Mardi Gras 2005: Part 1 of 2

Mardi Gras isn't what it used to be

Natash Toto

Television and radio commercials, flyers and billboards are sweeping San Luis Obispo with one common message: Mardi Gras is over.

The entire community has joined forces to spread the word that Mardi Gras 2005 will be different than years past.

City and university officials and local businesses have come together to make sure the message is received.

"We have spent the last year forming a campaign to ensure the safety of San Luis Obispo from Mardi Gras riots similar to what we encountered last year," said Rob Horsn, spokesperson for the San Luis Obispo Police Department.

"Our unprecedented efforts to deter Mardi Gras from San Luis Obispo is out of concern for the safety of the people here," Bryn said. "If there is a civil disturbance, we plan to attend to it immediately."

Together with the University Police Department, SLO PD has concluded almost five times the law enforcement than they did in 2004.

Patty-givers can expect at least 400 officers roaming the city. Bryn said they will deploy 120 sheriff personnel, 240 California Highway Patrol officers, a handful of all-terrain vehicles on the railroad tracks, a large undercover unit and three times the usual police car deployment in local neighborhoods.

Commander William Watson said they have enlisted a critical response unit of 40 officers to help out during the weekend.

"We are assisting the city in any way possible to help make this Mardi Gras as safe as possible," Watton said.

The critical response unit is made up of university officers who are specially trained in crowd control from all California State University campuses.

Mardi Gras week, defined by the university offices, will begin Thursday, Feb. 1 through Tuesday, Feb. 6.

Bryn said that although he thinks Saturday will have the biggest turnout, police will be deployed and ready to respond for all six nights.

Bryn said there will be driving under the influence checkpoints throughout the town, parking lots will be closed and drivers can expect major traffic delays.

He also said to expect major consequences that include triple fines for violations, jail time for DUIs, drunk in public Mardi Gras, page 2

Many Iraqis vote despite fears

Ilay! Cuesta student rap artist releases his new album 'The Renaissance'

Events leading to Iraq's historic election

About 300,000 Iraqi and U.S. troops were on the streets and on standby for possible voters.

Iraq expatriate vote

Registered voters

166,619

An Iraqi woman casts her ballot in Amman, Jordan on Sunday.

Cites in the Sunni triangle, Baghdad and a ban on lighters, cell phone batteries, cigarette packs and even pens.

The feeling was sometimes festive. One election volunteer escorted a blind man back to his home after he cast his vote. A woman too frail to walk by herself arrived on a cart pushed by a young relative. Entire families showed up in their finest clothes.

"I am doing this because I love my country, and I lose the sons of my nation," said Shamel Hekhe, 33, who walked with his wife 20 minutes to a polling station near his Baghdad home.

"We are Arabs, we are not scared and we are not cowards," Hekhe said. "The anti-groups flying low and gunfire close by, at least 200,000 voters opened the ballot boxes."

"The critical aspect of our election was to exercise our right to intelligence and inspiration," Edwards, a columnist for the Missouri Miner at Missouri University, 'He takes his audiences on an extraordinary ride from ignorance and insecurity to intelligence and inspiration.'

With 30 years experience, 13 of those on the college lecture circuit, Friedman leads his audiences on a journey to learn about the issues. He unabashedly discusses gender roles, race, global politics, sex education and more, while addressing a wide range of topics. The audience is left in awe.

"It is not just sex education."

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The vote to elect a 275-National Assembly and 18 provincial legislatures was the only step on Iraq's road to self-rule and stability. Once results are in, it could take weeks of backroom deals before a prime minister and government are picked by the new assembly.

If that government proves successful by drawing in the minority Sunni Arabs who partly shunned the election, the country could stabilize, setting the stage for 150,000 U.S. troops to go home.

On Sunday, coalition soldiers raced through Baghdad's streets in Humvees and tried to coax people to vote with loudspeakers in Ramadan, a Sunni city where anti-U.S. attacks are frequent. Iraqi police served as guards at most polling stations and U.S. troops had strict orders to stay away unless Iraqi security forces called for help.

At the Louisiana National Guard headquarters near Baghdad, nerves of U.S. officers paced the hall, muttering, "So far, so good," after the first 30 minutes of polling passed without attacks.

But the violence soon broke out. While a driving ban seemed to disperse the crowds, the insurgents apparently were waiting for the day when 150,000 U.S. troops can go home.

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BRIEFS
Monday, January 31, 2005

STATE NEWS

LOMA LINDA — With little time left before his organs would likely fail, Marine Lance Cpl. Chris LeBlu received a new liver Sunday for a mysterious ailment doctors said would kill him if he didn't get a transplant.

The unidentified donor from New Mexico was found late Saturday night. Doctors began surgery on LeBlu, who had been in a coma and on life support, around 4 a.m. In the hospital lobby, his 21-year-old wife Melany found comfort in photos of her wedding last fall, shortly after LeBlu returned from Iraq.

LOS ANGELES — Representatives of Hollywood's two major actors unions voted Saturday to approve a new three-year contract and recommended that their members adopt the pact. About 20,000 members of the Screen Actors Guild and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists must now ratify the proposal.

SACRAMENTO — State water regulators fined one of the world's largest cheese factories $4 million for illegally flushing waste on Merced County fields for nearly three years, creating a stink for neighbors and polluting water.

The action Wednesday against Hilmar Cheese Co. by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board occurred the same day the company's co-owner, Chuck Ahlem, resigned as the state's undersecretary of agriculture, saying he needed to tend to water issues.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW HAVEN, Conn. — A defense attorney for a serial killer who wants to die said Sunday that he will remain on the case, a decision that officials said keeps the inmate on track to become the first person executed in New England in 45 years. State officials said the execution of Michael Ross remained scheduled for Monday at 9 p.m.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Two years after Columbia's demise, excitement over the space shuttle fleet's return to the skies in just a few short months is finally overtaking the agony of the accident. In the past few weeks, two special deliveries have boosted morale among shuttle workers and provided tangible evidence they are rounding the corner.

RAMALLAH, West Bank — Palestinian police commanders began preparations Sunday to take control of four West Bank towns by midweek, after top Israeli and Palestinian officials agreed on a security plan for the West Bank.

Transfer of the towns' control would be the first large-scale Israeli move on the ground to acknowledge that the two sides were negotiating seriously and that the Israelis had the political will to do so.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN OTHER NEWS

SHELBURNE, Vt. — A straightjacketed "Crazy for You" teddy bear has drawn rebukes from the governor, mental health advocates and human rights groups — but it's a hit among shoppers.

The $69.95 bear, which is accompanied by commitment papers, is selling well despite complaints that it insults and stigmatizes those with mental illness.

Vermont Teddy Bear Co. President Elisabeth Robert said the bear is meant as a funny Valentine's Day greeting.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

KHARTOUM, Sudan — The governor of North Darfur state said Saturday that his region's government and foreign forces began preparations Sunday to take full control of the area. People there had been forced to flee when rebels overran the province.

"Darfur rebels appealed Sunday to all humanitarian organizations in the world to come to our rescue. ... We are running out of time," said the governor, Al-Haj Saleh El-Hadi.

"I want to assure you that we have started making preparations to take back this area," he said.

El-Hadi said about 80,000 to 90,000 people have been forced to leave their homes since the conflict began.

"The internal situation today, the situation on the ground is very difficult," he said.

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ASSOCIATED PRESS
Courtroom spectacle to unfold as Gloved One’s trial begins today

Michael Jackson speaks at a news conference after his arraignment at the Santa Maria courthouse, April 30, 2004.

Linda Deutsch

Sleepy Santa Maria braces for invasion of media and fans from around the world as the court combs through potential jurors

SANTA MARIA — The child molestation case against Michael Jackson is finally ready for a trial that promises to be like no other.

Jury selection begins today, with Jackson expected to appear, in a case that has become a symbol of the American obsession with celebrity. Early Sunday, Jackson issued a court-approved video statement on his Web site, calling recent media leaks in the case “disgusting and fake” and predicting he would be acquitted and vindicated when the truth is told.

On the defense side of court sits a man of white hair, known for winning seemingly hopeless death penalty cases in the South. The referee is Superior Court Judge Rodney Melville, 63, a veteran of the bench who has refused to succumb to the South’s penchant for trying cases in a hurry.

From the start Melville has tried his hand at an of the bench who has refused to succumb to the South’s penchant for trying cases in a hurry. Instead, it’s to find those who have my day in court.

"I expect and know that you will, evidence proves beyond a reasonable doubt that he shouldn’t drink alcohol because of his medical condition."

It was the latest flurry in a media blitz that has only intensified since last January when Jackson danced atop an SUV outside the courtroom and was swarmed by fans as he tried to leave.

Another challenge is finding jurors who can serve on a case that could last up to half a year, with Jackson’s lawyers asserting his Web site, calling recent media leaks in the case “disgusting and fake” and predicting he would be acquitted and vindicated when the truth is told.

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The challenge facing the court is not to find jurors ignorant of the defendant. The challenge facing the court is not to find jurors ignorant of the defendant. Instead, it’s to find those who say they can put aside everything they have heard and look at what the evidence proves beyond a reasonable doubt.

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Jackson has described himself in song as a “cold man” with a vendetta and a resume of protests from the news media, whose lawyers assert Jackson is violating First Amendment guarantees of public access to court information.

As jury selection nears, competition for a scoop undeterred Melville’s efforts. The 1,900-page transcript of the case prosecutors presented to the grand jury that indicted Jackson was leaked this month to thomrkingham.com and ABC News.

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Unlike the O.J. Simpson trial, cameras have been forbidden in the courtroom, but E! Entertainment Television plans to use actors to recreate daily re-enactments.
Oh, to be with you, Mr. Big

I got sucked into VH1 last weekend. They were having an "I love the '90s" marathon and it was frightening how much I remember from the '90s, and family at that. Of course, the decade does account for half of my life thus far, but who's counting?

I was watching the show with my best friend and I was cooing and crooning at every movie I loved and every marvelous invention on the TV screen. But the song "To Be With You" by Mr. Big became the topic of conversation, I must have blown my friend's cardamom.

Somewhere that song made me really happy. And while the guests on "I love the '90s" bashed singer Eric Martin for his hair and mocked the lyrics as reminiscent of some kind of love triangle, I just smiled as Martin swung back and forth on the TV screen.

I have to say at this point that I have not been influenced by the actions of Mr. Big. To be honest, I really much thought they were a one-hit wonder. As I searched the Internet, I found a whopping two Web sites devoted to Mr. Big, both of which enlightened me into a new, somewhat confusing world.

The first thing I learned was that Mr. Big performed from 1999 until 2002. They put out 18 albums, most of which had re-releases of older songs ("To Be With You") on seven of their albums, including five live albums and a greatest hits.

This information came to me from the "official" Mr. Big Web site, but the other site I found was a fan site, which was much more fun. This fan really wanted the world to know the depth that was the members of Mr. Big. For instance, Eric Martin was influenced by Otis Redding, Who's in the band?

Bassist Billy Sheehan lists Frank Sinatra among his influences, while guitarist Paul Gilbert and drummer Pat Torpey agree on the rockers — Led Zeppelin, Jimi Hendrix, The Beatles and Van Halen.

This fan also thought it would be interesting to name the band members' nationalities, because we all know that the Irish/Italian boy has to sing and guitarists have to have a little Polish in them. I mean, that's why it's on the Web site... right?

But seriously, how can this band have been so hidden? The lyrics for "To Be With You" are all over the place, but no one knows how the band formed or what their most popular songs are, unless they're somehow managed to follow its career.

Mr. Big is a remarkable example of a band that has continued to tour and make albums because of one or two hits, regardless of album success or band member tension, which I see as both incredibly awesome and really, really dumb. But I don't blame them whatsoever for trying to transcend the boundaries of hair bands.

In April of last year, a Mr. Big tribute album was released. No matter how much I would like to say I had heard of the artists that were covering the songs, I pathetically can only say that I knew of one.

"The Renaissance" can be found at Boo Boo Records and Sam Goody in the Santa Maria mall. Besides being a recording artist, I say a normal college student. He

Note: This feature on the music scene is sounding off on the music scene.

The life and times of a local hip-hop college student

Amanda Samonte
VETERANS' VOICE

Being a college student is tough enough — try working three jobs, taking 14 units and recording an album all at the same time.

Local rapper Iyai, 21, manages to do all of this and still has time to go to parties to promote his new album "The Renaissance." Iyai has been played on local radio stations 94.1 FM and Santa Maria's 95.7 FM the best. His debut album sold more than 3,000.

"Being an entertainer on the Central Coast has been the best thing," Iyai said. "I got to open for Krepsi, Rosco, Nelly Furtado. Those opportunities wouldn't have been given to me in Los Angeles because there is too much going on... not to say that I can't compete with them, but it's just on a larger scale out there."

Iyai is a full-time student. He stressed that although rap is a huge part of his life, school is a priority. "You would be a fool to let (school) pass you," he said. "So much relies in the real world on academic certifications. I want to use it as a lead in to the music industry so that they see that I'm not just some rapper that is unskilled. I'm for sure not getting messed up on the contracts," he said with a smirk.

Iyai works between 35 to 45 hours a week while maintaining a 3.1 GPA.

Iyai said he will continue to write, improve and take advice from other rappers.

"Everyday you write, you get better... I want to be the best."

The Music needs a new tune

Ryan Doherty
STATE CAMPUS

Being an artist requires a heightened level of egoism.

Naming a rock band The Music requires an arrogance not seen since the shag-head Oasis pronounced themselves "better than the Beatles."

And, like Oasis, The Music's arrogance is undeserved and downright unjust. The Music's sophomore effort, "Welcome to the North," attempts a band, edgy rock album with the recruitment of Pearl Jam and Soundgarden producer, Brendan O'Brien. His contribution creates a professional sound, which is incongruous with the frenetic atmosphere they attempt to create.

With melodic, catchy hooks such as those in "Guide" and "Into The Night," this electronic-inspired, biggy rock album seems like it could be a solid highway-driving, windows-down rock record.

But on second listen, the album sounds like a forced, over-produced record. If I search for a hard edged English rock band, put down "North" and much for Muse's "Absolution." At times, the melodies cause a head to nod or foot to stomp in beat, but overall, The Music is merely mediocre background rock. Not to mention that this concocted band name is also an easy way to discourage possible fans away from your music.

The album has its moments, but after a listen, differentiating between monotonous songs is more of a chore than anything resembling actual enjoyment. Until The Music prove they are more than non-descript background rock, they don't deserve their moniker quite yet.

Download of the day

Culture Club
"I'll Tumble 4 Ya"

"There is no greater song on earth in my opinion, Boy George's sweet vocal stylings and flamboyant attitude really get me going. It's like my girlfriend right here," he said as he pulled it out of his pocket.

Iyai said he will continue to write, improve and take advice from other rappers.

"Everyday you write, you get better... I want to be the best."
Teaching a man
to fish—is tough love

There has been so much talk about the merits of liberalism lately that I decided to chip in.

When it gets right down to it, a liberal is someone who wants the government to give out money generously, and we can see it in most Democratic policies. Liberals want to give away health care, social security and employment to everyone who wants it. At first glance that seems nice, and it does help to alleviate the problem in the short term. But communism taught us that if everyone is taken care of by the government, they will become unmotivated and dependent. This led to low productivity in these countries and the eventual collapse of their economy, as in Russia.

People who get paid not to work have very little motivation to go out and look for work. They will lounge around until their unemployment benefits run out and then look for a job. Meanwhile, the country as a whole suffers from inactivity.

Take France and Germany for example. These two countries have very generous compensation for people who cannot find a job, so people don't look for one.

We always hear about unemployment here in the United States (5.8 percent), but we have far better unemployment rates than either France (9.1 percent) or Germany (9.8 percent).

This reminds me of an old parable that teaches a valuable lesson: If you give a man fish, you feed him for a day; if you teach him how to fish, you feed him for a lifetime. We all know that the virtues of self-reliance and independence far exceed the problem of fostering dependence.

You, a Republican believes that a person can support themselves if they are willing to stand on their own two feet. We all know that the virtues of self-reliance and independence are far nobler and better than the virtues of self-indulgence and dependence.

President Bush has a plan to privatize the social security system, allow benefits to run out and then look for a job. It's like wandering through the West Bank, except the women are wearing tube tops instead of burkas, and you have a slightly better chance of being shot here.

(By the way ladies, I appreciate your enthusiasm for this jovies occasion. But is $2.79 in plastic beads worth having to explain to your children someday how Mommy got on the Internet, or what Girls Gone Wild is?)

Uh, and there's very much to the administration of Poly and San Luis Obispo for sending the following message to students:

"You are the best and brightest in the world, and we trust you to make the right decisions. But just in case, we're sending in the riot police."

Bad news, city council: if you want the millions of dollars that Poly dumps into the San Luis Obispo economy, you're going to get the 18,000 students that come with it. But instead of meeting us halfway and perhaps setting up a Mardi Gras zone (and being able to concentrate all the extra thugs in one spot), you banned Mardi Gras.

You can't ban Mardi Gras any more than you can ban herpes. Suppress it all you want, but the outbreak is just going to come back. So I've heard. Ahem. Erich Meschkat

Business administration junior

COMING TOMORROW

The Student Connection by ASI president Blake Bolton

MUSTANG DAILY

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Overrated: Mardi Gras

Celebrities with police

That's right. I said it. Mardi Gras is officially not that cool. You know, the hilarity has lost its meaning when all you need is a few pound of beads and a digital camera. I don't really want to brave rubber bullets and tear gas to watch a drunk girl get gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef gef 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The Mustangs' basketball team ended two dubious streaks Saturday night. In beating the UC Riverside Highlanders 90-81, the Mustangs earned their first road win of the season and snapped an eight-game losing streak, in front of a crowd of 964 at the Student Recreation Center in Riverside. UCR fell to 7-11, 3-4, while Cal Poly improved to 4-14, 2-8.

Earlier, Cal Poly did not fare as well, losing 92-69 to the Cal State Fullerton Titans in Mont Gym on Thursday. On Saturday, though, the Mustangs exploded offensively, recording their second-highest point total, behind their 98-point performance in the win over Santa Clara.

The Mustangs went to the free throw line 40 times, hitting 33 and went 25-of-52 from the field. Six Mustangs scored in double figures, led by 20 each by Nick Enweaver and Phil Johnson, who also had 11 rebounds. Dawn Whitner added 15 points off the bench. Junior guard Rickey Porter led UCR, in scoring with 15 points.

The game went back and forth until the second half, when Cal Poly went on a 19-4 run, fueled by UCR breakdowns and turnovers to seal the game. The big blow came with the Mustangs leading 48-43 when junior forward David Moko was called for a foul on Glenn Jones drive, and Steve Williams received a subsequent technical foul for contesting the call.

Enweaver hit the two free throws, and Jones followed with one of two. Following a Fernando Sampson layup, Jones got a steal and a lay in and moments later Porter turned the ball over and Phil Johnson put it home for a 13-point Mustang lead.

Cal Poly did not trail thereafter. UCR trimmed the margin to three or four times left, but could get no closer.

It was a change of pace for the Mustangs. Thursday, forward Titan Yehlert King scored a career-high 26 points to lead all five starters in double figures. A losing streak was indeed snapped, but it was a three-game one, belonging to the Titans, who improved to 9-7 and 4-4 in the Big West.

Joe Henry scored 18 points in his first career start, going 4-for-5 from the floor.

**Baseball finally turns the tide against UCLA**

Between 1953 and 1970, Cal Poly faced UCLA 20 times in baseball and only won three times. This weekend, they did it twice.

Bret Berglund boasted a .288 batting average and had a remarkable 27-game hitting streak with the Mustangs. This weekend, he went 8-for-13 at the plate.

Brian Martinson batted .378 with 13 hits and 12 RBIs. He also drove in 12 runs and had 15 doubles. The 6-foot-3, 215-pound Martinson also had a .443 on-base percentage.

.$$R$$-$$B$$-$$H$$

Rickey Horter led UC£L in scoring with 28 points against Santa Clara in a win. The 6-foot-8, 220-pound forward also had 11 rebounds.

The Mustangs allowed just 12 points in the first half of Saturday's game against UCLA. The Mustangs led 32-12 at halftime.

Mustangs leading 48-43 when junior forward David Moko was called for a foul on Glenn Jones drive, and Steve Williams received a subsequent technical foul for contesting the call.

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**Basketball jumps off the losing bandwagon**

It can't get much worse than Saturday's second half for Cal Poly women's basketball.

Shooting 6 percent from the field, the Mustangs went more than nine minutes without scoring and dropped their second game over the weekend. The Mustangs lost to Cal State Fullerton on Thursday 64-37, despite forward Nicole Yarwasky's impressive performance in her first career start, and dropped a decision to UC Riverside 63-43.

Cal Poly clearly missed the post presence of Katy Paterson, who was out recovering from mononucleosis. Yarwasky scored 13 points, but the rest of the team struggled to shoot from the field.

The Mustangs dropped to 3-6 in conference and into seventh place.

On Saturday, Cal Poly was led offensively by sophomores forward Jessica Eggleston and sophomore guard Sparkle Anderson, each with eight points.

The Mustangs' 43-point total is a season low for Cal Poly. Cal Poly outscored the Titans 28-17 in the first half and 15-12 in the second half.

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The Mustangs topped 15 points in a game last year and Cal State Northridge two years ago. The game went back and forth until the second half, when Cal Poly went on a 19-4 run, fueled by UCR breakdowns and turnovers to seal the game. The big blow came with the Mustangs leading 48-43 when junior forward David Moko was called for a foul on Glenn Jones drive, and Steve Williams received a subsequent technical foul for contesting the call.

Enweaver hit the two free throws, and Jones followed with one of two. Following a Fernando Sampson layup, Jones got a steal and a lay in and moments later Porter turned the ball over and Phil Johnson put it home for a 13-point Mustang lead.

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