gap to 44-41 and foreshadowed a Mustang charge in the second half.

Despite being outscored by the potent Tigers offense 44-41, the high altitude of the first half belonged to Cal Poly forward David Henry. Midway through the half, Henry picked up a steal and carried the ball coast-to-coast, finishing with an emphatic slam.

"That was probably the best feeling I've had in my four years," Henry said about the dunk. "That was the first and only dunk I've had here at Mott. Everybody knows that I'm not a high flyer, but I like to show them that I can at least jump above the rim a couple inches." Henry went on to score 13 points in addition to collecting five boards and five steals.

Sophomore guard Eric Jackson gave the Mustangs a lift in the second half by providing key hustle in the first four minutes. Jackson tipped in his own miss, picked off a pass, assisted a David Henry three pointer and a Varnie Dennis emphatic slam.

"You have to play every game as if it is your last," he said. "That's what we are trying to do." The team went on to win the game, 84-79 at the Cal Poly Sports Center.

NBA mid-season report: who's MVP?

By Milton Kent

THE DAILY INK

(PHILADELPHIA) — As the world's greatest organized pick-up basketball contest, Sunday night's All-Star Game celebrates the NBA's fresh supply of young talent. But the race for the NBA's Most Valuable Player award has a late 1980s-early 1990s feel about it, with Michael Jordan competing against a point guard.

Back then, it was Jordan and Magic Johnson who split six MVP trophies over the seasons spanning 1986-87 to 1991-92. This season's battle is stung up to be a showdown between Jordan and the New Jersey Nets' Jason Kidd. Other candidates may emerge, namely the Dallas Mavericks' Nowitzki and Minnesota Timberwolves' Kevin Garnett, both of whom are expected to challenge Jordan and Kidd this Sunday.

see MVP, page 7

Sports

Cal Poly hangs on to defeat Pacific

By Andy Fahery

SPORTS 

Mustangs' center Varnie Dennis goes up for a shot over Pacific center Ross Mills, 50, during Cal Poly's 84-79 win on Saturday night. The Mustangs will next play at UC Santa Barbara on Feb. 16.

Cal Poly built a 16-6 lead in the first six minutes and outscored UC Santa Barbara, 79-74, in a 50-32 Conference dual wrestling meet Saturday afternoon at McAnthur Court.

Nathan Richards won by major decision while Cedric Harmon and Charlie Sandlin both won by decision. Justin Richards won by forfeit in the 125-pound class to help the Mustangs gain the upper hand.

Cal Poly led 9-6 after the forfeit and never looked back. Oregon won the next three bouts to close the gap to 16-15, but Cal Poly 174-pounder Steven Strange earned an 8-5 decision over Shane Webster in the final bout to clinch the dual-meet victory for the Mustangs.

Strange is ranked 10th in the nation by Amateur Wrestling News and now sports a 30-6 mark.

Cal Poly is 10-7 in dual meets and 3-5 in Five-time matches, Oregon fell to 7-7 and 5-4.

Cal Poly and Oregon split the 10 bouts, but the Mustangs earned extra points with the major decision and the forfeit.

Women fall, men's team splits matches

CAL POLY SPORTS INFORMATION REPORT

After winning the double point to open the match, the UC Irvine women's tennis team used the momentum of both of the six singles matches to defeat Cal Poly 5-2 Saturday afternoon.

The men's team split a point that dominated Saturday's afternoon, defeating Westminster 4-0 but falling to Loyola Marymount, 7-0. Cal Poly won the doubles point against Westminster for the first time since the 2000 season.

In singles, the Mustangs won three matches against Carroll, Greg Levy, and Steve Porter won in straight sets. The three remaining matches were suspended after Cal Poly clinched the match.