Mardi Gras 2005 brought in 400 police officers from throughout the state; they successfully dispersed crowds, averted riots

Allison Terry and Emily Wong
MUSTANG DAILY

It started out quiet, it eventually ended that way, too.

Friday night was quiet throughout San Luis Obispo. Students attended small gatherings and house-parties and the bars downtown were relatively quiet.

Saturday started out the same. But around midnight, partying peaked; however, the increased police enforcement dispersed the crowds, within minutes.

A total of 36 arrests were made Saturday night, compared to 71 arrests last year on the same night.

For the weekend events, 400 police officers patrolled San Luis Obispo. Triple fines were also in place to discourage violations during the celebrations.

Saturday night events and response are as follow:

12:10 a.m. Police were called to report to Mustang Village, citing alleged flashing from a balcony and crowds gathering.

12:15 a.m. "It's getting ugly out there," San Luis Obispo Police Department Chief Deborah Linden said.

12:30 a.m. Officials declared Mustang Village cleared.

People who were dispersed from Mustang Village made their way down Casa Street toward Santa Rosa Park. Police on horseback followed.

So, the party's officially over; now what?

Few arrests, low-key partying reflects stepped up efforts by police which could mean this approach will return next year

Emily Wong
MUSTANG DAILY

They told us that the party's over. And for the most part it was.

Despite students being upset over the city's approach to Mardi Gras 2005, it worked.

Seventy-three persons were arrested over the weekend, compared to 130 last year. But the biggest difference this year was no riot.

"Our success has been no riot and we will continue our efforts," San Luis Obispo Police Department Chief Deborah Linden said early Saturday morning.

SLOPD spent the last year preparing for the event. They researched other areas with similar problems, such as Chico State and University of California Santa Barbara's Halloween celebrations. From these case studies, they settled on an aggressive campaign approach, including posting, depicting students in handcuffs reading "The Party's Over" and warning out-of-towners to stay at home.

The city's strategic plan included increasing police presence to 400 officers, enforcing triple fines and arresting students for flashing, in accordance with the Public Nudity Ordinance passed last year.

Students expressed negative sentiments throughout the campaign.

"They were over the top," said.

Notes from the Mardi Gras mob

It's 20 minutes past midnight, riot cops are clearing Mustang Village and for the first time all night, I feel mild panic.

The near-tranquility of the early evening has vanished. The Mardi Gras party may be officially over, but this is the moment everyone has been waiting for.

If this is "Spinal Tap," the crowd and police are turning the amp up to 11, and I'm hoping to not get shot or arrested.

It's not a sure thing.

Perched on the Foothill Boulevard sidewalk, I can't see much. In the 10 or so minutes before this, females at upstairs apartment windows have flashed the crowds crammed inside Mustang Village. Now, the chants of "Show your tit" from the party-starved refugees have given way to what sounds like pepper-ball guns.

Send us your photos with police

We know you were out this weekend taking some friendly photos with the 400 police officers out on patrol and we want to see them. Send us your best student police partner and we'll publish them this week. Make sure to email them to editor@mponline.com. Send a photo of yourself and we will publish it on our website. During Mardi Gras weekend, 400 law enforcement officers were on duty.

Send us your student police partner and we'll publish them this week. Make sure to email them to editor@mponline.com. Send a photo of yourself and we will publish it on our website.
Golden
continued from page 1

The challenge, through this and thereafter, is to find a neutral haven while I wait for the night to wind down. For a time, Ihurstro around a nearby Arco gas station. Then, I head over to the corner of Lemon and Montalban streets, where a small group of Cal Poly and Cuesta students stand inside the gate and Burrows offers me a beer. Their feelings are mixed. They aren't laughing when we're told to move on. Slightly down Casa Street, I encounter more members of the Student Alliance, clad in orange and yellow, and I ask them, "just hang out here for now," he replied. Ingram attended the last Mardi Gras, the guy who had been happier with the police this year. "They're easier as of right now," Ingram said, explaining how last year he saw people shot for no reason. This year the cops are telling them to move along.

But, no one's laughing when we're told to move on. Slightly down Casa Street, I encounter more members of the Progressive Student Alliance, clad in orange shirts, charging cameras. Like me, they're out, along with other members of their club, to chronicle the night.

With a half-dozen policemen mounted on horseback and a large number walking slowly behind, following the rear of the crowd, we stand swaying stories. A guy in a polo shirt then approaches, proclaiming he knows someone got "lil' up" by a cop.

"You had a guy there but he was pointing his camera at the other one," he tells the PSA member. There's no way to verify this testimony, but certainly, there's been a line the cops have, at times, narrowly skirted. My nervousness doesn't about 10 minutes later, when I reach a dead end, a chain-link fence where a hole leads into Santa Rosa Park. I enter another potential photo war zone. Some of the streetwalkers congregate on the grass. A few motorcycle cops are already circling the parking lot. Before long, police vans and even a S.W.A.T. team Armored Personnel Carrier will arrive. I head for the street, hearing it's illegal to be in a park after 1 a.m.

Before long, the crowd begins to chant something like "We won't back down! We won't back down!" with one guy beating on a bongo drum. It's like watching a scale down, very pitiful Civil War recreation and naturally, the rebels are quickly dispersed. Perhaps this means that next year we can expect more of the same.

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dents. They should be grateful that Cal Poly a college of this quality is here.

The result of the "over the top" approach was few arrests and low-key partying, compared to last year festivities. And while, it was quieter, the few outbursts near California and Foothill boulevards are still a cause for concern.

This affirms that this will be a year-round effort to quell this event," Linden said. Perhaps, this means that next year we can expect more of the same.

In an attempt to escape the city's Mardi Gras regulations, students started to talk about an unofficial Poly Mardi Gras, to be held next weekend. These plans continue to reverberate among crowds of students.

"We know about it, we're monitoring the situation so that we understand what the dynamics are," SLOPD public information officer Rob Bryn said in an interview Thursday. "We are prepared to handle it.

Last year, Saturday night riot spurred the cancellation of Mardi Gras in San Luis Obispo. While the weekend passed quietly, officers will still be on duty for Fat Tuesday. Triple fines will be in effect through Wednesday.
LOS ANGELES — Four Iranian brothers jailed for more than three years for supporting an alleged terrorist organization have rejected a government offer to release them with certain restrictions.
The Mirmehdi brothers — Mohammed, Mostafa, Mohsen and Mojtaba — were arrested in October 2001 following an FBI investigation into a Los Angeles-based cell of the Mujahedeen Khalq, or MEK, which opposes Iran's regime.

The driver stopped and a passenger, described as another suspected gang member, fled on foot.

OAKLAND — The California Interscholastic Federation is considering three proposals to guard against the use of performance-enhancing drugs by high school athletes but decided against imposing random drug tests.

The poll of 600 likely voters shows 53 percent favor injecting new money into the program to keep it alive, while 42 percent disagree.

Former Democratic vice presidential nominee John Edwards, getting the 2008 campaign cycle off to an early start, said Saturday that "one of the great moral issues of our time" and he pledged to help fight it.

The setting of Edwards's speech was as notable as its content. A visit to New Hampshire, traditionally the site of the lead-off presidential primary, is the first public sign that a politician is considering a White House bid.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said the city will enhance drugs by high school
teachers. He described as another suspected gang member.

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia — Saudi Arabia's crown prince called for the formation of a wide-open center to share intelligence on terrorism. The prince said Saturday at a conference that "terrorism is our common enemy.

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Located down the stairs from Matt gym
The Avenue — "We've got what you want! Hungry for chicken? A custom-made sandwich? Fresh sty fry? How about a burrito? A bagel or some soup? The Avenue features Chick-fil-A, with chicken entrees, Red Dragon Wok with rice bowls, Nathan's for hot dogs and the fixin's, Tapango's Super, with Mexican cuisine, and City Deli, with custom-made sandwiches. Why not enjoy a frozen yogurt at Sweet Persuasions?"
'Boogeyman' scares its way to top

Those scary boogeymen are continuing their reign of terror at movie theaters.

"Boogeyman" was the latest in a rash of horror flicks to top the weekend box office, debuting with $19.5 million to beat the romantic comedy "The Wedding Date," which opened in second place with $11 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The road-rip comedy "Are We There Yet?" came in third with $10.4 million, raising its total after 17 days to $51.1 million. "Hole and Seek," another fright film that led the box office the previous weekend, slipped to No. 4 with $8.9 million, lifting its 10-day gross to $35.7 million.

Business was relatively quiet because of the Super Bowl, which keeps many movie-goers at home. But for a Super Bowl weekend, Hollywood had a fairly strong showing, with the top 12 movies grossing $91 million. Over Super Bowl weekend, the top 12 took in $73.4 million.

"Boogeyman" stars Barry Watson as a man who attempts to overcome the fear of what lurks in his closet by spending a night in the boyhood home that is the source of his terror. The movie was made by "Spider-Man" director Sam Raimi's Hornet production outfit Cihost House.

"Boogeyman" should turn a tidy profit even if revenues nose-dive in subsequent weekends.

Also trashed by critics, "The Grudge," starring Dina Meyer as a woman who lures a male escort as her companion to a wedding to show her ex-fiance, who's the best man, as a woman who tries to overcome his fear of what lurks in his closet, took the top spot at theaters this weekend. Like "Boogeyman," the "The Wedding Date" was a comparatively low-cost movie, with a budget under $15 million, meaning it should turn a solid profit.

Given Messing's audience appeal — including Xbox

Among other things, "The Wedding Date" stars Debra Messing as a woman who hires a male escort as her companion to a wedding to show up her ex-fiance, who's the best man.

Many frightening flicks tend to open well then quickly vanish from theaters as the horror audience moves on to something else. Produced for just $7 million, though, "Boogeyman" should turn a tidy profit even if revenues nose-dive in subsequent weekends.

As always, the numbers are staggering, with a relative lack of current movie choices for women, "The Wedding Date" was able to draw in a good portion of the female crowd. Women accounted for three-fourths of the movie's audience.

At least give me some musical smut, MTV

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The Parents Television Council released a study Feb. 1 entitled "MTV Smut Peddiers: Targeting Kids with Sex, Drugs and Alcohol." In short, the study demonstrates that MTV displays more sex, foul language and violence than any other network on television.

Not only has the study been covered by nearly all of the major media outlets in the country and abroad, but it has been adopted by religion and family-oriented organizations as proof of a lingering enemy.

The study begins with a reference to the Janet Jackson Super Bowl disaster, segue into opinions about how much viewers are influenced by the content and ends with multiple statistics and examples from their study.

Some of the numbers are staggering, but frankly, I found the overall of the term "crotch-grabbing" even more so.

Without agreeing with everything in the study, I would say that MTV has simply followed the trends. Yes, they may have more smut than most networks, but there is plenty of smut elsewhere. Doing away with MTV content would not hinder the growth of these trends.

At this point, I really wouldn't be disappointed if MTV was gone forever. But on another level, MTV has simply betrayed the goal that they set for themselves when the network began. Years ago, when the channel actually lived up to its name. I spent a good amount of my day listening to my favorite songs manifested in video. Granted, back then "The Grind" was an on-air, but at least there was music playing during the show.

When I think music television, I don't think reality shows, makeovers or watching people get drunk on the beach (MTV Spring Break, please die). I think music television, I don't think reality shows, makeovers or watching people get drunk on the beach (MTV Spring Break, please die).

It's not hard to figure out that I think of music when I think of music television, in one form or the other.

Some of the music videos that were made are landmarks in music history. When I think music television, I don't think reality shows, makeovers or watching people get drunk on the beach (MTV Spring Break, please die).

Artists like Michael Jackson, Guns 'N' Roses, Smashing Pumpkins, Bjork and Madonna created music videos that I would consider true pieces of visual art. Not only do these videos provide entertainment, but they sparked discussion and analysis.

Truthfully, I'm more upset about the lack of music on MTV than the terrible influence they are to kids. In my mind, the kind of smut they display is useless and unnecessary — they could do much better with music fans, and probably ratings, if they just let Madonna do her thing.

Emily Logan is a journalism and music junior and a Mustang Daily columnist.
Social Security: It's our money, isn't it?

Who here is worried that the Social Security system is not going to take care of our generation?

Chances are that most of us aren't too worried about it, but we should be. Even though we aren't thinking about our retirement now, the government is. They are making decisions right now that will forever affect how we will be able to save our money. We have an opportunity now to break free of Social Security and make our own decisions about the money we earn.

President George W. Bush set out an ambitious policy of major reforms for his second term during the State of the Union. One focus of his domestic policy for the coming years is the privatization of our antiquated Social Security system.

Expect this restructuring to be a central topic for debate in the first half of Bush's second term. Instead of better partisan policies, I think that this is a policy that everyone can agree on.

It would greatly benefit the people of our country, as well as the national economy.

We need only to look around the world for instances of how the transition from big government programs to personal savings accounts took place. Take a look at Chile for an example of the success of privatization.

This small South American nation was the first country in the Western Hemisphere to scrap their bureaucratic system. In the two decades since the overhaul, their economy has been growing at its fastest pace ever. The shift took a large portion of the country's wealth out of stagnating government reserves and invested it into the free market. The government could then focus on other major issues facing the country. Companies also benefited from the increased capital and the workers reaped benefits through increased wages.

The people of Chile also earn about 10 percent interest on their retirement accounts, much better than the 2 percent the U.S. government promises. All this is good, but the real reason why we need to privatize social security is that your family gets to keep your assets. If someone were to work their entire life paying social security and passed away, their family would lose out on that money forever. The best feature of Bush's privatization plan is that the money would go into a personal savings account and would be considered part of that person's assets. That money is theirs to keep.

If you have that vision, you will see many things about privatization over the next few years, but there are a few things that you need to know. Social Security will not be able to support us forever. Analysts on both sides of the aisle agree that something needs to be done about the widening gap between deposits and payouts. Another thing to consider is the advantage of passing retirement savings onto future generations.

Come to think of it, there is no good reason to be against this common-sense policy change. Let's take responsibility for our futures and reap the rewards of a better economy and better retirements for us all.

Matt Bushman is a computer science junior and Mustang Daily columnist.

COMING TOMORROW

The Student Connection by ASI president Blake Bolton

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Idaho outlasted Cal Poly, 45-39, led by Lionel Davis with 11. Henry and Andrew Johnson each had five boards for the Mustangs, who made just 33 percent of their floor shots compared to 42.4 percent for the Vandals. Cal Poly turned the ball over 15 times, four more than Idaho.

In Thursday's game, Utah State connected on 63 percent of its floor shots and used a 22-2 run midway through the second half to turn back Cal Poly 81-57 in a Big West Conference men's basketball game Thursday night before 1,827 in Mert Gym.

Senior forward Spencer Nelson scored 17 points, freshman guard Jayceer Carroll added 12 and junior center Cash Matthews scored 10 off the bench as Utah State improved to 16-5 for the season and 7-3 in the Big West.

The Aggies have won five straight, Cal Poly, which fell to 4-15 and 2-9, was led by freshman guard Askins with 12 points off the bench and senior guard Glenn Jones with 10.

Cal Poly, which trailed 41-31 at halftime, pulled to within five points early in the second half and was within six at 46-42 with 12:53 to play.

But the Mustangs would score just two points in the next 7:27 as Utah State sprouted to a 70-44 cushion with 5:26 to play.

Utah State outrebounded Cal Poly, 34-20, led by Nelson and Nate Harris with seven each.

Jones and Henry each had three rebounds for the Mustangs. While Utah State connected on 29 of 46 floor shots compared to 42.4 percent who made just 33 percent of their.

The Aggies scored the game's first seven points to improve to 11-8 overall and 6-4 in the league, while Cal Poly fell to 9-9 and 3-7, losing its fourth straight.

Cal Poly led most of the second half before USU gained its first lead of the second period at 44-43 with 9:44 left in the game.

The teams battled back and forth and were tied for the seventh time of the half at 1:52 after USU's

Jessica Freeman hit a short jumper to make the score 52-52. Tersler's layup made it 54-52 for USU and then Camille Box hit a free throw with 14 seconds left and Taylor Richards sealed the victory with a pair of free throws with 1.3 seconds remaining.

Ari Aidi led the Aggers in scoring as she had 11 of her 19 points in the second 15 and 11 of her 19 points in the second half.

She was the only USU player in double figures, but Tersler and Freeman, each had nine points.

Cal Poly was led by Jessica Eggleston, who scored 15 points and had seven rebounds. Cal Poly shot just 28.6 percent from the field and committed 19 turnovers.

The Aggies led 43-35 and had 23 turnovers, but outrebounded the Mustangs 49-38.

Cal Poly on a four-game road trip, will play at UC Santa Barbara on Thursday and at UC Davis next Monday (Feb. 14).
Schlick steps down from coaching volleyball

Embattled by two straight losing seasons after bringing Cal Poly volleyball into national prominence, coach Steve Schlick stepped down as the Mustang volleyball coach Thursday.

"This was a very difficult decision to make, but a good one," Schlick told the Mustang athletic department. "After 26 years of coaching, I believe it is a positive time to move in a different direction, and that opportunity has presented itself right here at Cal Poly."

Schlick now assumes an administrative support position with the Cal Poly athletics department.

"Exit season, Schlick's squad went through what was classified as a rebuilding year with a young and promising team that went 13-16, but the 2004 season was anything but a step in the right direction. A dispute with team policies prompted standout player Vanessa Gillian to quit as the team entered disarray. The team finished 5-22 and 3-15 in conference.

In nine seasons at the helm, Schlick led Cal Poly to 135 victories and three NCAA Tournament appearances. I have been blessed to coach and work with an incredible group of players and people within the volleyball program and the athletics department," Schlick said. "My hope is to be able to continue supporting this phenomenal group, but in a different capacity. I believe that the future of this volleyball team is a bright one!"

A search for a volleyball coach begins immediately, said Athletics Director Allen Cone.

"We greatly appreciate all that Steve has done for our volleyball program and we will miss his leadership in that program," Cone said.

Schlick led the Mustangs to three NCAA Tournaments in four years, from 1999 to 2002. Cal Poly has made 12 NCAA Division I Tournaments in its history. For the first time in a decade, Schlick led the Mustangs to the national tournament in 1999.

Reserves shine, Cal Poly does not

The Mustangs learned it's not who starts strong, it's who finishes strong.

Cal Poly outscored to a 19-8 lead in Saturday's game, but Idaho started the second half with nine straight points. Hackett Anderson took over to win 75-63 at Mott Gym. Autumn Lyons and Tanner Sherald combined for 43 points to lead Idaho.

In a lineup switch-up, coach Kevin Bremley put Lew Finnegan and Glenn Jones in the starting lineup. Finnegan turned in 16 points while Jones contributed six points.

But Lyons was too much for the Mustangs, scoring 22 points and sinking seven of 14 floor shots. Sherald added 21, hitting five of 11 floor shots.

Idaho improved to 8-14 overall and 6-5 in the Big West. Cal Poly, which fell to 4-16 and 2-10 in the Big West after losing for the tenth time in 11 games.

Idaho went on to lead by as many as 19 points in the second half and coasted to the win. Cal Poly never got any closer than 11 points in the final eight minutes of play.

Idaho hands w. basketball its fifth straight loss

In the midst of a four-game losing streak, Cal Poly women's basketball ran into the Big West's top team on Saturday.

Emily Faurholt poured in 26 points and three of her teammates added at least 16 points as the University of Idaho defeated Cal Poly 81-70, in a Big West Conference women's basketball game Saturday night in the Cowan Spectrum.

Idaho is in first place in the Big West, as it improved to 9-2 in conference and 14-6 for the season.

Also contributing for the Vandals were Heather Thoeke and Jesica Summers, each with 17 points, while Leilani Mitchell scored 16 points.

Faurholt led the nation in scoring last year and hit nine of 17 floor shots. Cal Poly fell to 9-10 for the season and 3-8 in the Big West.

The Mustangs were led in scoring by junior forward Courtney Cameron with 18 points off the bench. Junior forward Sarah Grieve added 11 points for the Mustangs.

But the Mustangs turned the ball over 22 times and Idaho led at halftime, 42-39.

At 5:52 in the game, the Mustangs tied the game at 61 before the Vandals rushed off on a 16-7 run.

As has been a recent problem, the Mustangs fell to 2-10 in Big West play.