**City weighs in on Poly Gras**

**Mardi Gras Weekend 2005**

Party-goers need to stay vigilant and watch their behavior this weekend...  
- Three times the usual deployment of police  
- Triple fines for violations  
- Fine for flashing: $100 for the first offense, $200 for the second offense

**Tackle the trails on Super Bowl Sunday**

Since 1987, the Central Coast Concerned Mountain Bikers have organized trail clean-ups in Montana de Oso State Park.

The 18th annual Super Bowl Sunday bike trail cleanup at Montana de Oso is happening this weekend. The Central Coast Concerned Mountain Bikers have organized the event since 1987, after rumors of impending bike trail closure throughout the 8,000-acre park. Since then, volunteers improved and restored many neglected pathways for safer riding conditions.

Due to heavy rainstorms this last month, mountain trails are in bad condition and bikers are unable to ride. Lamonica said that she is not concerned about turnout although the event fell on March Gras weekend.

"We do not rely on Cal Poly for most of the volunteer work... we welcome any student, hungover or not (after Mardi Gras), to come out and help," she said.

**Volunteers come to Montana de Oso to lend a hand cleaning trails on Super Bowl Sunday. Due to heavy rainstorms last month, mountain trails are in poor condition and mountain bikers are unable to ride.**

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**Insurgents kill 28 in post-election attacks**

Shiites turned out in large numbers to vote on Jan. 31, while minority Sunni Arabs are believed to have stayed away.

**Baghdad, Iraq — Insurgents struck back with a vengeance following a post-election hullabaloo, killing at least 28 people, including two Marines, in a burst of attacks, wayslaying a minibus carrying new Iraqi army recruits, detonating car bombs and ganging down police and Iraqis working for the U.S. military, officials said Thursday.**

Incomplete election results from Baghdad and five other of Iraq’s 18 provinces showed the Shiite clerical-endorsed ticket running strong in races for seats in the National Assembly, according to the first official results.

So far, 1.6 million votes have been counted, from 10 percent of the total number to vote on Jan. 31, raising concerns that the outcome could be fuel for the Sunni-led insurgency.

Insurgents had carousel attacks following the elections, according to the American and Iraqi forces imposed sweeping security measures. But starting Wednesday night, guerrillas launched a string of dramatic attacks.

In the deadliest incident, insurgents struck back with a vengeance following a post-election hullabaloo, killing at least 28 people, including two Marines, in a burst of attacks, wayslaying a minibus carrying new Iraqi army recruits, detonating car bombs and ganging down police and Iraqis working for the U.S. military, officials said Thursday.

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Trails 

continued from page 1

Bettencourt said that the Super Bowl Sunday workday has the biggest volunteer turnout of the year. "It's a great way to get outside and get some exercise before the big game," he said in a press release. "Trail users of all ages and abilities are encouraged to attend and no prior experience is necessary."

Local organizations are also getting involved, bike shops will hold raffles for prizes and the House of Bread and Boston Bagels will provide a continental breakfast for volunteers.

Drew Perkins, forestry senior and member of Cal Poly's Wheelman club, has worked on Super Bowl Sunday for the past three years. He said that it is a fun, social thing to do.

"I like to mountain bike, and this event helps keep trails in good shape," he said. "The whole point is to minimize erosion. You want the trails to be stable for anything that happens."

Bettencourt said that the cleanup provides the opportunity "to give back what they have reaped."

Mard Gras

continued from page 1

"The first thing they wanted to know was if I was the ringleader or throwing the Poly Gras party," Meschkat said. "They wanted to get all the facts straight ... It was very professional." SLOPD and UPD declined to comment about the meeting. Poly Gras was introduced in a letter to the editor published Monday. The letter informed students to stay in this weekend due to the increased police force, triple fine zones and DUI checkpoints. Instead, it gives readers the idea of rearranging the calendar and celebrate the holiday next weekend. The idea reverberated through the campus community and spread through the Internet as well.

"The idea was, if we can get a bunch of people together and still be peaceful, it would show the police that we don't need all this," Meschkat said. "I just wanted to create some kind of feeling of a family between students. In this community, we're all we have."

But city officials' response to this idea has been harsh. Besides showing up to his house and requesting a meeting, Meschkat was asked to write a retraction. Police told him that they would continue to monitor the situation.

"I think depending on what happens this weekend and next will determine what happens to me," he said. "I'm not a legal expert, but I don't think I can be held civilly liable for anything that happens." Whether or not Meschkat is blamed, the SLOPD is still concerned.

"Here we go again," Bryn said. "We're going to end up costing taxpayers thousands of dollars. It's simply irresponsible."

As for Meschkat, he's still in the game — the letter-writing game, that is. "I'm not a legal expert, but I don't think I can be held civilly liable for anything that happens."

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BERKELEY — Federal officials are recommending that Berkeley diversify its public housing program, suggesting the city has been favoring black applicants.

The recommendations, which include a suggestion that Berkeley consider recruiting students from the University of California, Berkeley, stem from a routine fair-housing compliance review conducted last July by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Berkeley Housing Director Stephen Barton said he was “stunned” by the recommendation from HUD’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

The Senate voted 60-36 to put the first Hispanic ever into the job, with all of the “no” votes coming from Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents.

Baghdad, Iraq — Iraqi officials Thursday released the first partial return from national elections, which concerns state water regulators who are calling for sweeping changes to flood control programs.

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Scholars debate ancient materials linked with the Bible

Biblical theologians clash with intellectuals over recent discoveries of artifacts many say are described in the Bible

Richard N. Ostling

ASSOCIATED PRESS

An ancient fortress, a burial box and a piece of cloth—historical remains related to the Bible never cease to provoke heated debate. The discoveries are thought to be tantalizing clues, cynical hoaxes or just archaeological mistakes.

Right now, for instance, three highly technical disputes have erupted over materials linked to Scripture:

In the most important development, scholars say tests on remains from a dig in modern-day Jordan indicate the biblical country of Edom existed during the era of Kings David and Solomon, if not earlier. The find could undercut skeptics of biblical history.

Prosecutors in Israel filed fraud charges Dec. 29 involving a purported first-century inscription of Jesus' name. But this month a prominent archaeology magazine will assail the government's scientific evidence.

New testing indicates the "Shroud of Turin," a celebrated relic said to be Jesus' burial cloth, could actually be a piece of cloth—historical or just archaeological mistakes.

"The public fascination is evident with intellectuals over recent years. Whether the discoveries are thought to be tantalizing clues, cynical hoax or just archaeological mistakes.

The find could undercut skepticism that the Bible's record of Solomon is largely fictional. The argument between Finkelstein and most archaeologists' older chronology was pursued in science magazine and at a recent radiocarbon summit in Britain.

Now comes the report on Edom, in the current edition of the quarterly Antiquity, by Russell Adams of the University of California, San Diego, and other colleagues.

"They say pottery remains and radiocarbon work at a major copper processing plant in Jordan indicate settlement in the 11th century B.C., and probably before that, with a nearby monumental fortress from the 10th century era of David and Solomon. They have convinced the site was part of the Edomite state."

But many scholars have claimed the Bible got it wrong, and no Edomite state existed before the eighth century. Part of their thinking stemmed from the fact that physical evidence of Edom was lacking.

Unlike Lemche's group, Finkelstein doesn't deny there was a Solomon — but his theory means the Bible's record of Solomon is largely fictional. The argument between Finkelstein and most archaeologists' older chronology was pursued in science magazine and at a recent radiocarbon summit in Britain.

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University of Arizona archaeologist William Dever had been skeptical about Edom's existence that early, but says this "discovery is revolutionary" and lends credibility to the biblical kingdom of David and Solomon.

"The Shroud of Turin dispute also involves radiocarbon tests, those done in 1968 on threads from the famous relic which bears the faint image of a crucified man. The tests dated the cloth at A.D. 1260 to 1390."

"But in the current edition of the journal Thermochimica Acta, Raymond Rogers of Los Alamos National Laboratory argues that the tested threads came from later patches and might have been contaminated."

Evidence of biblical kingdom of Edom

Some archaeologists are convinced that pottery remains and radiocarbon work in Jordan were from a site that was part of the Edomite state.

"Rogers' major point is that his chemical tests found no vanillin, a compound in flax fibers that gradually disappears."

"From that, he calculated that the shroud is 1,300 to 3,000 years old and could easily date from Jesus' era."

"The cloth is 'from the right time but you're never going to find out if it was used on a person named Jesus' through science. Rogers notes."

"Indeed, given the difficulties in interpreting the meaning of scattered items that by chance have survived from ancient times, the latest findings probably won't settle any of the three debates — if any of them can ever be truly put to rest."

EVENTS CALENDAR

What:

When:

Where:

More Info:

Send the Mustang Daily your events to be run in our new weekly calendar.

E-mail the information to

to editorial@mustangdaily.net
Bobby Schmidt plays the mandolin while Bridget Regan fiddles at a show Tuesday night. Irish punk band Flogging Molly played to a sold-out crowd at the San Luis Obispo Memorial Veterans Hall with openers the Briefs and Tsunami Bomb.

Student showcases experiences in India

Amanda Samonte
MUSTANG DAILY

Lianne’s cafe will feature a photography exhibit and free wine tasting today from 6 to 8 p.m. The exhibit will feature photos taken by architecture senior and photographer Erin Scholl, taken while she studied abroad in India for three months. She said she took about 5,000 photos of the people, scenery and buildings while she was there.

“I have always wanted to go to India since I was a little girl,” Scholl said. “It’s just so mind-blowingly different than anyone can ever imagine.”

She explained that her experiences opened her eyes to life in a third world country.

“One thing that was fascinating is the stratification between different income levels,” said Scholl. “A third of the population is starving, there is a tiny middle class and then the rich. They all wear gold jewelry and put rich Americans to shame.”

A particularly disturbing everyday occurrence was her seeing children begging on the streets with missing appendages.

“A really common practice there is that the parents have children because children are cuter and they can collect more money. And then if they break their leg, mangle them or back limbs off, they look more pathetic,” she said, slightly emotional.

She tried to refrain from handing out food or money, however, because she saw that they would be swarmed with beggars and the didn’t want to support the vicious cycle of disfiguring children in place of getting a job.

The process of discouraging begging is difficult because traditionally, in order to break the cycle of reincarnation, one must literally give others to the poor.

Beggars would always have a steady income until recently when Westerners values flooded India, she explained. Now, since the rich do not give handouts, the poor are starving, but do not have any job skills to improve their lifestyle.

People are so poor there — even toilet paper is a hot commodity.

“There is no toilet paper in India unless you are in a really nice hotel,” Scholl said. “You use your left hand to wash yourself when you go to the bathroom and your right to eat because there is no utensils. Instead of toilet paper, they give you a bucket and you scoop up the water and splash it on yourself... so I always carried toilet paper with me wherever I went.”

She said that she was also groped on a daily basis while walking in large crowds.

“Indian men are absolutely enthralled with American girls because their belief system,” she said. “If a woman even shows her ankle, she’s a whore. I actually punched some guy in the face for grabbing my book.”

Scholl described the entire trip as completely shocking.

The first thing she saw when she got off the plane in India was an elephant running down the street.

This type of occurrence made for great photo opportunities.

“I feel like I can’t even take credit because I once did all the subjects in the pictures,” Scholl said. “They are the ones that decided to wear beautiful clothes or paint a building bright orange, not me.”

“My whole idea of putting time, effort and money into this show is that I want people to go to India and see the amazing culture and feed their economy. It’s the richest place I can ever imagine even though the people are dirt poor.”

Scholl’s photos will be displayed and for sale throughout February.
The low-down on your morning high

We've all been there. Procrastinating until the last possible minute and inevitably pulling an "all-nighter" to perfect finishing touches. As a senior project, life would be very different without caffeine, the abundant, widespread drug of choice since the 1970s. There are many forms of caffeine including black and green tea, chocolate, soft drinks, coffee and both prescription and non-prescription drugs.

While caffeine is one of the most comprehensively studied (and consumed) ingredients in the food supply, the general public knows very little about it in effect.

Caffeine is a mild stimulant to the central nervous system that tends to augment stomach acid production, blood pressure and pulse rate. These symptoms can last up to 12 hours, but the body can develop tolerance within four days of regular use. According to the American Dietetic Association, a regular coffee drinker may not notice side effects as quickly as someone who drinks an occasional cup of Joe. For most healthy adults, moderate amounts of caffeine — 200 to 300 milligrams a day or about two cups of coffee — do not pose physical problems.

The consumption of caffeine containing beverages has a diuretic effect — it increases water loss from the body through urination. The more caffeine consumed, the greater the potential for dehydration. Furthermore, excessive intake (more than three cups a day) can cause "coffee jitters," insomnia and anxiety. Contrary to popular belief, caffeine is more habit-forming than addictive, but quitting cold turkey can still cause withdrawal symptoms such as headache, fatigue and depression.

Despite claims that caffeine consumption can lead to long-term health complications, data is currently inconclusive about the adverse effects of caffeine and its relationship to cancer, cardiovascular disease, osteoporosis and hypertension.

If your daily habit involves more than a couple trips to Juhani's, you may want to consider cutting back. To gradually ease off your caffeine use, eliminate one serving a day from your regular consumption and experiment with your intake to see how you feel physically and mentally. Try a mixture of half regular and half decaf coffee, or alternate between regular and decaf soft drinks. Also be aware of hidden caffeine in other items such as over-the-counter drugs. One dose of pain reliever (like Excedrin) can contain as much caffeine as one or two cups of coffee.

Of all the forms of caffeine on the market, coffee tends to be one of the most regularly consumed. According to Nestle, the U.S. per capita consumption of coffee is estimated to be 424 servings, which includes in-home and out-of-home ground, instant and ready-to-drink coffee. The amount of caffeine in different coffees varies greatly and depends on a number of factors including the way the coffee bean is roasted, the particular "grind" of the product is manufactured and the method of preparation (i.e. length of brewing and proportion of coffee to water). For example, one 8-ounce serving of brewed coffee has an average of 85 milligrams of caffeine, compared to an average of 80 milligrams in a 2-ounce serving of espresso.

We all love a venti, triple-shot Mochachino (hold the foam) now and then, or maybe a couple times a day — but keep in mind that stirring (no pun intended) substance you might be better off trading it for some herbal tea once in awhile.

Stacy West and Jane Wilson are nutrition seniors and members of the Peer Health Nutrient Team. Contact them at 576-6181.

COMING MONDAY

From Right Field by Mustang Daily columnist Matt Bushman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

City's message unsuccessful at dissuading this student

After reading police chief Deborah Linden's position on last year's Mardi Gras celebration, I have become even more inspired to go out and party this weekend.

Last year California, Foothill and part of Hathaway were blocked off and parties were corralled and shot with rubber bullets, beanbags and pepper balls. The force shown by the police was outrageous. The partiers did cause damage, but only after all access to the housing along Foothill, Steiner and Murray was blocked off and parties were told to go home ... but how were they supposed to get there?

The police's theme this year seems to be about the safety of all the residents of San Luis Obispo. That is why we should have a nice theme last year. I know I have now two steel plates and 15 screws in my arm after last year's Mardi Gras. I witnessed (while staying in the hospital) at least 10 other injuries caused by the police including a rubber bullet to a girl's eye, people with eyes burst from pepper and wets caused by rubber pellets. The violence shown by the police force was much more severe than the few violent acts demonstrated by select members of the "mob."

The students of Cal Poly and Castra not only contribute to the "character and vitality" of San Luis Obispo, but also to the economy. The students of Cal Poly, but the city seems to forget this huge financial impact we have on the community. We are an important part of the community and demand to be treated fairly.

Paul Tolford
Mechanical engineering sophomore

LETTER POLICY

Mardi Gras 2006?

Mardi Gras reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, punctuation and length. Letters, commentaries and cartoons do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. Please limit length to 250 words. Letters should include the writer's full name, phone number and major and class standing. Letters must come from a Cal Poly e-mail account. Do not send letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

By e-mail: opinion@mustangdaily.net

By mail: Letters to the Editor, Building 26, Room 226, Cal Poly, SLO, CA 93407
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Baseball vs. San Jose State (Baggett Stadium), 6 p.m.**

**Softball vs. Nevada (Janssen), 4:30 p.m.**

**Scheduling Bonus**

The Cal Poly Rec Center is looking for experienced instructors to teach step, spin, body sculpt, kardio kick, dance, etc. Call Michelle at 544-4353.

**Merchandising Grocery Resets/Remodels PT, $9-$12/hr. DOE, rights and days. Call 888-255-2233.**

**HOMES FOR SALE**

**Lost and Found**

Young, friendly female pit bull. To adopt call 239-2247.

**Homes wanted**

Vegetarians/non-vegetarians. Contact CampusFundraiser, (888) 923-3238, or visit www.campusfundraiser.com.

**Support Cal Poly sports. Go to the games!**

Baseball vs. San Jose State (Baggett Stadium), 6 p.m.

Softball vs. Nevada (Janssen), 4:30 p.m.

**FREE LIST OF ALL HOUSES AND CONDOMINIUMS FOR SALE IN SLO. CALIFORNIA REAL ESTATE 546-1990 OR EMAIL steve@slohomes.com**

**LOST AND FOUND**

Young, friendly female pit bull. To adopt call 239-2247.

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**HELP WANTED**

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He's more than just a name on a stadium

Brian J. Lambskin
 Staff Writer

The most Cal Poly students know about Robin Baggett is that he is the name sake for the stadium the Mustang baseball team plays in. Even that is a stretch for some students who probably don't know a thing about the members of the Mustang Hall of Fame.

Baggett is a successful lawyer, a famous Cal Poly athlete and one of the charter members of the Diamond Club, which helped save baseball at Cal Poly.

Growing up in Salinas, Baggett played football, basketball and baseball.

"I started out thinking basketball was my best sport and then moved to football," Baggett said.

Baseball brought him to Cal Poly on a scholarship as a catcher in 1968.

While a Mustang, Baggett had a stellar career behind the plate. He did not allow a passed ball during his career and as a senior, his fielding percentage was .990 and he threw out 70 percent of opponents attempting to steal. He caught a pinch hitting staff that holds school records for lowest ERA (1.98) and most shutouts (12) in a season.

Baggett also caught two no-hitters during his Cal Poly career. He was behind the plate for Dean Trumman's no-hitter in 1970 and caught Les Ohren's no-hitter against Cal Poly Pomona in 1971.

"You don't appreciate it at the time. It is like golf, you have to take it one shot or one pitch at a time," Baggett said. "You try to focus on just winning the game."

Although during one inning Ohren walked three straight batters, Baggett threw out each man after he reached first and tried to steal second.

Baggett excelled on the diamond and off as well. He graduated with honors, and before that he served on the student finance committee at Cal Poly, a position coach Angie Garrido made sure Baggett assumed to assure financial security.

"Coach Garrido wanted to make sure his team got in share of the money," he said.

Then as a senior Baggett was elected student body president, due in part to his position on the diamond. Garrido made the right decision.

"If I had gone into baseball, I probably would have been in the minors for eight years and by the time I was 30, I would have been back to the same position I was in when I graduated," Baggett said.

While attending Hastings, he was just as active as he had been while he was at Cal Poly. He played semi-pro ball and was the editor of the Law Review at Hastings. He graduated from law school in the top 2 percent of his class and upon graduation, he settled in San Francisco to practice law.

However, the Central Coast would call him back. In 1979, just after his first daughter was born, Baggett got the chance to return to San Luis Obispo. When the former head of the financial committee Baggett served on, Dave Fitzpatrick, offered him a position in his law firm. Connections are very important to Baggett and have served him well.

"I still keep in contact with almost every college team I played on in college."

These connections proved important after he returned to the area. The baseball program was in shambles by this time, and Baggett used his connections to help save it. He started the Diamond Club in 1979 and, along with former teammates Mike Krukow, put together the Krukow Charity Golf Tournament. For his contributions to the school, both athletically and academically, he was elected to the Cal Poly Hall of Fame in 1996.

"It was pretty special to be inducted to the Hall of Fame," Baggett said. "To be awarded for achievements off the field was very nice."

When Cal Poly finally got a new stadium in 2001, Baggett was again honored for his contributions to the program. He became the stadium namesake, an honor that he still cherishes.

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Baseball nabs the four spot

MUSTANG DAILY UNIV REPORT

Prior to the beginning of the season for the Cal Poly baseball team, defending national champion Cal State Fullerton was selected by coaches to claim its second straight Big West Conference title.

All eight conference head coaches weighed in for the preseason poll, tabbing the Titans as the unanimous No. 1 pick and choosing Long Beach State as the unanimous No. 2. The two teams respectively have finished one-two for two of the past three seasons, with the 49ers last claiming the conference crown in 2003.

The fourth-place slot in the poll was a tight race, with Cal Poly grabbing the edge by two points over UC Santa Barbara. The Mustangs have 19 letterwinners back from their 38-23-1 team from 2004, highlighted by All-Big West First Team selection Brandon Roberts, who had a school record 25-game hitting streak in 2004. Cal Poly is currently 5-1 and has its first home series this weekend.

The No. 1 Titans constructed a phenomenal past season, winning their fourth NCAA Division I National Championship. Fullerton enters the 2005 season ranked in the national preseason polls at No. 2 (Baseball America and Collegiate Baseball) and No. 3 (Sports Weekly/ESPN).

The preseason accolades don't end there, either. Junior left-hand- ed pitcher Ricky Romero is back to lead the Titans and boasts a preseason First Team All-American pick from Collegiate Baseball and NCBA after posting the third-best winning percentage in the nation last season at .778. As a freshman outfielder, Clark Hardman was a member of the 2004 All-Freshman team and got a second-team nod from Baseball America.

Long Beach State also is ranked in three preseason polls. The 49ers

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