**Look mom, me and 400 police**

City and regional planning senior Jeff Isinabti and friends show some Mardi Gras spirit and gather with police officers near campus.

**Over the Mardi Gras weekend, students took some time to take photos with some of the 400 officers on duty in San Luis Obispo. At times, there appeared to be more police patrolling the streets than students milling around. Officers traveled in groups and were well-equipped for any outbreak. The few disturbances were broken up within minutes. Police officers kept crowds moving in the "target area" — near California and Foothill boulevards. In an otherwise dark and dispiriting time, police and students found companionship in a few simple photos.**

**So many hopefuls, no room**

Cal Poly has explored the possibility of eliminating excess units to force students to graduate faster.

Crystal Phend

This is the second of a three-part series examining how the conflict between academic freedom and limited university and state resources has precipitated changes to move students through their degree faster and make them fund more of their own education.

Last winter, Cal Poly had an applicant pool as large as the population of Atascadero. Only 3,600 spaces were available for the more than 27,000 hopefuls. So last spring when the governor's compact for Higher Education was being discussed and budget cuts were known to be imminent, Cal Poly was also fighting the battle between student access and resource limitations.

Like the legislature and the California State University system, Cal Poly also looked at the issue of excess units as a possible route to relieve pressure. The excess unit debate centers around the idea that students taking courses beyond graduation requirements are delaying their exit from the university and therefore preventing the entrance of other students.

"There is always the possibility that if Cal Poly doesn't come up with a policy and if the CSU doesn't come up with a policy, the legislature might do something foolish," said George Lewis, mathematics professor and former chair of Cal Poly's Academic Senate.

However, the senate committee was unable to make a recommendation and was unable to find any evidence that a large number of students misuse their "slot" in this way, Lewis said. They did not want to penalize students who take a double major or minor, or the students see Freedom, page 2

**Abundant security ensures mellow Fat Tuesday**

No loud music, no Mardi Gras spirit, no officers on campus.

The 150 law enforcement officials downtown Tuesday night far exceeded the 12 officers regularly on duty.

Kristen Ozzo

The 150 officers on duty Tuesday night paled in comparison to the 400 stationed during the Mardi Gras weekend. However, it was quite an increase difference from the 12 officers on duty any other Tuesday.

Authorities employed the same tactics for Fat Tuesday as they did during the weekend.

"The object of the exercise is to have officers meet and interact with people on the street," said San Luis Obispo Police Department Public Information Officer Rob Bryn. "If large crowds begin to form, we get them to disperse as quickly as possible," see Mardi Gras, page 2.

**MARDI GRAS 2005**

The most addictive online communication tool since AIM

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**COMING FRIDAY**

Cal Poly colleges handle excess units differently.

**MUSTANcDAILY 3-PART SERIES**

Of the 27,000 students that applied to Cal Poly, only 3,600 were admitted.

KIEL CARREAU MUSTANG DAILY

**One of the complaints officers received was that security measures made it difficult for students to get home from downtown.**
Freedom
continued from page 1
who transfer with more units than required, Lewis said. And as a school that requires students to declare a major upon entrance, changing majors presents another problem.
For now, the senate has stopped exploring such a policy, but administrators like Lewis warn that it could quickly become an issue again if the CSU or legislature decides to act.
Rather, no negative incentives will be implemented before the positive incentives for quick progress to degree have been exhausted, said David Conn, vice provost for academic programs and undergraduate education.
One of these was the recent registration changes.
"The old system was not working well," Conn said. "It was winner-take-all."
Now that students are only able to register for 14 units in the first round of registration, rather than 16 units, administrators hope the process will be fairer to students with lower priority.
Conn said it should prevent students with high priority from grabbing classes they may not want but which other students need.
The changes should help students get through their programs more quickly because they will be able to get the core classes they need, said associate registrar Marlene Carter.
Associated Students Inc. vice president Tyler Middlestadt and others on the ASI Board of Directors are opposed to the registration changes because it is "too much, too fast."
Carter said that early feedback has been positive, with several students commenting that they have been able to get classes they never would have gotten before.
As politicians and administrators play out the battle between academic freedom and limited resources on a philosophical and economic level with hypothetical situations, the individual colleges engage in hand-to-hand combat with these issues in a very real student body.
Tomorrow's installment will look at the efforts the individual colleges have made to deal with the issues.

Calendar
continued from page 3
Where: Embassy Suites
More Info: Check out the Web site at www.cc.calpoly.edu
What: Open House Clubs Representatives meeting. This meeting is mandatory for all clubs planning to run a booth during Open House. Please come prepared to take notes and report back to your club. Attendance is taken and a raffle is held for all those in attendance.
When: Thursday Feb. 17, 11 a.m.
Where: Bldg. 3 Room 213
More Info: Call the Open House office at 756-7576 or visit the Web site: orientation.calpoly.edu/openhouse
When: Friday, Feb. 18, 4 p.m.
Mardi Gras
continued from page 1
blee.
On Tuesday afternoon, authorities worked diligently to set up a staging area on California Boulevard. By the evening, transport trailers, ATVs, bicycle police officers, motorcycles and other vehicles were lining the sides of the road. Multiple security units specializing in different aspects of enforcement gathered together.
Authorities chose California Boulevard as their staging area because it is in a central location.
"One of the complaints we got was that it was difficult for kids to bypass security to get home," SLOPD Cpt. Daniel Blanke said. "We figured that with the street blocked off, students are able to go in three directions." The California Highway Patrol special operations unit, from Sacramento, was the largest police force in San Luis Obispo on Tuesday.
San Luis Obispo was split up geographically into red, yellow and blue sections. Each unit was assigned to a specific area.
A standby ambulance was also sta-
STATE NEWS

SAN DIEGO — Metabolic founder Michael J. Ellis, who built the multimillion-dollar diet-drug company on sales of a now-banned herbal supplement, has been indicted on federal weapons charges.

The indictment accuses Ellis of illegally having guns and ammunition, which he could not possess because he is a convicted felon, stemming from a drug case in the 1980s. Authorities say three handguns, a rifle and ammunition were found at his ranch in Julian during a federal raid in 2002.

Ellis, 52, is scheduled to be arraigned Thursday. The indictment issued Tuesday has four counts of illegal weapons possession and one of conspiracy.

SAN FRANCISCO — Carly Fiorina’s nearly six-year reign at Hewlett-Packard Co. ended Wednesday as the company’s board forced her out as chief executive, disappointed by her efforts to make the technology giant whose strongest business is printers more nimble and innovative. HP shares jumped more than 6 percent.

Board members said they fired Fiorina, one of corporate America’s highest-ranking female executives, because she failed to execute a planned string of saving costs and boosting revenue as quickly as hoped.

LOS ANGELES — A retired stammtab testified Wednesday that Robert Blake took him on a tour of places where he could kill the actor’s wife, including the area around the restaurant where she was actually slain.

Ronald “Duffy” Hamilton also told the jury in the murder trial that Blake took him to his home and showed him where he could enter Bondy Lee Bakley’s living quarters, kill her and escape.

IN OTHER NEWS

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Wednesday that Medicare is next on the government’s fix-it list because he is a convicted felon, because the health care plan for the elderly and disabled, like Social Security, is facing financial stress with the retirements of baby boomers.

New administration estimates released Wednesday showed that the Medicare prescription drug benefit will cost taxpayers $724 billion over its first full 10 years, far higher than earlier estimates and requiring congressional fixes to keep it in operation.

NORFOLK, Va. — A school administrator pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges alleging she laundered profits made by a multimillion-dollar narcotics ring.

Court papers allege that Pamela Y. Hoelfer-Kiddick, 43, a regional assistant superintendent for Prince George’s County schools in Maryland, deposited large sums of money into banks and credit unions for the drug ring.

She declined to comment on the charges as she left the courtroom Wednesday.

She was charged with five counts of money laundering, which carry a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and a $500,000 fine for each count. Trial was set for July.

WASHINGTON — The $80 billion war funding request President Bush will send to Congress next week includes $400 million to help nations that have troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, a phosphorus bomb attack in Saudi Arabia that killed 11 people, and a broken hip sent her to the hospital on her 105th birthday. She has seven children, 13 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. Her son Roy E. Mitchell was killed in a car accident.

FOR THE RECORD - ADJUSTMENT

The Los Angeles Times reported Thursday that a car bomb exploded in Madrid on Wednesday after a warning call purportedly from the Basque separatist group ETA, injuring at least 43 people, offended, said, in the worst blast in the Spanish capital since last year’s terrorist attack on commuter trains.

Police did not have time after the warning call to the Basque newspaper Gara to fully cordon off the area or evacuate workers and visitors at a sprawling convention center nearby, where King Juan Carlos was to meet the Mexico President Vicente Fox later in the day.

Israel has agreed to lift travel restrictions in parts of the West Bank in coming weeks, Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas said Wednesday, in what would be the strongest signal yet to Palestinians that a cease-fire with Israel is beginning to pay off. Abbas made the announcement after returning to the West Bank from a Mideast summit in Egypt, where he and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon declared an end to four years of bloodshed.

Freedom of travel would greatly improve the lives of Palestinians, as the roadblocks have decimated their economy.

—Associated Press

UNDER FOUR?

OR JUST NOT ALL THERE?

64% of students never miss class due to drinking. The average CP student drinks less than 4 in a sitting.
Creator of Dolly the Sheep gets cloning license

Thomas Wagner
ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON — The British government Tuesday gave the creator of Dolly the Sheep a license to clone human embryos for medical research into the cause of motor neuron disease.

Ian Wilmut, who led the team that created Dolly at Scotland's Roslin Institute in 1996, and motor neuron expert Christopher Shaw of the Institute of Psychiatry in London, plan to clone embryos to study how nerve cells go wrong to cause the disease. The experiments do not involve creating cloned babies.

Wilmut has repeatedly condemned the idea of human cloning to create babies, but not therapeutic cloning — taking cells from an embryo cloned from a sick patient. However, he has not endorsed cloning to make an embryo cloned from a sick patient.

In 2001, Wilmut was granted in August to a team that hopes to use cloning to create insulin-producing cells that could be transplanted into diabetes. Dr. Brian Dickie, director of research at the London-based Motor Neurone Disease Association, said the latest decision by the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority means "we are a step closer to medical research that has the potential to revolutionize the future treatment of severe disease." An incurable muscle-wasting condition that affects about 35,000 people and kills some 10,000 each year.

While the latest project would not use the stem cells to correct the disease, the study of the cells is expected to help scientists develop future treatments, according to the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority, which regulates such research and approved the license.

Stem cells are the master cells of the body. They appear when embryos are just a few days old and go on to develop into every type of cell and tissue in the body. Scientists hope to be able to extract the stem cells from embryos when they are in their blank state and direct them to form any desired cell type to treat a variety of diseases, ranging from Parkinson's to diabetes.

Getting the cells from an embryo that is cloned from a sick patient could allow scientists to track how diseases develop and provide genetically-matched cell transplants that do not cause the immune systems to reject the transplant.

Such work, called therapeutic cloning, because it does not result in a baby, is opposed by abortion foes and other biological conservatives because researchers must destroy human embryos to harvest the cells.

Cloning opponents decried the license Tuesday, saying the technique is dangerous, undesirable and unnecessary.

"What a sad and extraordinary volte face (turnaround) for the proponent of animal cloning," said the London-based Comment on Reproductive Ethics. "Wilmut has always been the loudest voice in recent years warning of the dangers of mammalian cloning. And we remember how in the years following the birth of Dolly the Sheep, he assured the world he would never go near human cloning."

Wilmut has repeatedly condemned the idea of human cloning to create babies, but not so-called therapeutic cloning.

"We recognize that motor neuron disease is a serious, congenital condition," said Angela McNich, chief of Britain's Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority. "Following careful review of the medical, scientific, legal and ethical aspects of this application, we felt it was appropriate to grant the Roslin Institute a one-year license for this research into the disease."

Wilmut and Shaw plan to clone cells from patients with the incurable muscle-wasting disease, derive blank-state stem cells from the cloned embryo, make them develop into nerve cells, and compare their development to nerve cells derived from healthy embryos.

The technique, called cell nuclear replacement, is the same as that used to create Dolly.

The mechanism behind motor neuron disease is poorly understood because the nerves are inaccessible in the brain and central nervous system and cannot be removed from patients. "This is potentially a big step forward for motor neuron disease research," Shaw said. "We have spent 20 years looking for genes that cause (motor neuron disease) and to date we have come up with just one gene. We believe that the use of cell nuclear replacement will greatly advance our understanding of why motor neurons degenerate in this disease, without having to hunt down the gene defect."

Genetics expert Peter Brinde of King's College, London, who is not involved with the work, said that studying how nerves go wrong in motor neuron disease and how it can be cured is particularly difficult and that cloning is the only way to produce the cells necessary to answer such questions.
Couple sues for wrongful death of embryo

Ruling that an embryo is a person may have a chilling effect on everything from stem cell research to abortion

Lindsey Tanner
ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHICAGO — All Alison Miller and Todd Parrish wanted was to become parents. But when a fertility clinic didn't preserve a healthy embryo they had hoped would one day become their child, they sued for wrongful death.

A judge refused to dismiss their case, ruling in effect that a test-tube embryo is a human being and that the suit can go forward.

Though most legal experts believe the ruling will be overturned, some in the fertility business worry it could threaten everything from in vitro fertilization to abortion rights and embryonic stem cell research.

"If the decision stands, it could essentially end in vitro fertilization and embryonic stem cell research," said Dr. Robert Schenken, president of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine.

Five doctors would risk offering the procedure if any accident that harmed the embryo could result in a wrongful death lawsuit, and Schenken, chairman of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Texas in San Antonio.

He said the society, a professional group for fertility doctors, is considering filing a court brief opposing the ruling by Cook County Judge Jeffrey Lawrence.

The lawyer for the clinic, James Kopriva, declined to say if an appeal is planned, but added, "We are weighing our options. We disagree with the court's decision and do not believe Illinois law provides for the remedy provided by the court."

In a letter to the couple in June 2000, Dr. Norbert Gleicher, director of the Center for Human Reproduction, said an employee had failed to put an embryo in frozen storage and he apologized for "this oversight."

If the ruling for the couple holds, it would have no legal standing outside Illinois. It could provide impetus for rulings elsewhere to push an age of consent and opposing abortion rights and embryonic stem cell research, said Northwestern University law professor Victor Rosenblum, an abortion foe who has worked with anti-abortion activists.

"I certainly admire the initiative of the Cook County judge in taking this step," but it likely will not survive any appeals attempts, Rosenblum said.

If the ruling for the couple holds, it would have no legal standing outside Illinois. If the ruling for the couple holds, it would have no legal standing outside Illinois. If the ruling for the couple holds, it would have no legal standing outside Illinois.

The judge refers Illinois statute that implies that wrongful death lawsuits can be filed on behalf of the unborn regardless of age. In Lawrence’s interpretation, that includes a test-tube embryo before pregnancy — the microscopic bunch of cells that form after an egg is fertilized in the laboratory but before being implanted into the womb.

There are nearly half a million such embryos frozen at fertility clinics nationwide. They are typically extra embryos produced through in vitro fertilization, said Northwestern and most clinics keep them indefinitely until couples decide to use them or authorize their disposal, said University of Minnesota ethicist Jeffrey Kahn.

Kahn said if the decision stands, "it will have implications not only for embryonic stem cell research, but for all of reproductive medicine, potentially."

Lori Andrews, a reproductive rights lawyer in Chicago, said the Chicago case is reminiscent of disputes in other states in which custody of embryos was at issue — including a Tennessee divorce case in which a lower-court ruling that an embryo was a child was reversed on appeal.

Dr. Ralph Katz, head of the IVF program at Chicago's Northwestern Memorial Hospital, said fertility specialists are watching the case with interest, but also said he doubts it will stand.

He said the case serves to "simply remind me and to remind my team that we have to continue to be very cautious about how we handle our embryos."

Miller and Parrish, the Chicago couple, had no intent beyond seeking justice for the clinic's error, said their attorney James Costello. A phone listing for them in Chicago was disconnected and Costello said they did not want to discuss their case with the media.

"This was a couple who wanted to become parents, this isn't Roe vs. Wade," Costello said, referring to the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

"What they're looking for is a day in court," Costello said.

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Young adults value college, but many fall short getting there

Ben Feller
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Young adults value college, but many haven’t enrolled because of money woes, poor preparation, low expectations at home or sheer laziness, a survey finds.

The result is that seven in 10 young workers without college degrees say they are in their jobs by chance, not by choice. Fewer than two in 10 view college as a way to earn society’s income.

By age 33, the typical college graduate has earned enough to compensate for both the cost of attending a four-year public school and for earnings passed up during the college years, said Gaston Caperton, president of the nonprofit College Board.

“We need to address disconcerting evidence that the cost of higher education is a deterrent, and in some cases a deal-breaker, for many students,” Caperton said.

There are other obstacles, too. Almost eight in 10 adults without a college degree acknowledged they could have paid a lot more attention and worked harder in high school.

More than half said their high school teachers made it easy to do just enough to get by. And only 32 percent of young adults without a degree said parents strongly expected them to go to college — a huge gap from the 67 percent with degrees who got such encouragement.

The survey’s margin of sampling error was plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Among other findings:

• Almost nine in 10 young adults expect their financial circumstances to improve by age 30, and most of them expect that improvement to be significant.

• Three in four young Asian American adults think they will be financially better off than their parents, and almost as many blacks and Hispanics say the same about themselves. Not as many white adults — 57 percent — see as optimistic.

• Almost nine in 10 young adults agreed “college is not for everyone,” and more than eight in 10 said many people do succeed without a college education.

• About one out of every two students said there were too few counselors in their high school, and only a slight majority said counselors made an effort to really get to know them.

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• Almost nine in 10 young adults agreed “college is not for everyone,” and more than eight in 10 said many people do succeed without a college education.

• About one out of every two students said there were too few counselors in their high school, and only a slight majority said counselors made an effort to really get to know them.

Almost half of those who never enrolled or dropped out said college wasn’t for them because they wanted to work and make money. Almost as many said they couldn’t afford college.

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Researchers urge routine HIV testing for all Americans

Urging a major shift in U.S. policy, some health experts are recommending that virtually all Americans be tested routinely for the AIDS virus, much as they are for cancer and other diseases.

Since the early years of the AIDS epidemic in the 1980s, the government has recommended screening only in big cities, where AIDS rates are high, and among members of high-risk groups, such as gay men and drug addicts.

Two large, federally-funded studies found that the cost of routinely testing and treating nearly all adults would be outweighed by a reduction in new infections and the opportunity to start patients on drug cocktails early when they work best.

"Given the availability of effective therapy and preventive measures, it is possible to improve care and perhaps influence the course of the epidemic through widespread, effective and cost-effective screening," Dr. Samuel A. Bozette wrote in an editorial accompanying the studies, which appear in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine.

A failure to institute such screening at doctors' offices and clinics would be "a critical disservice" to patients with the AIDS virus and "the future health of the nation," wrote Bozette, who is from the University of California at San Diego and the Rand Corp think tank in Santa Monica, Calif.

Dr. Robert Janssen, director of HIV-AIDS prevention at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said the CDC will re-evaluate its guidelines over the next two years, and will consider the studies' findings as well as the availability of new, rapid HIV tests that produce results in a half-hour instead of the usual week or two.

Who would bear the cost of expanded testing remains a sticky question amid government cutbacks in health-care funding. Janssen said the studies' findings could lead to some private insurers to encourage more HIV testing.

One of the studies, by researchers at Duke and Stanford universities and the Veterans Affairs Palo Alto Health Care System, estimated that routine one-time testing of everyone would cut new infections each year by just more than 20 percent, and that every HIV-infected patient identified would gain an average of 1 1/2 years of life. — Associated Press
Sisters, Franz on top at Brit Awards

THE
WINNERS

Last night's victors at the Brit Awards '05

Best Song Last 25 Years
Robbie Williams — "Angels"

British Album
Keane

British Breakthrough Act
Keane

British Rock Act
Franz Ferdinand

International Breakthrough Act
Scissor Sisters

British Live Act
Muse

British Single
Will Young — "Your Game"

International Female Solo Artist
Gwen Stefani

International Male Solo Artist
Eminem

International Group
Scissor Sisters

British Group
Franz Ferdinand

Best British Solo Male Artist
The Streets

Robbie Williams was the recipient of the 'Best Song 25' award at last night’s Brit Awards, the United Kingdom’s version of the Grammy’s.

Download of the day

O.A.R.
"Crazy Game of Poker"

If one single band captures the essence of Cal Poly, O.A.R. would be it. The brilliant arrangement of no more than four cords combined with the epic narrative of guns, poker and revolutions make up a song that is nothing short of a rock classic.

Thank You Cal Poly Students

Dear Students,

On behalf of Cal Poly, I would like to express my appreciation and thanks to you for your cooperation in keeping this past weekend a safe one.

We have received comments from a number of people — from the law enforcement officers on duty this past weekend to City officials — that the display of good judgment by Cal Poly students helps to demonstrate the great respect you have for your community.

You have upheld the Cal Poly traditions of civility and student leadership, qualities that are appreciated by the community in which you live and learn and by many others, from our alumni to the prospective employers of our graduates.

I know that you will continue to support the City’s efforts to keep San Luis Obispo a peaceful community. You are all aware of the “buzz” about Poly Gras and I ask you to again join in the efforts to spread the word on campus and to colleges around the state that coming to San Luis Obispo and engaging in unlawful behavior is going to be met with a strong response, whether it occurs this coming weekend or any other time.

Again, we commend you for demonstrating your good citizenship. Your cooperation has made all the difference.

Sincerely,

Warren J. Baker
Communicating with friends...

Then & Now

M

arket, m

Many stories... |

Now

"Mark Zuckerberg, a student at Harvard, had the idea last winter," said Chris Hughes, co-founder and press guy for facebook. "He wanted to combine an idea for a universal online database with an interactive social networking interface. The idea was sort of an extension of the traditional college facebooks with terrible freshman ID photos and boring information."

This is You

Story by Allison Terry
Before becoming a real psycho, Rosenthal had said, "I think some people think of their profile as a joke... and go overboard on their interests and personal information."

"A lot of people try to present a better image on thefacebook," orientation consultant Cori Bennett said. "It's just a certain group of people that I know all of a sudden find thefacebook and all add me."

"It's just kinda funny that I seem to get a bunch in flurries," Rosenthal said.

The amount of friends Rosenthal has is not important to him, he said. And he especially doesn't like to add friends he doesn't really know.

"I really don't want people to claim to be my friend if I can't even wave at them or give them hugs," Rosenthal said. "So I kinda just ignore them and hope they go away."

"If someone is a real psycho, they aren't going to put that on their profile, saying, 'Hey, don't talk to me — I'm a real psycho.'" Rosenthal said.

"So I guess you have to read everything there skepically and make sure that you actually know the people.

In case users are afraid of stalkers or strangers, thefacebook provides different security levels for privacy. Biochemistry junior Patricia Bailey set her privacy level so people could not see her profile unless she invited them to be her friend.

"It's more of a protective setting until I get comfortable with the Web site, who's on it, etc.,” Bailey said. "The settings will change as I get more comfortable with what to expect from the site."

Adding friends, new and old, to the profile is complete, it is time to find people who are worthy to "add to friends."

Rosenthal joined thefacebook because it seemed like a good way to avoid his accounting homework.

Since his acceptance to thefacebook network, Rosenthal has added more than 160 friends.

"It's just kinda funny that I seem to get a bunch in flurries,” Rosenthal said. "Like a certain group of people that I know all of a sudden find thefacebook and all add me."

"So I kinda just ignore them and hope they go away. If I happen to see them randomly on campus and they throw up the hello wave, then I'll let them be my friend.

"I registered signing up for thefacebook as soon as I did, purely because the rush of people from high school finding my profile overwhelming,” Bailey said. "It's a super-popular-big-privacy context, but I don't understand why people friend others from high school, but never speak to them, they just have them as friends. On the other hand though, it's exciting." There are 3,506 single people from Cal Poly signed up on thefacebook, which provides easy access to finding dateable people.

"Conor noticed a hot guy who was listed as a friend's friend, so she decided to check him out."

"I clicked onto his profile page and after reading it and seeing that we had many things in common, including mutual friends, I sent him a message," said Coner. "He responded and we started communicating through thefacebook and AIM."

Coner finally met up with her guy at the beginning of the quarter, and they started officially dating after two weeks.

"I hate to admit that I met my guy online, but he's so good," she said.

Joining the right groups

Once friends are added and social worthiness is established, it is time to jump into the deep end of the social network pool and join a group... or 37.

"There is an infinite number on thefacebook, and they are divided into four general categories: common interest, fraternity/sorority, sports and organizations."

One of the biggest groups on thefacebook is the College Student Army, which has 1,784 members. Group founder and mechanical engineering freshman Michael Kelly described its purpose on the group's profile. "We are the College Student Army, we fight for what is awesome. There is too much that is lame and we need you to aid our cause."

Kelly said College Student Army represents all the different kinds of people at Cal Poly.

"I started the College Student Army when I just wanted to make the biggest group on Cal Poly facebook," Kelly said. "Now, because of its size, I want to make T-shirts."

From non-to So-Cal pride, conservatives to liberals and sports fans to non-sports fans, groups allow people to share common philosophies, ideas and appreciation for the bizarre in a way that isn't always admirable in person.

The best groups to join are random ones. The more ridiculous, the better. The Bob Ross Fan Club, "I Love Fat Chicks in Party Hats" and "Tony Bennett is My Adopted Grandpa" are just a few of the groups that represent the unique and strange people who could possibly be sitting next to you in class.

To poke back or hide poke

Once the user creates a profile, adds friends and joins groups, the jungle of thefacebook is ready to be explored.

Then one day, inauspiciously, it will happen. You will sign on to thefacebook and it will be there waiting for you.

"No, I don't think it always has a meaning," Hughes said.

"No, I don't think it always has a sexual connotation."

In retaliation to the poke, you are allowed to "poke back" or "hide poke." This epitomizes quite possibly the biggest dilemma thefacebook users will ever encounter.

The social interaction of college students will never be the same because most people embrace the change it has had on their lives, while others try to play off the magnitude of its adding power.

"I would be perfectly fine if it shut down tomorrow and never used it again," aerospace engineering freshman Aaron Zuzenberg said. "But it is really handy for keeping in touch with friends from high school, trying to remember that guy down the hall's name or stalking people... if you are into that."

Editor's Note: In the spirit of electronic communication, all interviewing for this article was done via thefacebook's messaging system or e-mail. No real human contact was actually made by the reporter in acquiring information for this article.

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Students can order College Student Army apparel and other products online at www.facebook.com/buyaTshirt. To learn more about the College Student Army, visit www.collegestudentarmy.org.
Dear Students:

The City of San Luis Obispo wishes to thank local students for your cooperation and assistance over the long Mardi Gras weekend. Law enforcement personnel from the many agencies participating in last weekend’s operation reported that their contacts with students from our community were predominately friendly, respectful and helpful. This support made a difficult job easier.

We ask for your continued help by discouraging those planning a new party “event” this weekend, when they believe the community’s guard will be down. Advertising our town again as a party destination is a very dangerous and destructive idea.

Thank you once again for your cooperation. We look forward to working with you to assure that SLO remains a place where all people can work and play in an atmosphere of safety and respect.

Dave Romero
Mayor

Deborah Linden
Chief of Police
Tsunamis a threat on both U.S. coasts

Randolph E. Schmid

WASHINGTON — While the deadly tsunami in the Indian Ocean has focused attention on that part of the world, great waves also pose a threat to the United States.

A tsunami struck the Virgin Islands in 1667, claiming 23 lives, and geologic evidence shows giant waves have struck several times over the past 3,500 years, affecting what is now Washington, Oregon and northern California.

"We're not trying to scare you, we're just trying to inform you," Kevin Krajcik said Tuesday, opening a Smithsonian Institution-sponsored panel discussion of U.S. vulnerability to tsunami. Krajcik wrote an article on tsunamis scheduled for the March issue of Smithsonian magazine.

"It's a matter of when, not if," another tsunami will strike, added George A. Maul, head of the department of marine and environmental systems at the Florida Institute of Technology.

A 1755 earthquake that devastated Lisbon, Portugal, generated a wave that caused damage in the Caribbean, he noted.

And there have been reports of a potential threat to the East Coast of the United States from tsunamis that could be generated by landslides in the Canary Islands, across the Atlantic, added James E. Lipman, a volcanologist at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History. "While one doesn't think of the world's tsunamis occurring in the Atlantic Ocean, MauM has noted that they can occur on any coast.

For example, on the American side of the Atlantic Ocean, more than 2,250 people have been killed in the past 150 years by waves striking the Virgin Islands, Panama, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and even Canada, MauM added.

The most recent, in 1991, killed two people in Costa Rica.

A U.S. tsunami warning program has been in operation for about 10 years, focusing largely on Hawaii, Alaska and the Pacific Northwest, where damaging waves have been recorded in recent history, noted Laura S. Kong, director of the International Tsunami Warning Center in Hauusato.

Tsunamis, caused by undersea earthquakes or volcanoes, can travel across the ocean at the speed of a jet plane, suddenly rising up to as high as 90 feet when they reach the shore, she said.

Jeanne Bourgeois, a University of Washington geologist, said sedimentary evidence indicates six or seven severe tsunamis have struck that state's coast over the past 3,500 years, averaging about one such wave every 500 years.

Timothy J. Walsh, chief geologist at the Washington Department of Natural Resources, said public education is essential with millions of people moving into danger-prone coastal areas.

In Washington, he said, poles are being erected in hazard areas with sirens attached to NOAA Weather Radios. Operated by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, they can turn themselves on when activated by a broadcast tone. The radios could then both activate the sirens and broadcast the warning over loudspeakers in the affected area.

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Potential Jackson jurors questioned for sympathy

QUESTIONNAIRE seeks to weed out jurors who have any connection to Jackson or who have visited his Santa Ynez ranch.

ROBERT JABLON, counselor, says:

LOSA GELES (AP) — The potential juror for Michael Jackson's child molestation trial range from juveniles to computer analysts and include people whose children have visited his Neverland ranch, according to questionnaire released Wednesday.

The answers that 253 people supplied on the eight-page questionnaire were mainly in the form of checked-off answers but a few handwritten comments offered tantalizing details.

"I went to Neverland as a special guest for my daughter," wrote Junior No. 13, a local teacher.

"My disabled daughter was allowed to go to Neverland, but Mr. Jackson was not present during her school visit," wrote Junior No. 243, a doctor from Santa Maria.

The candidates ranged from college-age to retirement-age. Most said English was their first language but there was a smattering of other languages, including Spanish, Korean and even Tagalog, which is spoken in the Philippines.

A surprising number of potential panelists answered yes to the question: "Have you, any relatives, or close friends ever been ARRESTED or ACCUSED of a criminal offense (other than minor traffic violations)?" Some also said they had worked with children, including a 10-year-old boy in Santa Maria who checked "yes."

Some potential jurors said they or someone close to them had been diagnosed with cancer — a possible concern for the defense since the boy, then 13, who Jackson allegedly molested at his Neverland ranch two years ago is a cancer survivor.

The questionnaire was designed to target people who might be sympathetic to Jackson because they are from or have visited the area.

"My niece-in-law's sister has a 10-year-old girl and a 13-year-old girl," a 34-year-old Los Angeles woman wrote. "I work part-time as an advocate for a rape crisis and child protection center."

A 48-year-old Lompoc woman said she was a social worker at Vandenberg, "working w/ victims & offenders of spouse & child abuse cases." She has two boys, ages 5 and 15.

Prospective jurors were asked a total of 41 questions, including whether they had ever served on a jury, whether they or a family member had filed a claim for money damages, and whether they or someone close to them knew Jackson.

Most said they knew at least a "little" about the Jackson case and the 1993 civil investigation of similar allegations against the superstar. No charges were filed in that case.

"I'm a little surprised by what I've heard, but I don't remember exactly what I was. I was only 13 at that time," wrote a 24-year-old Santa Maria woman. She was among those who said she had known someone who had met Jackson or spent time at Neverland.

A 43-year-old Buellton woman answered in detail about whether she or any of her family or close friends knew Jackson: "My niece-in-law's sister has dated Elly, Michael's cousin, and we have attended family functions with Elly."

Many of the potential jurors said two boys, ages 3 and 1.3, were named in the lawsuit.

One 38-year-old Oxnard woman said she had worked with or volunteered for a "child advocacy group or for a group dealing with child safety, child abuse or mistreatment or children's rights."

A 36-year-old Simi Valley woman said that as a preschool teacher, she is a "mandated reporter," meaning the law required her to report suspicions that a child had been abused. She has four children, including a 10-year-old boy and a 13-year-old girl.

A 30-year-old Lompoc woman said she worked part-time as an advocate for a rape crisis and child protection center.

A 48-year-old Lompoc woman said she was a social worker at Vandenberg, "working w/ victims & offenders of spouse & child abuse cases." She has two boys, ages 5 and 15.

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ENGINEERS DESERVE A LITTLE LOVE ON V-DAY

I love engineers. I absolutely love them.

Why? Not because there are 6,400 on campus. I cannot explain my fascination. But there's something so practical — yet sexy — about graph paper, calculators and organized backpacks. I find it incredibly comforting that math problems are powerful brains at work — so detailed, so complex and so enigmatic.

The engineer seems to harness the power of the universe into practical objects. He builds structures that are unbreakable and flushable toilets. Without them, we'd have no telephones, no airplanes, no infrastructure, no calculators and no one to manufacture high heels.

I'm an engineering student and hate that I'm a lonely student. Engineering students wander between labs and classes, neglected and unappreciated by the opposite sex. How can we not be grateful for all the useful things they fix, that's their major?" Engineer have very active minds and a lot of neat ideas. You don't have to worry that they'll become couch potatoes. Their higher energy drive makes them better and the romance more interesting.

And they're incredibly useful; whatever you break, they'll find some way to fix it for you — that's their major."

Engineers also seem to arrange very creative dates, Jantos said. On one occasion, Jantos' boyfriend gave her a distorted piece of metal wire and quipped, "Maiko, Didierkor should compare the Confederacy states to let their "propery" go without the help of the northern states."

"They don't run away from problems," said Allison Jantos, a graphic design senior who has dated a materials engineer for three years. "They need to fix them — that's their major."

Engineers appear to make great husbands. "Most guys are boring," she said. "But engineers have very active minds and a lot of neat ideas. You don't have to worry that they'll become couch potatoes. Their higher energy drive makes them better and the romance more interesting."

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The world isn't perfect, and I don't think that being, going to war and paying for our victory is going to help."

Because Jesus taught us to love and accept everyone, which is the means loving and respecting their right to choose their future, university, friends and belief systems.

Because capitalism is imperial and, engineers often impede progress.

Because this nation was built on top of a pre-existing one, with disregard for its well-being.

Because www Scoopervery body.com shows that slightly less than half of us are well informed.

An alternative for those concerned about terrorists

Dear Concerned Citizen,

Thank you for your recent letter criticizing treatment of the Taliban and al Qaida detainees currently being held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Your opinion was heard loud and clear here in Washington. You'll be pleased to learn that we are creating a new division of the Terrorist Renaming Program, to be called the "Liberals Accept Responsibility for Terror's identities" program. LARP for short.

In accordance with the guidelines of this new program, we have decided to place one terrorist under your personal care.

Your degree will arrive under heavily armed guard to your residence Monday Ali Mohammed bin Mahmud (you can just call him Ahmed) is to be cared for pursuant to the standards you demanded in your letter of admonishment.

Although Ahmed was trying to kill at least 20 women and children when we captured him, we hope that your sensitivity to what you described as "atypical profile" will help him overcome these character flaws.

However, perhaps you are correct in describing these problems as more cultural differences.

Thanks again for your letter. We truly appreciate it when folks like you, who know so much, keep us informed of the proper way to do our job.

Cordially,

Don Brand, Associate Gateway Weekly chairman

This year's Orchesis show is best event to date.

In response to the commentary on Orchesis I have one question: "Were we at the same show?"

The piece by Emily Wong described this year's performance as failing to "echo past performances. Since leaving the show last Friday to see, every person I have discussed the performance with agreed that this was the best Orchesis event to date.

Charlotte Rinella-Zuniga
Cancer counselor (CA)

MUSTANG DAILY CORRECTIONS

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading.

Please send your corrections or suggestions to editor@mustangdaily.net.

LETTER POLICY

Send us your love, hate and more.

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Letters, commentaries and cartoons do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. Please limit length to 250 words.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Top 10 reasons to dislike conservative Christians

1. Because I am an atheist, I am automatically branded vand. So much for being a law-abiding, accepting follower of Christ.

2. Because I am confused why people follow a doctrine that says, "Thou shalt not kill," unborn fetuses. But 100,000 Iraqis is fine.

3. Because I find it hard to believe that every single person on Social Security is lazy and unwilling to work.

4. Because I don't think that something you'd consider to be "impractical" could possibly be tolerated by all other people's ideas and beliefs.

5. Because I don't feel the Republican ideals all of the credit for freeing the slaves. Personally, I had a more difficult time convincing the Confederate states to let their "propery" go without the help of the northern states.

6. Because it's not perfect, and I don't think that being, going to war and paying for our victory is going to help.

7. Because Jesus taught us to love and accept everyone, which is the means loving and respecting their right to choose their future, university, friends and belief systems.

8. Because capitalism is imperial and, engineers often impede progress.

9. Because this nation was built on top of a pre-existing one, with disregard for its well-being.

10. Because www Scoopervery body.com shows that slightly less than half of us are well informed.

to the editor

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SPORTS
Thursday, February 10, 2005

Golden
continued from page 16
Even so, the young Mustang team has learned valuable lessons. “It’s been a rough season but it’ll help us in the future,” guard Lew Finnegan said.

Soft success isn’t guaranteed. It took Pacific 58 years to crack the top 25. Heck, in 1998, when center Michael Olowokandi was a senior, the Mustangs from being picked first in the NBA Draft, the Tigers finished midway through the Big West — and lost to Cal Poly.

Cal Poly also has more rigorous academic standards for prospective athletes than Pacific. While the private university can recruit minimal achievers, the Mustangs have to scour for athletes who don’t dare to be scholars, a tough chore considering the recruiting budget is less, Bromley said, than it was in 1995.

Bromley tours Cal Poly’s aca-
demic dens to recrui-
tech.

“I think we have the Stanford mystique of this conference,” Bromley said.

Pacific’s ranking definitely boosts the Big West. It may give the Mustangs another reason to smile too.

Aside all the lopsided defeats the Mustangs have absorbed this year, they played the Tigers close at home a couple of weeks ago and lost by 12.

It’s not a top 25 ranking, but at least it’s a small step in the right direction.

Graham Holmack is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily assistant sports editor. Email him at gholmack@calpoly.edu.
From preps to Poly, friends hoop it up

Nico Stivers

Long before Mike Titchenal and Joe Henry hit the Mott Gym court together, or even became roommates and best friends, the talented duo practiced basketball in a Cardinal Newman High School gym.

At the time, Henry's brother, David Henry, was Titchenal's teammate and Joe, two years younger, had not been introduced to the prospect from Santa Rosa. Soon, the two would be introduced and their common love for basketball would deepen.

Now, Titchenal, a senior forward, and Henry, a sophomore forward, continue to foster a friendship at Cal Poly.

Both Titchenal and Joe Henry had similar experiences starting out at Cal Poly. Neither player received an athletic scholarship and joined the team as walk-ons. Titchenal was eager to share his experiences with his friend.

"I know what it's like. It's not easy being a walk-on. You're looked down on by the scholar-ship players," Titchenal said. "You have to prove yourself."

Joe Henry said he was thankful to have a friend on campus when he arrived.

"My first year, I looked to Mike to get me into the [basketball] program and school. He made it a lot easier. Having someone I knew here was a big help," Joe Henry said.

Mike's walk-on risk spending their college years warming the bench, Titchenal said. Since he knew Joe Henry from high school, he was able to touch for his skills to their teammates and coaches. Now that the two are able to play together, they enjoy every minute of it.

"I think we work harder than anyone else. That makes it really easy to be a guy. He sets a good example," Titchenal said.

Joe Henry certainly appreciates what his teammate has to offer.

"Mike's an unselfish player and loves the game. It's always fun to play with guys like that," Joe Henry said.

With the season winding down, it seems as though Joe Henry is one of the few who has benefited from the team's continued success. Younger players usually get plenty of experience when a game isn't close. "Joe just needed a chance to show them what he could do. He amazed me," Titchenal said.

With Titchenal's graduation date fast approaching, this will be the last time the pair will play basketball together, on this level at least. Titchenal continues to pass on the lessons he has learned over the years to Joe Henry and other younger players. He takes his role very seriously.

"When you're an older player, it's your job to set examples, on and off the court. Whether it's how you act the night before a game or how you practice," Titchenal said.

It's obvious that Joe Henry has assimilated most of the wisdom his friend passed down. The pair seems to parrot one another when it comes to talking about the way the game should be played.

"Both learned the importance of practicing at full speed and working out as much as possible in high school," Joe Henry said. "If I thought what it meant to work hard, but at Cal Poly it is a whole other level," Joe Henry said.

Titchenal readily supported his friend's conclusions.

"You have to work really hard for everything. You have to earn it at this level. You have to earn everything," he said.

Even though the team has had a different California transfer, Titchenal nor Joe Henry has given up hope. They are both looking toward a possible berth into the conference tournament at the beginning of March. The team is currently ninth in the conference with just seven league games remaining.

Joe Henry said he believes the team's success lies in continuing to work hard, playing more defense and improving daily. Titchenal named the team's depth as one of its main strengths.

"We have a lot of guys who can really play. We can shoot well. If we're on, we can beat a lot of good teams," Titchenal said.

But no matter how the remainder of the season plays out, Titchenal said he hopes both the players and coaches will learn from their experiences.

Titchenal reflected on the effect winning and losing has on the program and school.

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Titchenal reflected on the effect winning and losing has on the program and school.

"When you are winning a lot it's like you expect to win. When we lose, we feel like we can't win," Titchenal said.

"When we win it feels like an absolute joy. The last time we won, it felt like we had won a national championship. It makes you wonder why we win more often," Titchenal said.

University of the Pacific earned an automatic NCAA Tournament bid and then triumphed in the first round by winning the Big West Tournament. In fact, Big West is the team's run-up and regular season conference winner last year.

Utah State has slipped to third this year. University is off its best start ever. Packed with former junior college players, the Tigers are 18-2 overall, 12-0 in Big West play, and on Monday, for the first time in university history, were ranked among the top 25 teams in Associated Press poll.

Basketball coach Kevin Bromley is happy. Well sort of. It's not easy to be guiding a team that's struggled to a 4-14 record, amidst injuries to an already thin roster. Still, regardless of how much the losing has transformed Bromley ("It's tough on my wife," he said), he lauded the Tigers' No. 24 ranking.

"Not only did they deserve it, but at least we got the recognition that I think this conference deserves," Bromley said.

It hardened to dates of yore 10-5 years ago when UNLV and New Mexico State were members. The attention flares occasionally, though. Even Cal Poly has made national news, when it upset Cal and USC early last season, before bowing in conference play.

It remains to be seen when the Mustangs can match Pacific's ranking.

"You're a couple players away," Bromley said. "If you get lucky and get those players and they develop, you can be a top 25 team pretty quickly, because there's a fine line in that."

I partly agree. If Bromley is right to see the giant looming over conference titles, the potential backcourt for next year is exciting.

I don't much care for Jim Rome, but I laughed when I heard he once referred to himself as a "caustic little man who rambles five miles an hour." Today, I don't much care for Jim Rome, but I laughed when I heard he once referred to himself as a "caustic little man who rambles five miles an hour."

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