**TODAY'S WEATHER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High</th>
<th>Low</th>
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<tr>
<td>64°</td>
<td>45°</td>
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**Monday, February 14, 2005**

**'Poly Gras' fails to show for own party**

The possibility of a belated Mardi Gras celebration doesn't live up to the hype; law enforcement out in full force

Amanda Samonte

**MUSTANG DAILY**

Armes of police throughout San Luis Obispo dampened students hopes for Poly Gras. Partiers were left wandering the streets searching for parties that had not been broken by police.

The hot spots for last years Mardi Gras, including Mustang Village, Steamer Glen, the corner of Football and California, fraternity houses and Murray Station were quiet.

San Luis Obispo Police Department Spokesperson Rob Brys said his department reported 13 arrests both Friday and Saturday night, for a total of 26. The San Luis Obispo sheriff's Department reported one arrest over Friday and two on Saturday. The California Highway Patrol reported two arrests Friday and eight Saturday.

In addition to police cars, police were on foot and in undercover vehicles.

"There (were) that much to do because there were so many cops driving around. It was ridiculous," graphic communication sophomore Camerin Barton-Sandman said. "Poly Gras was a good idea, but it just didn't work out how we wanted it to." Despite efforts to rally a belated Mardi Gras celebration, the dreams of a wild Poly Gras were squashed by city patrol.

"The party I was at wasn't even that loud, and the cops were there just to destroy everything in sight," he said. "I don't think students really meant to be." Despite efforts to rally a belated Mardi Gras celebration, the dreams of a wild Poly Gras were squashed by city patrol.

"I think what the council just did was a huge blow," Kendra Worth said. "I think we may be able to créd it ASI's work on this." This year's festivities repeated, he felt that the student leaders probably had a better feel for whether or not Poly Gras was a serious threat.

"I trust the students and am there­ to the council to do its part, pleading that extending triple fines would only add fuel to the fire for disgruntled students.

Tylor Middleton, Associated Students Inc. vice president, commended the city for its proactive approach to Mardi Gras, but asked them to trust that Poly Gras is not a threat.

"You cannot legislate your way to positive community relations by try­ing to discourage behavior with intimidating tactics," Middleton said.

Blake Bolton, ASI president, said he also thought extending triple fines would further ruin student-commu­ nity relations.

"This past year I thought the city made progress to break down barriers with the student population," Bolton said. "But today marks truly a new low." Mayor Dave Romero said that although he did not want to see last year's festivities repeated, he felt that the student leaders probably had a better feel for whether or not Poly Gras was a serious threat.

"Without tripling fines, we are endorsing bad behavior," Senate said. "That is not the message we want to send."  

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**Weekend by the numbers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Mardi Gras</strong></th>
<th><strong>Poly Gras</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total persons arrested Friday evening (by 3:30 a.m. during Mardi Gras)</td>
<td>29 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total persons arrested Saturday evening (by 4 a.m. during Mardi Gras)</td>
<td>36 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total persons arrested over the weekend</td>
<td>73 39</td>
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**No vote to extend fines proves suitable**

The Cal Poly students that attended the meeting argued that extending triple fines would increase animosity

Natasha Toto

**MUSTANG DAILY**

After nearly two hours of debate, Thursday's City Council meeting concluded with a three to one vote against extending triple fines for law­ breakers until March.

Despite San Luis Obispo Chief of Police Deborah Linden's proposal to continue the fines, city council members decided it would not be in the city's best interest.

Linden said she is satisfied with the council's decision.

"I think what the council just did was a huge blow," said Bill "Dag" Lidster. "It is a great opportunity for stu­ dents to prove themselves, but it could be risky for them." When all was said and done for the weekend of Poly Gras, the move by some to thwart police efforts to end Mardi Gras resulted in what appeared to be a non-party after all.

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**Commentary**

**'Poly Gras' a non-event**

I was not present on Saturday night but I did not stay late enough to see what they got their own party. Officers on motorcycles and bicy­ cles swarmed around a customized, red sports car on Casa Street, with a driver wearing a t-shirt and back­ wards hat. One of the cops shined a flash­ light in the eyes of the twenty­ something male who had dared. "What did I do?" he asked. I figured he was suspected for driving drunk or having illegal weapons. Maybe he had an outstanding warrant that caused the three bicycle police to come over. After the motorcycle duo made the stop, the photographer standing beside me, scooted across the street to get a picture. Meanwhile, one of the bike cops, an officer from Santa Maria, saw Oblivion, page 2

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**Mustang Daily**

Volume LXVI, Number 73

Mardi Gras 2005 compared to Poly Gras

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Alec Graham is a journalism senior and Mustang Daily assistant sports editor. Email him at agraham@mustangdaily.com.

Followed by police officers and chief of police Mark Meacham, the protest was rounded up Saturday night at about 1:45 a.m. By then, many of the students had been dispersed and police had not confronted any violent behavior.

Meacham said the officers' response was appropriate in the context of the situation.

A police department spokesperson said in a statement that officers had a responsibility to maintain public safety and peace. The officers were authorized to use force to deter violent behavior, including the use of pepper spray, if necessary.

The officers' actions were justified, the spokesperson said, given the situation and the need to prevent any violence or disturbance.

The protest was a response to the city's recent decision to increase fines for violators of the city's noise ordinance. The protesters said the fines were too high and would lead to gentrification of the neighborhood.

The city has since lowered the fines and issued an apology for the high fees.

The protest was peaceful throughout, with no violence or incidents reported.

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Relationships 101: Students give relationship classes the college try

On college campuses across the nation, students discuss the making up and study secrets of happily married couples

Martha Irvine ASSOCIATED PRESS

MUNCIE, Ind. — Scott Hall wants to spark a discussion, so he asks his students something bound to provoke a reaction: Do women want more out of marriage than men?

It's just the sort of conversation starter that's heard more often in college classrooms these days. Affairs of the heart — love, relationships and marriage — have gone from being an obsession outside class to the reason for class.

The students in Hall's course on marriage at Ball State University, many of them women, laugh and nod at his question. Most of them agree with research he cites stating that men are more interested in a partner who's attractive and good in bed.

But not Mike Toscano, a 21-year-old senior: "It's not 'Oh she looks cute and she cooked a pot pie,'" he says. "I want to be held once in a while, too, y'all."

The comment draws more laughter, as Toscano blushes and smiles. "I'm glad he feels that way," Anita Montgomery, a 22-year-old junior, responds to the class. "But he is rare!"

Over the last 30 years, academics have been developing the study of "close relationships," as they call it, forming the International Association for Relationship Research to share resources and data.

Such research is "not just about what makes people happy but how relationships can affect other things — for instance, someone's health," says Lisa Baker, an assistant professor of psychology at Purchase College, part of the State University of New York.

In recent years, though, some professors have moved beyond theory, making the discussion more personal to students by teaching relationship courses with their husbands, Les Parrott.

Lecture topics include "Falling in Love Without Losing Your Mind" and "How to Break Up Without Frying Ayars." The latter class includes discussion on how to end a relationship cleanly and taking time after a breakup to avoid a rebuffed relationship. Parrott says that session regularly draws students who aren't even enrolled in the class.

"Students are often more focused on relationship quality than their careers," says Parrott, a marriage and family therapist who teaches relationships courses with her husband, Les Parrott.

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"Breaking up is a real rite of passage for people their age — they're just dying and they have no real guidance," says Parrott, who co-authored a textbook on relationships with her husband. Parrott says that some academics question whether classes like these belong in a college setting.

But others, from economists to theologians — say there's no reason love should be ignored. "The longer I live, the more I realize that the hardest thing is just relationships," says Robert Brancatelli, an assistant professor of religious studies at Santa Clara University in California's Silicon Valley. "It's hard enough to figure out yourself, let alone another person."

His course, "The Theology of Marriage," challenges students to go beyond notions of romantic fantasy to ultimately view love as "a mature, self-capable, capable of offering oneself to another person freely."

"And in doing so, you become more of your true self," says Brancatelli, who requires students to spend time with married couples to see what a life of commonness is really all about. "I tell them to try to get invited over for dinner," Brancatelli says, "to see what the couples are like after a couple glasses of wine."
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Refreshing the dwindling soul scene

just in case it isn't evident enough already, I'm a rock 'n' roll girl. The occasional soul or hip hop artist has caught my ear, but none really lasted. Recently, I stumbled upon John Legend, who released a solo album, "Get Lifted."

My musical prejudices are more prominent than I wish they are, so initially when I saw the last name, "Legend," heard the names of some songs ("She Don't Need to Know") and read multiple articles that detailed his expectations of becoming famous since he was 6, I was a little put off. But sometimes ego pays off.

The album is not only different from other things out there, but guest appearances by Kanye West, Snoop Dogg and Miri Ben-Ari reinforce the power that the album has to stand against today's other popular artists. Anyone who appreciates how music is crafted will love this album.

The album opens with a soft, jazzy piano kick and as Legend begins to sing, it is obvious that this is no ordinary album. The beginning "Prelude" segues into the title track, "Get Lifted."

The title of the song brings so many connotations to mind, but is a silky, sensuous song nevertheless — or perhaps as a result. The groove is the first thing I noticed, but there is also an exceptional depth in the instrumentation from the very first note, emphasizing bass and percussion and supplementing these with flawless harmonies.

Some artists tend to over-produce or over-layer their music to compensate for the lack of something else: vocal ability, for example. But the beauty of Legend is that his voice is the driving force of the album, and it is not overshadowed, even as the accompaniment is wound into a rich tapestry.

My least favorite song on the album is "Alright." Typical grime and unspectacular lyrics make it a wack song, but a deep twinge in the background still makes me wonder just how he makes such innovative musical decisions.

The highlight of the album for me is " Ordinary People." Legend kept the song sparse, and rightfully so, by using just a piano and his remarkable voice. The lyrics are extraordinary and evoke the mood of the music itself.

Of course John Legend didn't come out of nowhere. He has been working behind-the-scenes on albums by artists such as Alicia Keys, Janet Jackson, Talib Kweli, Jay-Z, Britney Spears and the Black Eyed Peas. He also played piano on Lauryn Hill's amazing "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill."

Legend said to BET in December 2004, "You can expect this album to be soulful. It's real music that you can relate to and feel. It's like gospel mixed with hip hop and classic soul." It's quite a statement, yes. But there's no need to be skeptical here — this guy knows what he's doing.

Emily Logan is a journalism and music junior and a Mustang Daily columnist.
Unborn turtles safer than fetuses

Recently came across a newspaper article that completely shocked me. It described two men who were caught stealing 115 Loggerhead sea turtles from a research station in D. MacArthur State Park north of Pismo Beach. They had gathered the eggs at night and were retrieving the bag when investigators caught and arrested the duo. Since the Loggerhead sea turtle is listed on the Threatened Species List, just below the endangered species level, the two men could be subject to heavy fines and jail time. For this species, the punishment could mean 60 days in jail, a $500 fine and $100 fine per egg actually digested. You tell me the truth. I had the same initial reaction most of you probably did: serves them right. They should be punished to the full extent of the law. I realize these sea turtles are a threatened species, but think of it this way. It's not fat... he's grandpa-thy plum-p.
Camp is currently hiring counselors with Mustang Jobs. For more information, call (530) 274-9577.

Camp Wayne for Girls
Children's sleep-away camp, currently enrolling for the summer of 2005. Located near Lake Tahoe. Located for responsible, enthusiastic individuals who enjoy working with children. Competitive salary. Great environment. On campus interviews held Thursday, March 14, 5:00-7:30pm. For more information, call (530) 274-9577.

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 for a year, you may qualify to participate. Please call 805-549-7570 for more information about your non-salaries study. If eligible, you will be reimbursed for your time and travel.

Developmentally disabled student currently enrolled at Cuesta College needs a part time job coach, preferably an upper level or graduate student with experience in helping handi­
capped students to succeed in new jobs. Hours approximately 3:00-5:00pm 4 days a week. Pay $10 an hour. Please respond by email to deonpinkel@yahoo.com or by phone at 805-541-0721 for more details.

The Central Coast LAN Party Thursday, February 13th & 20th PC and XBOX tournaments, dinner provided. 42" plasma screen featuring 5.1 surround sound. Check it out at www.centralcoastlanparty.com

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Personal pars
Desperately seeking stranger. Saw you eating dinner at Light House last week and couldn't keep my eyes off you. Please meet me at Light House Monday, February 14. I'll be there 5:00-7:00pm. Really want to get to know you. I'll be the one wearing the red carnation.

Dear Carrie McG. from the Daily:
I just wanted to take this time, on this special day, to let you know that when we passed by one another, seeing your sweet smile makes my day. It disarms me in a way that few other women can. I'm afraid that I must remain in the shadows, but thanks for your presence, your modesty, and your smile. I will miss them when you are gone. For now, Happy Valentine's Day from A Secret Admirer.

Seabao is the best boyfriend ever! Love, Lisa
The slide hits six for women's basketball

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

The Cal Poly women's basketball team continued its recent slide, losing its sixth straight game Thursday.

UC Santa Barbara outrebounded the visiting Mustangs by 15 on the paint and went 78-54 at The Thunderdome. Cal Poly, which fell to 9-11 and 3-9, had just one double-digit scorer.

Nickoline Yarwatsky with 10 points.

SHEILA SORCHE MUSTANG DAILY

The Mustangs have been productive out of the bullpen. Rockey Roquet and Tony Olson get more wiggle room, but established pitchers like Shull and Berglund at first base is very athletic.

Q. — Where has your pitching been?
A. — At any level of baseball, pitching is 75 to 80 percent of the game. You're only as good as your starting pitching. We've had some trouble. We really need to pick it up on that end of it. It starts with Jimmy Shull on Friday then Garrett Olson on Saturday and Cory Daley on Sunday.

Q. — Is the starting three locked down for your staff?
A. — Everything's open. Whether you're a position player or pitcher, you go with who's hot. Some more established pitchers like Shull and Olson get more wiggle room, but we're trying to get other pitchers in the mix. Rockey Roquet and Tony Sapien have been productive out of the bullpen. Jonathan Fleming was probably our No. 1 pitcher at a point last year.

Q. — What's been the key for the offense this season?
A. — We've been trying to upgrade as much as possible and play as many Pac-10 teams we can, which is second or third in the country. We've got UCLA locked up for four years, Washington which is ranked No. 8 for four years and starting next year, Oregon State for two years. Ideally we'd like to go as much as possible half on the road and half at home.

Q. — Who are your strongest players at this point?
A. — We return three position players that were starters. Kyle Blumenfeld is a great utility guy for us, expect him back at catcher, Henry十二 who played left field and DH, is starting center field for us this year. He won the Alakan Summer League batting crown and that league is one of the better college-summer leagues. And Brett Benghid at first base is very athletic.

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Behind the doubles tandem of Samantha Waller and Nicole Shabazz, the women's tennis team took the doubles point and rolled through the singles play en route to its second straight Big West Conference victory.

The Mustangs defeated Cal State Northridge 5-2 on the Mustang courts after winning four of six singles matches.

The Mustangs improved to 3-3 overall and 2-0 in the Big West. Samantha Waller and Nicole Shabazz teamed for an 8-3 win at No. 1 doubles while Noelle Lee and Chey Thompson combined on an 8-5 victory at No. 2 doubles.

Singles winners were Thompson, Lee, Shabazz and Sheila Lewis.

NICK HOOVER MUSTANG DAILY

Samantha Waller teamed up with Nicole Shabazz to beat their doubles competition and lead the Mustangs to a win at Cal State Northridge.

And the men lose too

MUSTANG DAILY STAFF REPORT

Mike Titchenal's career-high 20 points were not enough as Cal Poly dropped an 85-65 decision to UC Davis in a non-conference men's basketball game Saturday night at The Pavilion.

Titchenal made 10 of 18 floor shots and also had a team-high six rebounds, but the Mustangs suffered their third straight loss and have dropped 11 of their last 12 games, their record at 4-17.

Freshman forward Andrew Haskins added 12 points for the Mustangs, who trailed by 16 points at halftime. Washington junior college. He has not been able to throw like he's capable of. We're trying to put him in the right combo.You use non-conference in this way. Our non-conference is so competitive, some times it cost you some games, but we're preparing for the big west. It's the third to fourth-ranked conference in the country.

Q. — Your schedule is significantly different this year, what's the deal?
A. — My first two years we were kind of stuck with the schedule presented to us. We've been trying to upgrade as much as possible and play as many Pac-10 teams as we can, which is second or third in the country. We've got UCLA locked up for four years, Washington which is ranked No. 8 for four years and starting next year, Oregon State for two years. Ideally we'd like to go as much as possible half on the road and half at home.

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