Cal Poly supports city in Mardi Gras efforts

Liz Soteros-McNamara
MUSTANG DAILY

Cal Poly students opened their e-mail accounts Monday night and found a message from the university regarding Mardi Gras. Vice President for Student Affairs Cornel Morton sent out an e-mail informing students that Cal Poly supports the city of San Luis Obispo’s campaign for a quiet Mardi Gras weekend.

"Your responsible behavior during the Mardi Gras 2005 showed everyone that Cal Poly students care for this community, and for the safety of their own neighborhood,” Morton said in the e-mail. Morton commented on the e-mail and said, “The vast majority of students are respectful and want to represent the university positively.”

Each year fewer students remember the incident on California and Football Boulevards in February 2004. In the two years since the riot that was broadcasted on CNN, many students who remember the event have graduated and new students are left wondering what actually happened. "There was a riot?” asked Shaun Kenville, a business sophomore, when questioned if he had heard anything about Mardi Gras before coming to Cal Poly.

Even 2005’s "Poly Gras” has slipped into an ancient past for some students. Students who remember the riot can understand Cal Poly’s endorsement of a Mardi Gras fire-free weekend. "I’m in support of controlling Mardi Gras if that is what is best for the city,” said Matt Hensel, a graphic communication senior, when questioned if he had heard anything about Mardi Gras before coming to Cal Poly.

"The motivation factor isn’t going to be enough to sound like Big Brother,” said although his name is attached to it, all four university vice presidents and president Warren Baker endorse the position on Mardi Gras.

"Please stay safe and avoid large crowds. Discourage friends from other towns from coming here that weekend. Also take interest in the safety of fellow students. You may be in a position to take actions that prevent others from harm,” the e-mail stated.

Students read the e-mail and few expressed a negative reaction toward the university or Morton’s comments. "I will probably be in town and not doing anything,” Manabe said.

If the president passes the bill, parents who take out federal student loans for their children will have to pay higher interest rates.

But some think the bill will only feed the pockets of the wealthy because it includes a $70 billion tax cut.

"We call on President Bush to uphold the commitment to American economic competitiveness that he made in the State of the Union address by vetoing this bill and pushing for more affordable student loan policy,” Swarthout said.

But the bill would direct some of the loan cut funds back to students through student grants in math, science and foreign language.

The bill would also lower student interest rates over the next five years in an attempt to even out the strain on students who take out loans by implementing a 6.8 percent cap for student interest rates. The current maximum interest rate is 8.25 percent.

Junior education major Michelle Rivas said she thinks the bill will only discourage poor students from going to college.

"I am really angry about this,” said Rivas, who currently receives federal student loans. "I think it's stupid that they're implementing No Child Left Behind to improve people's chances of going to college when they can't even afford to go.”

Rivas said it is discouraging for students who have no way to pay for college.

"The motivation factor isn’t going to be there,” Rivas said.
Study finds little difference in success between MBA, undergraduate degree

Tali Yahalom

PHILADELPHIA — An MBA degree may not provide much of a boost in getting to the top, according to a recent study. The study, conducted at Pace University's Lubin School of Business, indicated that top business executives with an MBA are not necessarily more successful than their colleagues with only an undergraduate degree.

"I really believe that an MBA doesn't have the basic knowledge to do things such as compare credit card interest rates or grasp the arguments in newspaper editorials," assistant to the dean for undergraduate programs at the University of Mississippi, Sue Hodge said.

According to the study, the results came from three different types of literacy, reading news stories and other prose, understanding documents and having the math skills needed for checkbooks or restaurant tips. Common everyday skills needed for more complex tasks are not being acquired by graduates, causing them to fall behind. This makes the task of comprehending surveys, graphs or bank statements more difficult than they are designed to be.

"I think students these days take everything for granted and aren't paying attention to the things they should be," said Will Corban, an Ole Miss education major from Oxford, Miss.

The study did say that most students at two- and four-year colleges showed intermediate skills and could complete tasks such as locating places on a map. Although lower than expected, the average literacy of college students is considerably higher than that of adults across the nation. The college survey was the same test the government uses to test English literacy among adults. The National Assessment of Adult Literacy was given in 2003 to a sample of 1,827 students at public and private schools.

The survey focused on college students who were close to completing the requirements for their particular field of study and had a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points. The study can be found on CNN's Web site: http://www.cnn.com/2006/EDUCATION.

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Friday, February 3, 2006

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President to send Congress $439.3 billion defense budget

Lolita C. Baldor
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Bush next week will request a $439.3 billion Defense Department budget for 2007, a nearly 0.3 percent increase over this year, according to senior Pentagon officials and documents obtained Thursday by The Associated Press.

The spending plan would include $842.2 billion for weapons programs, a nearly 8 percent increase, including billions of dollars for fighter jets. Navy ships, helicopters and unmanned aircraft. The total includes a substantial increase in weapons spending for the Army, which will get $168.6 billion in the 2007 budget, compared with $111 billion this year.

Senior defense officials provided the totals on condition of anonymity because the defense budget will not be publicly released until Monday. The figures did not include spending for wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, which the Bush administration said Thursday would total $120 billion for 2006.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld would not provide any details of the budget Thursday but called it appropriate, adding: "We have been able to fund the important things that are needed. It is a sizable amount of money."

The budget proposal represents the fifth year in a row that spending on weapons has increased, after years of cutbacks during the 1990s.

It also provides funding for 42 Army Brigade Combat Teams as part of the ongoing effort to increase the number of combat units from 33. The expansion would allow soldiers to spend two years at their home station for every year they are deployed to a war front.

Overall, the Army would receive $111.6 billion, including $42.6 billion for personnel. The Army National Guard would receive about $3.75 billion for personnel, and the Army Reserves would receive $3.4 billion.

The documents say the budget plan will provide the funding needed to win the long war on terror, recruit and retain troops, and continue the transformation to a more agile fighting force for the 21st century.

The Army's key weapons programs, including the Future Combat System, will be funded at $2.2 billion, and funding for the F-22 fighter — skirting the debate about whether the U.S. should build nearly 3,000 more heavily armed Hornets. The budget also includes a push to get unmanned Kaman Sky眼y transport vehicles built by General Dynamics Land Systems.

During a speech Thursday, Rumsfeld said the Pentagon is learning to do more with less.

"We are finding ways to operate that direction in ways that are considerably more efficient and more respectful of taxpayers' dollars," he said. "We are getting more more for the dollar today than we were five years ago."

In other budget programs, the Air Force will receive about $2.2 billion for its war front, slashing the 2006 total nearly in half. The drop in spending, however, is actually a contract restructuring that was due to the war that money — and more — over the long run by stretching out the program for an additional two years and buying four more planes.

Iran issue 'reaching a critical phase'

George John
ASSOCIATED PRESS

VIENNA, Austria — Iran threatened to retaliate Thursday in the face of almost certain referral to the U.N. Security Council of its enrichment activities, and the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency said there was "reaching a critical phase."

Ahead of a decision by the IAEA's 35-member board, U.S. and European delegates turned to behind-the-scenes diplomacy to build the broadest possible coalition that might bring Iran to the council over concerns it is seeking nuclear weapons.

Cuba, Venezuela, Syria and a few other nations at odds with Washington remained opposed. India was said to be leaning toward supporting referral.

Diplomats accredited to the meeting said backing for Iran had shrunk among the U.N. nuclear watchdog's board since Russia and China swung their support behind referral at an overnight meeting with the United States, France and Britain — the other three permanent council members — that started Monday.

"There's a solid majority in favor of reporting," Gregory L. Schulte, the chief U.S. delegate to the IAEA, told The Associated Press. "There's even a more solid majority after Monday."

State Department spokesman Sean McCormick said the number of nations expected to vote against referral were in the "low to single digits."

Iran remained defiant. In a last-minute interview, the top Iranian nuclear negotiator told IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei that his country was prepared to allow agency inspections and resume uranium enrichment if reported to the council. "If we are refereed, the IAEA will not be able to suspend all the voluntary measures and extra cooperation" with the IAEA "short of rearming IAEA monitoring to a minimum."

Furthermore, "all the peaceful nuclear activities being undertaken will be resumed without any restriction," said the letter, suggesting a resumption of work on full-scale uranium enrichment — a possible pathway for nuclear weapons.

Ali Larjani, in a letter made available to the AP, said referral would lead Iran to consider "to suspend all the voluntary measures and extra cooperation" with the IAEA "short of rearming IAEA monitoring to a minimum."

Furthermore, "all the peaceful nuclear activities being undertaken will be resumed without any restriction," said the letter, suggesting a resumption of work on full-scale uranium enrichment — a possible pathway for nuclear weapons.

Iran has made such threats before. What was significant this time, however, was the abrupt warnings that were in the form of a formal notification to the head of the IAEA.

As Thursday's meeting adjourned, diplomats intensified efforts to widen support for a European draft resolution that would be brought before the council.

ElBaradei said there was a "window of opportunity to defuse the crisis, stressing that even if the issue is referred, the Security Council would have to take up the issue before next month.

"We are reaching a critical phase but it is not a crisis," he said.
The growth of the student choreographers and the performers is really the highlight of ‘Metamorphosis.’

— Maria Junco
director
HUMOR COLUMN

Hometown Buffet: Why are you so good?

We know how this works. A faithful Mustang Daily reader, you think the Two Clasy Guys sold out. And we're sure it's true that this column is now sponsored by Hometown Buffet, please understand we would have written this article anyway. In all sincerity, there is no finer dining experience than that grandstone town where everyone knows your name. When you enter the H-Town, presumably after learning the wait at Tahoe Joe's is at least 45 minutes, you are greeted by one of the marginally depressed staff. Doesn't make you happy that you don't work there? The wage slave will ask what you would like to order, and you really only choose from the biggest buffet this side of Sizler.

The dining establishment comfortably seats 10% of your class. Our representatives Liz Caroz, Brandon Collins, Lindsay Smith, Lucy Borsenick, Phung Yim, Abhishek Dutta, Andrew Freymuth, Emily Horrocks, Rachna Chhibbar, Jame Ramirez and layout manager C eux Chen classified asUnauthorized jackie Chen faculty adviser George Ramos general manager Paul Bittick

BY MAIL:
MUSTANG Daily reader.

HOMESTOWN BUFFET: Why are you so good?

Hometown Buffet: Why are you so good?

Mikko Beyer
WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP) — The average observations about the racial climate on campus are not the best but rather like that of the biggest racial groups. A quick look through any area with a concentration of students actually reveals predominately white and Asian quites. Yet, most of the time, comments made about the self-segregation are concerned with those who are more white and dand quites Asians and are unkindly black. The implication being that non-minorities, or those who do not "act Asian," are not present in the student body. That is, there is no givng in high socety's view of recent is distinctly different in the racial climate. However, it is not the same. Other students who do not overcome boundaries and have a diverse social group are not automatically less racist or more culturally aware or concerned about race relations. Similarly, there are intercultural couples who have murdered two different cultures, bridging gaps and all that. (Disney Channel shit).

When they are not intercultural couples who make this world a better place, self-segregations about their partner or group can be frustrating. Interracial friendships and romances are great, and that is one area where is getting gobbled is kissing someone of another race. This solution might be high in the realm of self-segregation. That is, there is no givng in high socety's view of recent is distinctly different in the racial climate. However, it is not the same. Other students who do not overcome boundaries and have a diverse social group are not automatically less racist or more culturally aware or concerned about race relations. Similarly, there are intercultural couples who have murdered two different cultures, bridging gaps and all that. (Disney Channel shit).

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Coach continued from page 6

knocked out of the game in the first half and they had to be without him. Both teams deserve to be in the game. Both teams have played like champs.

Seattle offense vs. Blitzberg

This year's David comes in with a rather large stone to cast at Gashah with Shaun Alexander. "The Great" in the backfield - keeping him out of the end zone is easier than done. Alexander comes in as the league MVP and a leader-28 touchdowns while the Seattleers boast one of the toughest defenses in the league. In the class of the Titans, look for Seattle to keep Alexander in the game early and often with the play action pass game being used to get through the Seattle defense. For the Vandals vaunted 3-defense, expect them to keep a blustering and hard-hitting attack throughout the game. Blitzberg is back. This battle-front favors the Vandals.

Basketball continued from page 8

Dooley and Courtney Cameron make a solid senior contribution. "They're huge to the team. We help them so much in our ability to stretch defenses with their three point shooting and they are team leaders," Moomough said.

This year, Henke has averaged over four points, three rebounds and three assists a game in twelve starts. In their biggest win of the year, Henke went off. She scored a career-high 21 points and added three assists with four steals. This win ended a seven-game home-winning streak for the Gauchos and was only the second time the women's team has seen in Santa Barbara in the past 22 years.

Playing in all 17 games, Dooley has only one start and relies on her ability to make changes off the bench. With her limited time she still managed to rank sixth in the league in three-pointers made, and leads the Mustangs in three-point percentage. Cameron suffered a stress frac­ ture in the beginning of the sea­ son and that forced her to miss almost half the season. But she has come back strong. In just 10 games this year, she is averaging six points a game with two rebounds.

Possibly the player with the most impact this year has been junior guard Jessica Eggleton. Averaging close to 13 points, five rebounds, two assists and two steals a game, she is having an all-conference year. She ranks sixth in the league in scoring and rebounding and accounts for a lot of second-chance points because of her two offensive rebounds per game.

Moomough hopes the team will continue its success in the second half of conference play and end on a high note before the Big West tournament. If the team aggressive on both ends of the floor, the Mustangs could sweep the Gauchos this season.

The game tips off at 2 p.m. in Mott Gym with the men's game to follow.

The New York Times Crossword

ACROSS
31 Treat with (French department)
32 Outstanding issues
35 Part of A.S.T.
39 "Easy as pie!"
40 Dress shirt
42 Some wedding arrangements
45 Accept for
46 Convertible
47 Oblique reply (opiner's opening)
48 Impersonated at a party
52 Tennis score
54 514

DOWN
1 Cruise, say (with 51 across)
3 "See?" follower
4 Cost of doing business
5 Lot for sale
6 Rent-"_ _ _ _ "
9 "To the__'s"
10 "Who's up next?"
11 "Peggyboes, e.g.
12 Fox cooker
13 Parade pattern
14 Survivor (canner's opening)
15 One (S.O.C.U.T. to M."

Edited by Will Shortz

No. 1223

55 Stays too long at the gym, say
27 Aucoin
56 Atended to a doctor
59 Model born
60 Open 184 co-founder
61 Battle of opened on 10/19/1914

57 With 29-Down, "Shanghai" actor
58 SFO posting
59 Per __

50 The Acropolis, once
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52 Maybe... (French
59 P.E."
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57 Fox cooker
58 It ends with two bars
59 Weight-__'s drink
60 The Acropolis, once

53 "A Streetcar Named Desire"
54 Literacy stream
55 Literary stream
56 Ottoman
57 With 29-Down, greeting for
58 Montana, once
59 Professional coach
60 The Acropolis, once
61 Macarena hand
62 Poster
63 Fox cooker
64 It ends with two bars
65 With 29-Down, "Shanghai"
66 Attenberg (old German
67 Hardy soul
68 Hand
69 All Part of an aura
70 Foul-mouthed
71 Still
72 See S5-Down

SOU/do ku

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SPORTS BALK

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Senior leadership shines through

Matt Norton

With the strong play of its seniors, the emergence of Sparkle Anderson and Jessica Eggleston and a new fast-paced offense, the women’s basketball team looks to assume sole possession of second place in the Big West with another win against rival UC Santa Barbara on Saturday.

“I love being able to coach a group of players that can push the ball on offense and never give up on defense,” coach Faith Minnagh said.

The Mustang women are definitely going out to get the ball this year. They are forcing a conference-high 14 steals per game, which correlates on the offensive end with over 15 assists each game. Junior point guard Sparkle Anderson has a lot to do with that newfound success.

“In my opinion she (Anderson) is the best point guard in the league,” Minnagh said.

Anderson is second on the team in steals with two a game, and tops the Big West in assists at over six a game. Leading the offense, Anderson has helped Cal Poly become the No. 1 scoring offense in the league. With only two players averaging over nine points a game, this revamped offense has seen contributions from almost all of its players.

“We found a style that works for us,” senior forward Sarah Grieve said.

A major part of that style is their intimidating interior defense. Grieve is sixth in the league in blocks with one and a half per game. She has already doubled her block average from last year, but do not let her unassuming height fool you. At six-foot-two-inches, Grieve recognized herself as being undersized.

“I may not be as tall as other centers in the league, but I try and make guards think twice about coming into the paint,” she said.

Grieve, along with Michelle Henke, Jennifer Anderson and Kayla Karst, has helped Cal Poly become the second half effort, shooting 50 percent in the second half. Following the non-conference game with the Aggies, Cal Poly will return to conference play on the road with games at Long Beach State and UC Irvine. The Mustangs will remain on the road the following week with a single conference game on Feb. 15 at UC Santa Barbara, followed by an "out Bracket Buster" game at Saint Mary’s on Feb. 18.

Super Bowl XL: Seattle vs. Pittsburgh

Coach "K" is a former Cal Poly football player who has turned in his pads for a pen and paper as a Mustang Daily football analyst. This week’s guest commentary gives Coach "K" a chance to offer his expert advice for the biggest game of the year, the Super Bowl.

In the world of football there is no bigger stage than the Super Bowl. This year, some people would like to compare this game to the traditional David vs. Goliath, and nobody is going Seattle a fighting chance. But both teams had to go through some tough competition to get there. Many would’ve called Indianapolis Goliath, had they made it to the Super Bowl, and this year’s David knocked Peyton Manning and the Colts off their pedestal earlier this season. Imagine if Jerome Bettis’ fumble was picked up and run back for a touchdown, or the Denver Broncos actually showed up for the AFC title game – we wouldn’t even be thinking of the Steelers as Goliath as they would be sitting at home and watching the game on TV.

The Seattle Seahawks have not been without a few big playoff games themselves. Going into the NFC championship game, they had the task of stopping the high-powered offense of Jack Delhomme and Steve Smith of the Carolina Panthers. Snap back to a week prior when the league’s MVP was...