Look mom, me and 400 police

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

O
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 night, police and students found companionship in a few simple photos.

Inside

More student/police officer photos on page 2

Kiersten Anderson, Claire Pomery and Amanda Raudsep give thumbs up with a bicycle police officer.

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

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.

"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

EVEN T S

CALENDAR

What: The San Luis Obispo City Council will vote on whether to prolong triple fines until March 2.
Where: Today, at noon.
Where: The San Luis Obispo City Hall, 990 Palm St.
More Info: Call ASI student government office at 756-1291

What: Gender and science talk. Carla Fehr, an assistant professor of philosophy and religious studies at Iowa State University, will talk about gender as science in a free public presentation. The talk is titled "A Lab Coat Can Cover More Than Your Clothes: Objectivity and Women Scientists."
Where: Today, 11 a.m.
Where: Phillips Hall
More Info: Call the Women's Studies Program at 756-1525

What: Music department joins tsunami relief effort. The Cal Poly music department joins forces with bustrelief.com to help raise funds for the SARP Center and the Women's Center with a production of Monologues.
Where: February 20, 7 p.m.
Where: Philips Hall
More Info: Call the music department at 756-2406

What: V-Day 2005. The Women Empowerment Team is raising funds for the SARP Center and the Women's Center with a production of Eve Ensler's "The Vagina Monologues."
Where: Feb. 17, 18 and 19, 7 p.m.
Where: Chumash Auditorium
More Info: Call Cat Burchholder at 431-1411

What: "Our Ethnic Studies' for 21st Century: Columbia University professor Gary Y. Okihoro will present "Our Ethnic Studies" for the 21st Century. Remembering the Past, Envisioning the Future." The public is invited to the free presentation, where Professor Okihoro will address questions crucial to understanding both the limits and possibilities of ethnic studies in the 21st century. Okihoro will explore the past, present and future of ethnic studies and examine its value and relevancy in today's world of increasing complexity and globalization.
Where: Today, 7 p.m.
Where: Library, R Room 123
More Info: Call ethnic studies at 756-7368

What: 10th Annual International Career Conference
Where: Saturday, 8 a.m.

see Calendar, page 2

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IN ARTS & CULTURE, 9

IN SPORTS, 16

CominG FriDAY

Cal Poly colleges handle excess units differently

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.

“Is there always the possibility that if Cal Poly doesn’t have enough access, or the CASU 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 who see Freedom, page 2

Abundant security ensures mellow Fat Tuesday

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 adminis-
trators 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 pos-
tive incentives for quick progress to 
degree have been exhausted, said 
David Conn, vice provost for acade-
mic programs and undergraduate 
education. 
One of these was the recent reg-
istration 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 program more 
quickly because they will be able to 
get the core classes they need, said 
associate registrar Marlene Carter. 
Associated Students Inc. vice pres-
ident Tylor Middletstadt 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 stu-
dents commenting that they have 
been able to get classes they never 
would have gotten before. 
As politicians and administrators 
play out the battle between academ-
ic freedom and limited resources on 
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 1 
Where: Embassy Suites 
More Info: Check out the Web 
site at www.icc.calpoly.edu 
What: Open House Clubs 
Representatives meeting. This meet-
ing 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. 
What: Bldg. 3, Room 213 
More Info: Call the Open House 
office at 756-7576 or visit the Web 
site. orientation.calpoly.edu/openhouse 
What: Heurts Lecture Series 
"Women in Architecture + 
Design, 2," continues with L O O M S 
T U D I O Principal and U.C. 
Berkley professor. Ravewaren 
Choksubatichai will discuss her 
award-winning work. 
When: Friday. Feb. 18, 4 p.m. 

Mardi Gras 
continued from page 1 
blaze. 
On Tuesday afternoon, authorities 
worked diligently to set up a staging 
area on California Boulevard. By the 
evening, transport trailers, ATVs, bicy-
cle police officers, motorcycles and 
other vehicles were lining the sides of 
the road. Multiple security units spe-
cializing in different aspects of enfor-
cement 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," SLOPI) C'.apt. 
Daniel Blanke said. "We figured that 
with the street blocked off, students are 
able to go in three directions."

The California Highway Patrol spe-
cial operations unit, from Sacramento, 
was the largest police force in San Luis 
Obispo on Tuesday. 
San Luis Obispo was split up geo-
graphically into red, yellow and blue 
sections. Each unit was assigned to a 
specific area. 
A standby ambulance was also sta-

Students, police, guns and beads

Jennifer Stokes, Sarah Schoech and some friends stop with an officer in riot gear.

From left, Andrew Haugen, Lenny Racio and Dave 'the 
unit' Yocke take a picture at Murray Stadium. 

From left, architecture 
sophomore Bryce 
Signorino and English 
sophomore Brent 
Lalhonay put their 
arm around a police 
officer during the 
Mardi Gras weekend. 

Mechanical engineering 
freshman Dave 
Bendersky and 
friend Megan 
Hinchcock catch up 
with some police 
officers in front of 
Starbucks downtown.

A standy ambulance was also sta-

Mechanical engineering 
freshman Dave 
Bendersky and 
friend Megan 
Hinchcock catch up 
with some police 
officers in front of 
Starbucks downtown.

Jason Stokes snaps a photo on 
Foothill Boulevard.
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 handheld guns, 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 stenotman 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 Bonny 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 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, which he could not possess because he is a convicted felon, stemming from a drug case in the 1980s. Authorities say three handheld guns, a rifle and ammunition were found at his ranch in Julian during a federal raid in 2002.

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NATIONAL NEWS

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Wednesday that Iran can't delay indefinitely accountability for a suspected nuclear weapons program, but said the United States has set "no deadlines, no timetable" for Tehran to act.

Nearing the end of a European tour that included visits to both old and new members of the expanding NATO, Rice said the United States remains in "close consultations" with its European allies on the issue.

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, Poland, a staunch ally in Iraq, is earmarked to receive one-fourth of the money.

The White House announced the fund, dubbed the "solidarity initiative," after Bush's meeting Wednesday with Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski.

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Creator of Dolly the Sheep gets cloning license

Thomas Wagner

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.

Shaw said the research at the London-based Motor Neuron 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 neuron disease," an incurable muscle-wasting condition that affects about 50,000 people and kills some 50,000 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 system to reject the transplants.

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, under studied and unnecessary.

"What a sad and extraordinary volte face (turnaround) for the pro­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­�新闻
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," said Dr. Robert Schenken, president of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine.

Few doctors would risk offering the procedure if any accident that harmed the embryo could result in a wrongful death lawsuit, said 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 groups elsewhere to push an agenda of opposing both 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.

The judge refers in his ruling to an 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.

If the ruling for the couple holds, it would have no legal standing outside Illinois. There are nearly half a million such embryos frozen at fertility clinics nationwide. They are typically extra embryos produced through in vitro fertilization, and most clinics keep them indefinitely until couples decide to use them or authorize their disposal, said University of Minnesota ethicist 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 Kazer, 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. "They're looking for a day in court," 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

WASHINGTON — Young adults value college, but many haven't enrolled because of money woes, poor preparation, low expectations at home or sheer laziness — 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 their jobs as likely careers.

Overall, most adults age 18 to 25 see college as a way to earn society’s respect and ensure financial security, says the survey by Public Agenda, a nonpartisan public opinion group. The positive view of college is true regardless of race, ethnicity or family income.

“Most young people have absorbed the ‘Go to college, go for more education’ message,” said Ruth Wooden, the Public Agenda president. “Whether they’re getting the nuts-and-bolts, real-life help and guidance they need to reach that goal — to actually succeed in graduating from college — is another matter.”

Roughly one in three young Americans do not go on to any form of higher education, and many of those who enroll don’t end up graduating, the report says, quoting Census figures.

Other recent analyses offer even lower rates of college enrollment and completion, which has helped fuel a national interest in improving the rigor of high school. Those who graduate from a four-year college tend to have lower unemployment and higher earnings.

The new findings come from random phone interviews of 1,000 young adults last year, plus oversampling to ensure representation of black, Hispanic and Asian adults. The tally includes those with college degrees, college students, college dropouts and full-time workers.

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.

Yet 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 — are 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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"The experience necessary."
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. Bozzette 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 Bozzette, 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 study's 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

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ARTS & CULTURE

Thursday, February 10, 2005

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

Best British Solo Male Artist
The Streets

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 ark Zuckerberg, a student at Harvard, had the idea last winter; said Chris Hughes, co-founder and press guy for thefacebook. "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."

Creating the perfect profile
The first step in learning the joys of facebooking is to create a profile. Users can include personal information such as gender, major, birthday, high school and e-mail addresses on their profiles. AIM screennames, status messages, relationship status and...
Facebook continued from page 9

political views are standard information categories. The creativity starts when users list their interests, clubs and jobs, favorite music, books, movies and quotes. Brevity is key during profile creation. Listing all the artists from your iPod collection is unnecessary — let people catch a glimpse of personabilia, but don’t show off all the goodies. The point is to intrigue people.

“A lot of people try to present a better image on thefacebook,” journalist senior Anne Corser said. “I think some people think of their profile as a joke ... and go overboard on their interests and personal information.”

Business administration junior Jeremiah Rosenthal said he thinks it really depends on the person, whether or not it is the real them.

“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 skeptically and make sure that you really know the people.”

In case users are afraid of stalkers or strangers, thefacebook provides different security levels for privacy. Biochemistry junior Patrick 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 add me!”

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 I happen to see them randomly on campus and they throw up the hello wave, then I’ll let them be my friend.”

“I regretted signing up for 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.”

Rosenthal joined thefacebook and AIM.”

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.

“I hate to admit that I met my guy online, but so far, 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, with 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 Nor- to So-Cal pride, conservatives to liberals and spoony to non-spoony, 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, in a moment of indecision, the poke will happen. You will sign on to thefacebook and it will be there waiting for you. Do you have been ... poked.

The poke has no clearly-defined purpose, intention or design. It could be a friendly greeting; a flirtatious acknowledgment; a secret, sexual desire or simply poking fun.

“It really only means what users make it out to mean,” Hughes said. “So 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 addicting power.

“I would be perfectly fine if it shut down tomorrow and never used it again,” aerospace engineering freshman Aaron Zevenbergen 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 the facebook’s messaging system or e-mail. No real human contact was actually made by the reporter in acquiring information for this article.
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 promoting 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 1932, claiming 23 lives. Sedimentary 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 Krajick said Tuesday, opening a Smithsonian Institution-sponsored panel discussion of U.S. vulnerability to tsunamis. Krajick 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 1958 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 Caribbean islands, across the Atlantic, added James E. Lahr, a volcanologist at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History.

And if one-third of the world’s tsunamis occur in the Pacific Ocean, Maul 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 those waves striking the Virgin Islands, Panama, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and even Canada, Maul 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.L. Kong, director of the International Tsunami Warning Center in Hauula, Hawaii.

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 17 or 18 severe tsunamis have struck that state’s coast over the past 5,300 years, averaging about one such wave every 300 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 suddenly rising up to as high as 90 feet when they reach the shore, she said.

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 law company managing partner

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The potential jurors for Michael Jackson's child molestation trial range from junior to computer analysts and include people whose children have visited his Neverland ranch, according to a questionnaire released Wednesday.

The answers that 243 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 w/spedial oil for my sch.dis," wrote juror No. 16, a local teacher.

"My double daughter was allowed to go to Neverland, but Mr. Jackson was not present during her school visit," wrote juror No. 243, a risk analyst 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 a mandated reporter," meaning the law required them to report suspicions that a child had been abused. She has four victims of "inappropriate sexual behavior or of any kind." juror No. 16, a 48-year-old Lompoc woman, said she was the victim of a sexual assault in 1974 but no charges were filed. She also wrote that she had been arrested or accused of a crime in 1974 and 1976 but added "charges dropped, division." Her son was convicted and served 18 months for a crime in 2000, she added, without providing details.

Many of the 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 or their family knew him, or people with military or law enforcement connections who might feel he is being railroaded.

"My niece-in-law's sister has dated Elly. Michael's cousin, and we have attended family functions with Elly," wrote juror No. 24, a 34-year-old Lompoc woman.

Some also said they knew "at least a little" about the Jackson case and the 1993 investigation of similar allegations against Jackson.

"My niece-in-law's sister has dated Elly, Michael's cousin, and we have attended family functions with Elly," wrote juror No. 24, a 34-year-old Lompoc woman.

Jerri Rizzuto, 54, a long-time Jackson fan, said she's a social worker at Vandenberg Air Force Base and a large naval base. She has worked 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 Gualupides woman said that as a preschool teacher, she is a "mandated reporter," meaning the law required her to report suspicions that her son was abused. She has four children, including a 10-year-old boy and a 13-year-old girl.

A 50-year-old Lompoc woman said she worked part-time as an advocate, counselor and intern for a rape crisis and child protection center.

A 48-year-old Lompoc woman said she was a social worker at Vineyard "working w/victims & offenders of spouse and 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 Jack. Most said they knew "at least a little" about the Jackson case and the 1993 investigation of similar allegations against him.

"If I'm ever asked to serve on a jury, I'm afraid I might be a problem. I don't think people realize what this was like. I was only 13 at the 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.

One of the most intriguing questions was: Do you think your feelings about or experiences with people from different races might affect your ability to serve as a fair and impartial juror in this case? Most checked "no." A 34-year-old Santa Maria woman checked "yes."

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The choice is yours...
I love engineers. I absolutely love them. I am not alone in this feeling. Why? Because there are 4,200 engineers on campus! I cannot explain my fascination. But there's something so practical — let's say — about graph paper, calculators, and organized backpacks. I do appreciate a carefully designed math problem. I marvel at the brains at work — so detailed, so complex and so esoteric.

The engineering student seems to harness the power of the universe into practical inventions. What is more inspiring and amazing than a self-healing, self-adjusting, and a lot of neat ideas. You don't have to worry about getting someone dressed in your favorite tennis shoes for a birthday. The engineering student who once received a pair of socks and underwear will become a little bit of a doting father or mother.

Aeronautical engineer for five years, once received a pair of socks and underwear that engineers make the best husbands. "Most guys are horrid," 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 will make sure that they don't run away from problems," said Allison Jantos, a graphic design senior who has a materials engineer for three years. "They need to fix them — that's their major."

Engineers also seem to arrange very creative dates, Santos said. On one occasion, Santos' boyfriend gave her a distorted piece of metal wire and instructed her to put it in a toilet. "Once it reached a higher temperature, she was delighted to see that the metal wire (which was wrapped around a piece of wood) turned into a big heart.

Engineers love to improve the world and they also love to improve their girlfriend's or boyfriend's life with purposeful gifts.

Cal Poly journalism graduate Jennifer Robbins, who has dated an engineering student for five years, once received a pair of socks and tennis shoes for a birthday. "In its own way, it's more special than diamond earrings," Robbins said. "The thought really counts. He took time to think about what I really needed."

But perhaps engineers' most appealing quality is their unusual commitment to their significant other. Aunt Susie said, "They're more dedicated," she said. "You don't have to worry that they'lloggle over someone else."

At hearing this, Uncle Larry tipped me in a nifty grin: "That's true, we're very good at cross-disciplinary analysis," he said. "The quickest way to become poor is to become divorced."

But engineers aren't perfect. The women dating them said that some struggle to communicate their emotions and needs (with the exception of some, especially female, engineers), and will often neglect their significant other while spending endless hours in the lab or studying. However, I've found that the tremendous amount of work engineers do makes them truly appreciate the people and the time they spend outside of school.

So if you're lonely this Feb. 14 and need a Valentine, go scan the clientele for an engineer who will surely craft you an original — not if practical — day.

Carrie McGarry is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily columnist, and has a particular affinity for mechanical engineers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Top 10 reasons to dislike conservative Christians

1. Because I am an atheist, I am automatically branded vain. So much for being a loving and 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 somehow this group could possibly be tolerant of all other people's ideas and beliefs.

5. Because I don't believe Lincoln's Republican ideals all of the credit for freeing the slaves. Personally, I've had a more difficult time convincing the Confederate states to let their economy go without the help of the northern states. Maybe Mr. Dillenbrouard should compare the Confederate world to the red states in our last presidential election.

6. Because the world isn't perfect, and I don't think that bying, going to war and praying for your victory is going to help.

7. Because Jesus taught us to love and respect our neighbor, which is more loving and respecting their right to choose their future, university, friends and belief system.

8. Because capitalism is imperfect, 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.oxyworld every 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-Qaeda 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're creating a new division of the Terrorist Reframing Program, to be called the "Liberals Accept Responsibility for America's Inactivity's" program. LARRR 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 next Monday. Ali Mohammed bin Ahmad (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 "his irrational problems" will help him overcome these character flaws.

However, perhaps you are correct in describing these problems as mere 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.

Condolences,
Patriot, George W. Bush
Kim Thompson
Journalism senior

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 night to see, every person I have discussed the performance with agreed that this was the best Orchesis event to date.

Charlotte Rinaldi-Zuniga
Career counselor (CLC)

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.

MUSTANG DAILY CORRECTIONS

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

Please send your correction suggestions to editor@mustangdaily.net.

Dear Editor:

I was very disappointed in the quality of your publication yesterday. As a member of the Cal Poly community, I have high expectations for our newspaper.

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

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Charlotte Rinaldi-Zuniga
Career counselor (CLC)
Listen to “That Freakin’ Sports Show” Tuesday’s 10-11 a.m. on KCPR 91.3 FM

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 Finneguan said.

Soft success isn’t guaranteed. It took Pacific 58 years to crack the top 25. Heck, in 1998, when center Michael Olasuwakindi was a senior, the Mustangs were ranked 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 do well in scholarship. It’s a tough choice considering the recruiting budget is less, Bromley said, than it was in 1995.

Bromley told Cal Poly’s aca-
demics to recruit, though.

“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 Wikmark is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily assistant sports editor. Email him at gwikmark@calpoly.edu.

This week’s Friday Flashback features former Mustang Dave Oliver

Staying in SLO this summer and looking for a job on campus?

Conference Services is hiring 35-40 staff for spring, summer, and possibly fall qtr. Seeking hand working, responsible, and positive individuals who enjoy working in a fun, fast-paced team setting.

Cashier and customer experience preferred. Optional summer housing at a highly reduced rate. Flexible hours. PT/FT available. $7.00-8.25/hr. Great internship opportunity!


DUE 3/30/05 (805) 756-7600

Walton’s Grizzly Lodge Summer Camp is currently hiring counselors for the summer of 2005. Located near Lake Tahoe. Looking for responsible, enthusiastic individuals who enjoy working with children. Competitive salaries. Great work environment. On campus interviews held Thursdays, March 3, 9, 16, 23, 30. Sign up for an interview time with Mustang Jobs. For more information, call (530) 274-9577.

Camp Wayne for Kids
Children’s sleep-away camp. Northeastern Pennsylvania (8/18-8/14 O05). If you love children and want a caring, fun environment we need Directors and Instructors for: Tennis, Swimming (N.S.), preferred), Golf, Gymnastics, Cheerleading, Drama, Camping/Nature, High & Low Ropes, Team Sports, Water skiing, Swimming, Painting/Drawing, Pottery, Ceramics, Silkscreen, Printmaking, Batik, Jewelry, Calligraphy, Photography, Sculpture, Guitar, Aerobics, Self-Defense, Video, Family night staff, Administrative/Director (2+1), Nurses (RN’s) and Nursing Students, Bookkeeper, Mattey, Music Teacher. Help on Campus Interviews February 20th. Call (805) 279-3019 or apply online at www.campwaynewine.com

SL0 dental office seeks part-time receptionist. Friends, good with people, teams quick. Call Michelle at 544-4353

CMRG is currently conducting a clinical research trial for vaginal yeast infection. If you’re female, age 12 or older, and are currently experiencing the symptoms of a vaginal yeast infection, you may qualify to participate. Please call 805-549-7570 for more information about this research study. If eligible, you will be reimbursed for your time and travel.

Don’t mess up this year! Make sure your Valentine knows you care! Send them a message in the Valentine’s Day Personal. Submit by Thurs., Feb. 10.

HOMES FOR SALE
Free list of all houses and condos for sale in SLO. Call Nickson Real Estate 546-1590 or email steve@nicksomes.com

Valentine’s Day 2005
Poly Plant Shop to the rescue! On campus delivery!

Happy Birthday ton love you All

Little Step and big step Love, Meeen

State Community Service Exercise your free speech

Hey China, Sally, Catnott, and Bemiscious.

From Jimmy

SPORTS
Thursday, February 10, 2005

5600 Group Fundraiser
Scheduling Bonus 4 hours of your group’s time plus our free (yes, free) fundraising solutions equals $1,000-$2,000 in earnings for your group. Call today for a $600 bonus when you schedule your non-sales fundraising event with CampusFundraiser. Contact CampusFundraiser, (888) 923-3238, or visit www.campusfundraiser.com

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From Jimmy
From preps to Poly, friends hoop it up

Nicole Stowers

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.

The pair never played any games together until both were at Cal Poly. Joe Henry said watching his brother play basketball as he grew up is what got him interested in pursuing his own basketball career.

David Henry began his collegiate basketball career at Cal Poly in 1998 and was a sophomore when Titchenal was a walk-on as a freshman. He had a stand-out career at Cal Poly and is now playing in Europe.

"I was always trying to do what he was doing when I was a kid," Joe Henry said.

Joe Henry was not the only one that looked up to his brother. Titchenal did as well. David Henry was the one who introduced Titchenal to Cal Poly and helped him get his foot in the door. When Joe Henry began his college search a few years ago, Titchenal was there to give him a foray into Cal Poly's basketball program, just like David Henry had done for him.

Joe Henry said having first-hand knowledge of the people and program is what helped him make his decision to choose Cal Poly. When Joe was accepted, it's hard to say who was more excited, David Henry or Titchenal.

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 scholars and coaches. 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.

Most walk-ons 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 he works harder than anyone else. That makes it really easy to like a guy. He sets a good example," Titchenal said.

Joe Henry certainly appreciates what his teammate has to offer.

"Mike's an unsellable 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 losses. 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 shined," 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 utilized 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.

Though Utah State has slipped to third place in conference this year, Pacific is off to 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 school history, were ranked among the top 25 teams in an 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 4-16 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' Nos. 24 ranking.

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

It darkened to days of yore 10-15 years ago when UNLV and New Mexico State were members. The attention re-flares occasionally, though. Even Cal Poly has made national news, like when upset Cal and USC early last season, before floundering in conference play.

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 tournament runner-up and regular season conference winner Utah State was perhaps robbed of an at-large bid.

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