Proposed Mardi Gras zones may target young people

Emily Wong

Students in the area around Football and California boulevards are being targeted in an effort to implement safety enhancement zones during Mardi Gras.

The San Luis Obispo City Council voted 5-0 to conceptually support these zones, which would triple fines for certain violations during the 6-days of celebration in February 2005.

"We are focused on where people are attracted to and where they are going," said San Luis Obispo Police Chief Deborah Linden. "This is a geographic strategy."

But some students are concerned that the proposed zones do lend themselves to an approach aimed specifically at the young people in San Luis Obispo.

"The zones appear purely demographic," said Associated Students Inc. President Blake Bolton. "We need to ask ourselves, will it benefit the entire community?"

Speakers at the council meeting Tuesday night suggested zoning the entire city, but San Luis Obispo Mayor Dave Romero supported the original recommendation.

"The zone needs to be narrow for the police to concentrate on," Romero said. "Making it too broad would create a posting problem."

Linden announced a plan to post signs well in advance, warning residents and community members when the zones will be in effect. But these warning signs will fall heavily on students who represent the majority of the citizens living in the area.

"It's discrimination against a certain age group," said business senior David Hall, who lives in Cedar Creek near California Boulevard. "So many people live here and I don't think there really is a way to keep people from coming here."

Officials from both Cal Poly and Cuesta College expressed support to the police department in their many efforts.

"I just want to state for the record my interest to work as hard as I can to send a very important message that a repeat of what happened last year reflects poorly on everyone," said Vice President for Student Affairs Cornnell Morton.

The police department has been working continuously to safeguard against a repeat occurrence of the rioting earlier this year. They have conducted studies at other hot spots to see Zones, page 2.

Despite lack of students SLO had one crazy summer

Micah Paulson

Letters were mailed to 652 Cal Poly students over the summer, informing them they were in danger of becoming victims of identity theft.

Cal Poly officials discovered a virus had infected a computer used to test data for the Poly Card, July 23. This made students' personal information exposed to being accessed by unapproved parties.

The data that was exposed consisted of names, Social Security numbers, local and home addresses and phone numbers.

So far, there has been no illegal activity regarding the exposed data. Since the virus, the computer has been cleaned and anti-virus software has been updated to protect against future attacks.

Cal Poly mechanical engineering students dominated the 2004 Hydro Power Contest for the second year in a row.

The contest, held in Montreal, challenges students to demonstrate their design for running water from power.

Brian Watt, Dillon Thomasson, Reuben Baril and Angel Aleman, along with their faculty advisor Juggfer the final of the competition's power category, and first, second and third in the efficiency category.

The students won $6,000 in scholarships to help finance their visits to Montreal.

Safwat Moustafa, a former Cal Poly mechanical engineering professor, accused of possessing child pornography, was found hanged at his Grover Beach home one month before his trial was to begin.

If Moustafa had been found guilty on both counts of possessing child pornography on university owned computers, last year.

If Moustafa had been found guilty on both counts he would have faced up to 10 years in federal prison.

According to the Tribune, FBI officials said the death of Moustafa will not stop them from investigating whether Cal Poly officials had obstructed justice during the investigation of Moustafa.

Mardi Gras participants will have to find another use for their plastic beads this coming year. The San Luis Obispo-City Council has approved an anti-nudity ordinance that would fine women for exposing their breasts.

First offenses would carry a $100 fine. A second offense, within the same year, would be a $200 fine and for every offense after that, during the same year, a $500 fine will be given.

The decision comes in the wake of last year's Mardi Gras celebrations where party-goers rioted when they were confronted by police in downtown San Luis Obispo.

The City Council hopes the new ordinance will keep crowds in-line.

Long, lethargic lines of cars will be an even bigger problem for Cal Poly students until March of 2005, with the Steenrill F3oulevard bridge closed for construction.

Students are being redirected to campus Via Highland Drive and Grand Avenue.

California Boulevard is also crowded with construction workers who are widening that entrance to the campus.

Summer music spectacular

All rights donated by the summer haze

IN ARTS and CULTURE, page 9 Cal Poly football winning streak Three in a row and ranked nationally

IN SPORTS page 16
Budget problems have forced Cal Poly to decrease the number of students that were admitted fall quarter.

MATT WECHTER | Daily News

Summer
continued from page 1

A Cal Poly alumnus and owner of the San Diego Chargers, Alex Spanos, pledged $4 million to help renovate Mustang Stadium. The money will be used to fund phase one of the stadium, which will increase the seating capacity to 12,000 and add features such as new stadium lighting and an upgraded playing surface.

The renovation will include a memorial to the 1960 Cal Poly football team that lost 16 players when their plane crashed in Ohio. Spanos and his brother, Danny, played drum line for the Cal Poly marching band at the stadium in 1960.

Mackey, a political science junior, is attempting to become the next mayor of San Luis Obispo. Mackey must defeat incumbent Dave Romero and banker David Booker. Mackey distancing himself from the incumbent by saying he would have voted against approving the new marketplace commercial development. He also thinks he would be the right person to heal relations between the community and the university, damaged by the Mardi Gras riots.

State budget cuts have caused enrollment at Cal Poly to plummet compared to the first week of fall quarter in past years. Initial figures show, as of the first day of classes, enrollment reached about 17,400. This is down from 18,305 from fall quarter of last year, and 18,453 from the year before. The target goal for fall quarter is 17,981, according to Cal Poly officials.

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has agreed to restore $40.3 million to the California State University system to increase enrollment this year. The money will be used to increase enrollment by almost 2 percent and will fund academic preparation programs.

The budget, passed by the legislature, includes an increase in student fees. Undergraduates have a 14 percent fee increase this year, students seeking teaching credentials have a 20 percent increase and graduate students will have a 25 percent increase.

Zones
continued from page 1

in California, including Chico, Newport Beach and Santa Barbara. Beyond the proposed zones, the department aims to encourage more community involvement in an attempt for a peaceful Mardi Gras and incorporate a messaging strategy to send a clear, consistent and direct idea to students and community members alike that Mardi Gras 2005 will be a "non-event."

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WASHINGTON — The brother of the singer formerly known as Cat Stevens strongly denied that he has any terrorist associations after he was removed from a London-to-New York flight because he'd been placed on a government "no-fly" list.

A government official said on Wednesday that Stevens, who changed his name to Yusuf Islam, had recently been placed on the list after U.S. authorities received information indicating associations with potential terrorists, a government official said Wednesday.

The flight was diverted to Bangor, Maine, on Tuesday afternoon after U.S. officials and checked the passenger list feared the singer was aboard. Federal agents met the plane Wednesday night and Gordon said he spoke to Islam by phone Wednesday night.

"It's not true," Gordon said. "His interest in human rights, poverty and humanism are the driving causes of his life as a musician, and he does not have any connections with terrorists."

Islam founded Islamia Primary School in London in 1983. In 1998, the school was founded when Islamic terrorists were active in the United States. In 1988, Islam founded Islamia Primary School in London. In 1993, he founded the first Muslim school in Britain to receive government support, on the same basis as Christian and other sectarian schools.

Ismail drew some negative attention in the late 1980s when he supported the Ayatollah Khomeini's death sentence against Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses."

Gordon denied that he had called for Rushdie's death. "They completely misunderstood what he said," he said.

Islam has made a number of trips to the United States in recent years, including one in May for a charity event and to promote a DVD of his 1976 Majikat tour. He donated half the royalties from his most recent boxed set to the Sept. 11 Fund to help victims of the attacks.

Islam, who was born Stephen Georgeos, took Cat Stevens as a stage name and had a string of hits in the 1960s and '70s, including "Wild World" and "Morning Has Broken." Last year he released two songs, including a re-recording of his '70s hit "Peace Train," to express his opposition to the U.S.-led war in Iraq.

He abandoned his music career in the late 1970s and changed his name after being pursued by orthodox Muslims teachers that his lifestyle was forbidden by Islamic law. He later became a teacher and an advocate for his religion, founding a Muslim school in London in 1983.

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Partial-birth abortion ban ruled unconstitutional

Judges challenge Congress' reasoning behind the partial-birth abortion, claiming the procedure protects women's health

Bara Weinberg

WASHINGTON — U.S. district Judge Richard Kopf of Lincoln, Neb., became the third to rule that the ban on "partial-birth abortions" is unconstitutional. This ruling, the second in six years, came with the realization that the federal law does not provide an exception for protecting a woman's health.

In his 444-page decision, Kopf said that Congress' decision was based on political reasons rather than medical. He wrote that Congress' finding that a health exception was unnecessary was "unreasonable and not supported by substantial evidence."

Judge Kopf's ruling followed two similar ones by Judge Richard Conway Casey in New York three weeks ago, and another in June by Judge Phyllis Hamilton in California.

The ban, which was vetoed twice by President Clinton, came as a harsh blow to abortion rights activists when it was passed in November 2003. It is seen by many as a threat to a woman's right to choose, which was granted in the 1973 Supreme Court case of Roe v. Wade.

However, the Congress stated under the Partial-Birth Abortion Act that the procedure is "a gruesome and inhumane procedure that is never medically necessary and should be prohibited."

According to the act, a partial-birth abortion is defined as "an abortion in which a physician delivers an unborn child's body until only the head remains inside the womb, punctures the back of the child's skull with a sharp instrument, and sucks the child's brains out before completing the delivery of the dead infant."

The Supreme Court found that a partial-birth abortion is never necessary to preserve the health of a woman, that it poses significant health risks to the woman upon whom the procedure is being performed, and is outside the standard of medical care.

Linda Locke, the chief communications officer for American Women's Services, said that "partial-birth abortion" is not even a medical term, but something that politicians came up with.

"Besides the fact that partial-birth abortions is not a medical term, less than one percent of abortions in the U.S. are later procedures, and by law these are the ones performed to protect a woman's health, or because of birth defects or genetic defects."

— LINDA LOCKE
American Women's Services

Fewer seniors using direct deposit for Social Security, costing taxpayers millions

Matt Gouras

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Fewer senior citizens are taking the government up on its offer to deposit their Social Security checks directly into their bank accounts, costing taxpayers millions.

Ninety percent of new Social Security recipients signed up for direct deposit in the late '90s, but that number has fallen off to 68 percent, a recent federal study found.

It costs 68 cents to produce and mail each Social Security check, and the government sends out 13 million checks each month. That amounts to about $100 million each year.

The government is now testing a publicity campaign in Tennessee, Illinois, Texas and Puerto Rico to persuade more senior citizens to sign up for direct deposit.

The message: With direct deposit, you get your money faster and more reliably, and you do not have to make a special trip to the bank.

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Peterson's fetus died one day before she was reported missing, expert says

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. (AP) — An expert in fetal medicine testified that Scott Peterson's fetus likely died nearly seven weeks after Laci Peterson was reported missing. Dr. Gregory DeVore, who was asked by prosecutors to examine Laci Peterson's medical records and bones taken from the decaying corpse, testified Thursday, Sept. 23, 2004, that the pregnancy was too far along to be sent home.

Peterson's fetus died one day before she was reported missing, expert says

Defense attorneys later attacked his findings as conjecture. He noted the Dec. 23 death date was an average estimated from several examinations. Scott Peterson's defense lawyers maintain it was born alive, proving Peterson couldn't be the killer given its due date of Feb. 10. Laci Peterson's defense attorneys later attacked his findings as conjecture. The age of the fetus is important because prosecutors claim it was expelled dead from Laci's decaying corpse.

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Have a great year and Go Mustangs!

Blake Bolton
ASI President

By working together we all succeed.
Under the Radar:
Summer albums you might have missed

Devin Kingdon
MUSTANG DAILY

Ashlee Simpson stormed the charts with her debut album, Autobiography, and thousands picked up R. Kelly's new double set, Happy People/You Saved Me. There were many high-profile releases this past summer. But above what's playing on VH1 Megahits, hundreds of albums were released without the benefit of massive support of radio. Here's a small sampling of what many missed out on this summer.

The Libertines
Released first in the band's native UK, it was met with raves, critical acclaim and like the No. 1 spot on the album chart. Prior to the release, the band was getting more publicity for its off-stage antics surrounding its lead singer Pete Doherty, who has been in and out of rehab for drug abuse. Now, were surprised that the group were able to complete the album under its problems that had repeated trips to rehab in recent years. The band, named for the St. Duke whose assassination was the catalyst for World War I, won Britain's most prestigious music award, the Mercury Prize, earlier this year.

Franz Ferdinand
Their self-titled debut, released in April, did not gain much initial attention. The band, named for the Austrian emperor, was a critical hit in the UK and France, but never gained much airplay. However, it was the second single, "Can't Stand Me Now" which is about the two singers tense relationship.
Phoenix Alphabatical

French duo Phoenix' sophomore synth-pop album, Alphabet, above, is one of many titles the mainstream audiences missed out on this past summer.

Albums

continued from page 9

Scissor Sisters

The New York City firestorm have created a rock 'n' roll gem on their debut Cl). Already overseas, the band has yet to strike gold to their home turf. The band members have silly names, like Paddy Boom Boom, Ana Matronic and Baby Dolly, and follow the fashion sense of a glam-rocker and a drag queen. The album, which channels Elton John with a disco edge on many of the tracks, is incredibly progressive. The first single, "Take Your Mama," focuses on the piano. On the following song, the group drops a dancehall from the ceiling as they cover Pink Floyd's classic "Comfortably Numb." Sound like blasphemy? Go check it out.

Garden State Soundtrack

One of the deeper-hits of the summer; Garden State's writer and director Zach Braff does an amazing job of seamlessly blending his film and the music that plays throughout it. Every song fits its scene, adding even more depth and emotion to the film. Zero 7 and Frou Frou offer with their smooth, techno touches, while the ever-haunting Nick Drake offers up "One of These Things First." The Shins contribute two songs to the soundtrack, one of which star Natalie Portman describes in the movie as "it will change your life." This soundtrack might do the same.

Phoenix

Phoenix, a French duo, doesn't have a great grasp of the English language but sing it anyway. And frankly, it doesn't really matter. They're the lesser known synth-pop French duo. Air being the first, but they're sophomore album shouldn't be ignored. Like Air, their music is sophisticated and chic, but much more accessible. Key tracks include "(You Can't Blame it On) Anybody" and "Everything is Everything."
ARTS & CULTURE
Thursday, September 23, 2004 11

Journalism administrative assistant Cindy Decker put together a calendar of "Liberal Arts" dogs to benefit the journalism department. She hopes to fund a new computer for the department's reading room.

**Staff member creates CLA calendar of dogs**

Tawny Grace - \*Couched Up By The Law*

When the budget cuts were at their worst, Cindy Decker, administrative assistant in the journalism department, used her love of dogs to help raise money for the journalism department. A faculty member challenged Decker to create a dog calendar in April, and by June the idea became “The Dogs of Liberal Arts 2004 Calendar.”

Decker specifically wanted to raise money to buy a second computer for the reading room in the journalism department. The reading room is a place where students can review local and major newspapers, work on homework and use the computer.

The price of the calendar covers the cost of printing plus a small profit for the new computer. Decker will not know the exact amount of money the calendar raised until all calendars are sold, but she estimates the total will be around $320. George Russin, chair of the journalism department, promises to match the amount of money raised with his own money. Decker said $500 should cover the cost of a new computer.

As of now, about half of the 183 calendars ordered have been sold. Decker said the calendar is cheap and the money will be used for a good cause, so no one received his or her calendar for free.

The calendar is $4.50 and can be purchased at El Corral Bookstore.

"Fortunately, the calendar was able to sell for less than $5 and raise funds for the student computer at the same time," said Decker. "I bought three."

The calendar showcases the dogs of the faculty and staff of the College of Liberal Arts. Each month pictures a different dog, and Decker even marked the dog’s birthday in the calendar with a paw print and special recognition. The calendar not only helps bring dogs’ birthday awareness, but also listed the owners of the dogs on the calendar.

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College town blues: Did you miss us this summer?

It's been three months since we've filled the streets of downtown, crowded the parking lots at Albertsons and congested the Grand Avenue freeway offramp at 7:55 a.m. each day. But we're back just like we always do. This year 17,300 strong.

During the summer months, San Luis Obispo becomes, well, SLO. But this year in particular, the college town showed its true colors. Without traditional summer school courses offered, more students went home. This left San Luis Obispo as a virtual ghost town. From this, it's easy to see how much of a college town San Luis Obispo really is.

According to a study released in March by Cal Poly finance professor Kenneth Rieker, the university has a more than $1 billion annual impact on the local economy. This is because we rent homes, buy groceries and just plain shop in San Luis Obispo. This is our home away from home and we invest heavily in it.

But at times, we feel the brunt of being a college student in a town that wants to be residential. San Luis Obispo is a desirable place for anyone to live in, not just students. And we feel fortunate to be here. Yet, we often struggle with the "us" versus "them" mentality that the community exudes.

Maybe you've called the police on us on a Saturday night or complained that we don't mow our lawns each week, but we love this city as much as you do and we're glad to be back.

And we have some new additions. The academic year 2004-05 brought in 3,000 new freshmen, plumbed from a pool of 27,042 applicants — a record-setting number of applications that also marks the 90th year Cal Poly has received more applicants than it can admit. And these new students are nothing but the best and brightest. The newest additions to our student body boast the highest test scores and GPAs of any freshmen class in the history of the school.

Their initial introduction to San Luis Obispo included community service projects during the Week of Welcome. Early on, these students have experienced a sense of pride for the community they will call home for the next four (or five, or six) years.

San Luis Obispo has long been a college town but hardly embraced this status. The students are community members just like you. We're patrons of the community, and not just with our parents' Mastercards. We have an invested interest in what happens in our college town — whether it's banning Mardi Gras or building the Dhalio Marketplace. It wouldn't be the same without you.

After a quiet summer, and great start to fall quarter at Cal Poly, we hope that you realize it wouldn't be the same without us.

The age-old question about life

WILL O'HARGAN

MUNCIE, Ind. — I always enjoy talking to my little sister. As a sixth grader she has a different view of the world around her, and talking to her is one of the more enjoyable things I do.

So often we sleepwalk through life, going through the motions and, yes, we most certainly have a pulse, but we're not really there. Even from my earliest memories, life has sped up to ensure that we never spend a moment idle, and yes, we never sleep. When did we get to the point that cable news channels found so much news that they added a ticker to make sure we know the name of the latest Britney Spears husband?

When did we decide that young boys need to play soccer, football, baseball and basketball, and young girls need to try ballet, gymnastics, cheerleading and, yes, soccer? When did we lose sight of what is truly important with life? When did we, as a human race, forget about the little things in life and let the rush take over?

I don't know the answers to when, I only know it has caused more problems than it's worth. My little sister is amazing. She gets excited about talking about the most mundane of facts, like how to make a tuna melt. As she told me the details about the order she places the ingredients on the bread her voice got more excited than I get at my most intense.

All over a sandwich.

I remember being that way, getting excited about the smallest things in life, and I miss it. I wish I had never lost that feeling. I wish I still had it, more than I wish for anything else in the entire world.

When I was debating these thoughts, I came to an important conclusion. Indiana truly is wonderful. As I looked upon a sunset that was setting in the Indiana sky.

And maybe, just maybe sometime in the future we will all be like my little sister, and life will excite us again.

The huge problem we face is that the world is full of so much life, you just need to slow down for five minutes a day to take a look at it. It doesn't matter what people do to grab life, it's just a matter of grabbing a hold of life and squeezing as hard as you can.

Head to an art museum, feed the ducks, go for a walk, just take five minutes away from "every second counts" lifestyle we have become obsessed with and just breathe. Or just spend a few minutes admiring the Indiana sky.

"On the Banks of the Wabash," I began to realize the thing aren't as bad as I have made them out to be.

The point is: Life is short, and we don't enjoy it nearly as much as we should. We spend so much of our lives in our shells, speeding from one activity to the next.

When I was debating these thoughts, I came to an important conclusion. Indiana truly is wonderful. As I looked upon a sunset that was setting in the Indiana sky.

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Regents to vote on raising UC admissions standards

Elysha Tenebaum
BERKELEY — Dozens of minority advocates and students will urge the University of California Board of Regents at Thursday’s meeting to vote against raising the GPA bar for UC admissions — a plan opponents fear will damage minority enrollment.

UC’s highest governing body will decide whether to raise the minimum GPA for eligibility to UC from 2.7 to 3.0 for the freshman class of 2007.

The new requirements, endorsed by faculty leaders, are meant to pare down the number of students qualified to enroll at a UC campus to the state’s top 12.5 percent of high school seniors — a target that has existed for more than 40 years.

A state report earlier this spring from the California Post-Secondary Education Commission revealed that UC was accepting as many as 14.4 percent of the state's top high school seniors.

The board originally planned to vote on the change in July, but the item was tabled after students raised concerns that it was rushed through without studying possible consequences for minority enrollment.

Under the more stringent GPA requirements, the percentage of black high school students eligible for UC would fall by 25 percent, according to the UC Office of the President.

"The UC students definitely feel that any changes to eligibility at this time is an attack to diversity," said Jennifer Lilla, president of the University of California Student Association.

Some regents, including Lt. Gov. Cruz Bustamante and California State Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez, have added that UC should not limit its applicant pool to the longstanding 12.5 percent target.

"It’s an attack to hardworking California students that just happens to be doing well," said Lilla. "I would love to respect the master plan."

Several opponents also say the data used for Thursday’s vote is faulty. Although the state usually bases its findings on transcripts from all California public high schools, the 2003 study was conducted after a 24-member reduction to the commission staff last year, said Murray Haberman, CPEC executive director.

He said the lack of time and staff limitations forced researchers to base their results on a sample of 48 schools that could provide transcripts electronically, instead of on data from all California public high schools.

Haberman defended the study, saying he “has full confidence that the sample is representative of what is going on around the state,” and that the data was validated by UC statisticians.

CPEC is preparing a more comprehensive version of the study based on data from all California high schools for the graduating class of 2003.

The new data could prompt the regents to stall the vote once more, Haberman said.

Under pressure from the state Legislature, CPEC also analyzed the impacts of different formulas that could be used to tighten requirements instead of raising only the minimum GPA, Haberman said.

He said the effect on underrepresented minority admissions would be less dramatic if only GPA was adjusted.

Under other scenarios, black student eligibility rates could drop by as much as 52 percent, Haberman said.

A second hot item on the agenda is a discussion about the fate of UC’s six-decade stewardship of three national laboratories — Lawrence Berkeley, Lawrence Livermore and Los Alamos National Laboratories.

All three labs are up for contract renewal next year and other universities and private contractors are bidding for their management. Each lab bid will cost UC between $3 and $5 million.

UC has already expressed interest in pursuing a bid for Lawrence Berkeley and is moving forward as if it will compete for Los Alamos and Livermore. However, bidding for both weapons labs is still up for debate.

After a string of security and safety breaches, including one that shut down its operations entirely, the Los Alamos lab has drawn negative publicity to the university’s management. However, several of UC’s top administrators and faculty leaders say the university must compete.

The UC President’s Council on the National Laboratories will present a recommendation that UC maintain control of the labs for “the best interest of the nation.”

In May, UC faculty voted overwhelmingly in favor of keeping control over the research laboratories despite pronounced concerns about the labs’ ties to the nation’s nuclear weapons programs.

But a few student groups argue that a public university should not be involved in nuclear weapons research.

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To curvy head Philip, good luck with the GWR. Hope you pass this time.

What up to Tanner most good things happen while I was away

Graham Womack is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily copy editor. And yes, he's finally got a new picture for this column.

Sports

Golden continued from page 16

Tudisco performed this summer. Baseball player Nick Tudisco remains suspended, fighting a charge of reckless manslaughter. The Daily confirmed that the charge was still on the athletes' department website.

On another note, some people are probably wondering about the man-boy writing these words. I produced this column once a week for a year before taking a break during spring quarter and then going home this summer. Now, like a long-lost acquaintance or a disease like mononucleosis, I'm back. I never really left.

All the same, I'm glad that mostly good things happened while I was away.

The Honolulu Star-Bulletin confirmed on May 6 that the civil case against Tudisco has been resolved for an undisclosed sum. His criminal trial will begin in November. He faces up to 20 years in prison.

Assistant Media Relations Director Eric Burdick said that Tudisco could possibly return the Mustangs if not convicted and that he has one remaining year of eligibility. He said they were reeling from the

The Salmon Club rocks my world!

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While you were out: Athens Olympics, football and more...

GOLDEN GRAHAM

While you were out: Athens Olympics, football and more...

In the Olympian question four graduates of all ages hear: What do you do over your summer break? Perhaps some Cal Poly students had internships. Others may have trooped off to Ohio to sell textbooks or canes. More may have been paying four easy payments of $29.95. A few may have even completed the terms of their respective panels (like me, I can finally leave the state again).

The Cal Poly athletes, here are a few of the more interesting stories of the Olympics past and present.

America’s Finest

Stephanie Brown deserves top billing here. A six-time All American and Cal Poly grad, Brown competed in the discus in the Summer Olympics. Although she didn’t make it past the first day of competition, Brown made a mental note as she was leaving the Olympic stadium.

“For sure, I did have my camera. I couldn’t take a real picture but I will have a great memory of those last steps,” Brown wrote in a blog on gojocks.com. “I am a 2004 United States Olympian, and in the words of Mel Wilkins, who is a fellow Olympian and multiple World Champion, I will always be an Olympian.”

Sophomore high jumpers Kaylene Wagner and senior steppehacee competitor Ben Bruce also competed with Brown at the Olympic Trials, although neither qualified for Athens.

Wagner took fifth overall and Bruce finished twelfth in his heat. Sophomore Sharon Day also had an invitation to the Trials but chose instead to go to Italy in July for the World University Games. This is the Mustangs’ eleventh year in the Div. I-AA and the first time ever they have beat three Big Sky schools in one season.

The team still has two more Big Sky schools to play, Eastern Washington and Sacramento State. For now, the team can sit back and enjoy their bye week while it looks on to its first conference game Oct. 2 at 6 p.m. against South Dakota State at Mustang Stadium.

When asked about the games, Shotwell said, “It’s a great atmosphere and a good experience. Our team wants people to see that we play hard and we love playing.”

Last year, the Mustangs were ranked as high as No. 14 after winning their first three games. The Mustangs reaped the edge of a Top 25 ranking before finishing unranked to end the season.