Mardi Gras weekend begins

The party is still over. At least this is still the mantra of the San Luis Obispo Police Department (SLOPD) for this year's Mardi Gras, which starts this weekend through Fat Tuesday on Feb. 28.

In 2004, drunken crowds in big numbers threw bottles and rocks at unruly police causing mass rioting with a record 206 arrests, according to the police department, forcing overloads in emergency rooms with injured students. The riots caused a massive movement in 2005 with more than 400 police in full riot gear around the state.

This year, the SLOPD is staging a 350-member force in all modes of transportation. They said they hope it will be a success similar to last year when "the party is over" campaign began.

"I feel that the community should embrace (the police department's plan for a safe weekend)," said Kristin Cause, a landscape architecture junior. "They should rope off an area where people can go and have a contained party. They should designate a street where crowds could go; the city could benefit financially from that."

According to a Mardi Gras Web site hosted by SLOPD, their goal last year was a "simple assignment" to "stop SLO from being a statewide Mardi Gras weekend destination for thousands of people, and prevent the town from becoming over from a combustible mix of alcohol and crowds over a potential five day party period."

Tour of California cycles to San Luis Obispo

The results in favor of the referendum were far stronger than expected," ASI President Tylor Middleton said. "In fact, with voter support over 70 percent, it's more than fit, it makes it a mandate."

After the official results of the poll were released, supporters stressed that the acceptance of the referendum will benefit students.

"The real winners are the students; we now have enough money to strengthen the existing clubs and even add a few more," Detweiler said. "The fact that the money is being distributed at the college level also makes the money more usable."

During Detweiler's presentation of the final poll results, he expressed his support for the referendum by stating that since fees have remained steady in recent years, students will benefit beyond the classroom.

"Now that it (the IRA proposal) has passed, it means stronger extracurricular activities since the fee hasn't been increased for years," Detweiler said. "It's also positive because the fee includes an inflation factor and therefore, we won't have to ask students for more money more usable."

Students decided to pass the IRA for the referendum with a 73 percent 'yes' vote. Under 2,000 voters turned out at the polls.

IRA fee proposal passes

Nick Coury  MUSKANG DAILY

The 2005 Mardi Gras celebration had significantly less arrests and citations and was overall less of a party compared to the riots that broke out during the 2004 celebration.

City plans for no party like last year

Nick Coury  MUSKANG DAILY

A look back to the past

Tour of California cycles to San Luis Obispo

History of Mardi Gras

Arrests and Citations

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**Results continued from page 1**

money to make up for inflation in the future."

The ERA fee increase will be in effect spring quarter and will increase the current ERA non-sports related fees by $6.98 per quarter to an inflation adjusted $17.24 per quarter for the 2007-08 fiscal year.

The ERA currently recognizes 62 student programs and represents 5,000 students that include but are not limited to the Cal Poly Rodeo, Rose Float, KCityR, and the Mustang Daily. Up until yesterday, the fee has not been increased in 13 years.

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**Plan continued from page 1**

Just as in 2005, the police force will continue to enforce triple fines for public safety laws involving public nudity, public urination and applicable municipal code violations. Efforts by SLOPD may be enough for community safety.

"Kids will still go out, but it will be lower numbers that last year," said Tony Quintiniliani, an English senior. "It seems like the police department is having some effect on students."

It all goes according to the SLOPD plan, this year will be safe.

"I think it's sort of sad. I was here two years ago and it was in full swing," said Nina Hartley, a biology graduate student. "I don't think enough people will be around for a problem, so it should be a quiet weekend."

For more information on this year's Mardi Gras, visit www.mardigraslo.com.

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**History continued from page 1**

part of town. Police deployed over 120 officers from several jurisdictions to avoid potential problems.

On Saturday, Feb. 21, a riot broke out at the corner of Californias and Foothill Boulevards. People threw rocks, bottles and cans at the police officers were directing traffic.

At 10:04 p.m., police sent out a mutual aid call to 120 additional officers from Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

By 1:30 a.m., police arrested a record 195 people. Twelve officers sustained minor injuries from the confrontation.

The social disorder continued on the night of Fat Tuesday. Hundreds of college students gathered in Mustang Village and threw fireworks. Police dispersed the crowd.

Police also split up another group of students on Stenner Street and patrolled the area to prevent large crowds from forming.

Two students threw an explosive device at police who were temporarily deaf.

Out of the 11 arrests on that Tuesday night, there were felony charges for assault on a police officer. The total cost of Mardi Gras 2004 was approximately $500,000.

In September 2004, the city and law enforcement took action to prevent dangerous situations at Mardi Gras. These steps included tripling fines for public drunkenness, noise and public urination violations throughout the weekend.

Some students reacted to the city's stance against Mardi Gras. Cal Poly student Erick Moschik started a movement called "Poly Gras" to promote partying the weekend after Mardi Gras. Cal Poly government and law enforcement were outraged by students attempting to undermine city efforts.

No actual "Poly Gras" event took place. By all accounts, the city's planning worked. Police made 82 arrests over Mardi Gras 2005 weekend, a 58 percent decrease from the previous year.

This year, the city of San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly, Cuesta College and local law enforcement held several community events to discourage partying on Mardi Gras weekend. Their campaigns include signs in local businesses and going door-to-door with information for residents near the university.

SLOPD said that about 350 police will be deployed and triple fines will be enforced this weekend.
WHO SAID THAT?

Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, and knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful.
— Samuel Johnson

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The intelligent man is one who has successfully fulfilled many accomplishments, and is yet willing to learn more.
— Ed Parker

Wordly Wise

Alacrity: A cheerful readiness, willingness, or promptness.

BREAKING NEWS

UPDATED AT THE SPEED OF COLLEGE LIFE

www.mustangdaily.net

Name: Caitlyn Lawton • Year: senior
Hometown: Frazier Park • Major: recreation administration
White House report finds widespread failures during Hurricane Katrina

Lara Jakes Jordan

WASHINGTON — Flawed government planning for major disasters led to rampant confusion during the slow federal response to Hurricane Katrina, the White House concluded Thursday in a report focusing more on fixing shortfalls before the next storm season than on assigning blame.

The review described poor communications systems, delays in delivering supplies and overall tumult within the Bush administration, but revealed little new about the plodding federal effort in the days just before and after the storm socked the Gulf Coast last Aug. 29.

The 228-page document, including 123 recommendations for improvement, adopted a far softer tone than a scathing House report issued last week and offered scant criticism of President Bush, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and then-FEMA Director Michael Brown.

That House report, written by a Republican-led committee, blamed all levels of government for the lackluster response that it said culminated in the deaths and suffering of thousands of the region’s residents.

“The magnitude of Hurricane Katrina does not excuse our inadequate preparedness and response, but rather it must serve as a catalyst for far-reaching reform and transformation,” the White House report concluded.

It added: “Similar to the images of grief and destruction on Sept. 11, 2001, the images of suffering and despair from Hurricane Katrina are forever seared into the hearts and memories of all Americans. Those painful images must be the catalyst for change.”

Katrina, one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history, left more than 1,300 people dead, hundreds of thousands homeless and tens of billions of dollars worth of damage in its wake.

Days after the storm, Bush accepted responsibility for the shaky federal response and ordered White House homeland security advisor Frances Fragson Townsend to conduct the internal inquiry.

“We will learn from the lessons of the past to better protect the American people,” Bush said Thursday.

Supreme Court refuses to hear college-newspaper censorship case

Kaitlin Chase

AUSTIN, Texas — The U.S. Supreme Court rejected an appeal Tuesday by a student newspaper in Illinois against university administrators, upholding the right of administrators to censor public university newspapers throughout the Midwest. Student press advocates say the move inches on the newspaper’s First Amendment right to freedom of speech and threatens college papers everywhere.

Officials from the Illinois Attorney General’s office countered that the case, Hosty v. Carter, isn’t an issue of students’ rights, but it protects administrators from specific liability lawsuits.

The case was brought by journalism students at Governors State University against one of the school’s deans, Patricia Carter, who censored the school’s paper, The Innovator, after it published articles critical of the school, said Mark Goodman, executive director of the Student Press Law Center.

In June, the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which heard the case, ruled that students have the right to censor student newspapers based on a 1988 ruling in Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier, which limited the freedom of speech afforded to high school journalists. The ruling by the circuit court also prohibits censorship of student newspapers that are marked by the universities as “designated public forums,” which are defined as an unrestricted space for free speech and debate, said Lance Speere, media advisor at Southern Illinois University and president of College Media Advisers.

Gary Feinerman, the solicitor general with the Illinois Attorney General’s office who represented Carter to the case, said the original ruling did not find Carter liable for financial damages because she didn’t know the Hazelwood decision does not apply to college newspapers.

“At bottom, this case was decided based upon settled principles of qualified immunity,” Feinerman said.

Officials at GSL declined to comment on the Hosty case and its implications on students’ First Amendment rights.

Despite its extensive protections, freedom of speech is still limited, said Lisa Graglia, a law professor.

“I think the University should be able to exercise some control over their student publications,” Graglia said. “The administration is not threatening freedom of the press; it is protecting the rights of students to freedom of speech.”

Graglia added that it is a bad policy to take things out for criticizing the university.

By offering “no opinion” on the appeal, the Supreme Court lets the Hosty ruling remain in effect in the circuit court’s jurisdiction, which includes Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin, Goodman said.

“Regardless of students’ protection under a public forum status, the decision will threaten students’ rights to freedom of speech,” John K. Wilson, founder of the self-described “Academic Freedom Web site collegereadmissions.org, said even though the Hasty decision applies only to students in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin, doubt over administrative authority to censor in one district allows officials more easily violate the rights of students elsewhere.

“The mere creation of doubt in one circuit is enough to potentially threaten freedom of the press around the country,” he said.

University of Texas officials require a professional adviser to read all Daily Texan content before it goes to print to check for libel and invasion of privacy. The practice, called "prior review," is designed to protect the University from lawsuits over the paper’s content, said Texas editorial adviser Richard Finnell.

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The party may be over in San Luis Obispo for Mardi Gras, but that doesn't mean you can't have fun this weekend.

Here are some very bad ideas about how to throw a rager this weekend, and some good ideas from the San Luis Obispo Police Department about how to have a reasonable gathering.

**Joe Sargent**
MUSTANG DAILY

The party may be over in San Luis Obispo for Mardi Gras, but that doesn't mean you can't have fun this weekend.

Here are some very bad ideas about how to throw a rager this weekend, and some good ideas from the San Luis Obispo Police Department about how to have a reasonable gathering.

**Editors Warning:**

The consumption of alcohol may create the illusion that you are tougher, smarter, faster and better looking than most people.

*Please party responsibly*
President Baker: Please return our Pimp Goblet

It’s been a full year since we’ve last spoken. We text messaged you a lit of times since last Mardi Gras. You never stole our pimp goblet. We were single-handedly responsible for your raise and we dispelled the rumor that you were related to Tracy Morgan. All we want for our services is a little something in return. For example, during Mardi Gras we gave you beads for the appropriate activities. Now we’re just mad.

You know what? You’re not even that great of a president. We can list lot of presidents who are better than you. Like Warren Harding, for starters. You want more, bro? How about Herbert Hoover, or even Andrew Johnson? What about Jeff Goldblum, president of the Jeff Goldblum fan club?

We would think that a man of your stature would be able to afford a num­ber of pimp goblets, including those that do not say “Property of Mike Matzke.” Also, you needed to check the cupboard before you stole your pimp goblet, dude. You could have stolen a keg cup and written “Pimp Goblet” on it. People would have still been impressed.

In closing, we just want our pimp goblet back so we can make this Mardi Gras, according to San Luis Obispo Police Department’s “Best Non-Routing Mardi Gras Ever!”

Sincerely,
Two Dudes Who Desperately Want Their Pimp Goblet Back
Clasy: a pimp goblet.

Unclass:C People that pepper spray at random, in combination with having their dogs maili.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We’re students, not ani­mals.
Laughing at the stupidity of San Luis Obispo locals will never get old. See this gem from Dr. Steven Sainsbury of Sierra Vista hospital: “...dispensing multiple packets of ‘morning-after’ pills to the young (mostly female) Mardi Gras devotees that awaken in horror the next day.” Only a McOxl could be so agah at the way that most of the patients requesting emer­gency contraception are women.

The fact that San Luis Obispo natives choose to be treated by medical doctor who doesn’t know where babies come from is hilarious enough to make me overlook the obvious contempt that this man and his neighbors hold for us, as is evidenced in his use of the relative pronoun that to describe Cal Poly’s women. Dr Sainsbury clearly thinks of us as animals, objects or something equally subhuman.

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**Stang's rally to top Highlanders in overtime**

Frank Stranzl

**BRITTANY ANGELO, MUSTANG DAILY**

Cal Poly won an important Big West game against UC Riverside Thursday night in its last game of the regular season. Cal Poly improved to 16-16 overall and 8-16 in Big West play, while Larrv Cunningham chipped in with a big boost from the bench.

For the Highlanders, Steve Williams shared game-high scoring honors with Stockalper at 16 points while Larry Cunningham chipped in with 11. Kaleb Schiele was the Highlanders' top rebounder with 11.

The ensuing scramble for the ball ended up out-of-bounds off a Riverside player, giving C'al Poly the next possession with a Lay-up by Cdiaz, but pulled out a win in the late stages of the game, beating the Highlanders 68-66.

The game featured two teams that have struggled offensively, with Cal Poly limited to 57 percent shooting and 46 percent from the three-point line, while Riverside shot 38 percent.

The Highlanders outrebounded Cal Poly 33-28, including 12 offensive rebounds to Cal Poly's 8.

Cal Poly held State Fullerton at noon on Saturday in Mont Goyo.

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**Tour continued from page 8**

Stage 4 still claimed American Andy Schleck of team Astana, on the right "T" turn from Highland Avenue onto North Chorro. Another crash at the 10K mark, a big plus for the riders in the Tour of California are on the rise and want to see what they can do and what cycling is all about. Even though the only (former) cyclist he could name was Lance Armstrong, Seetho leapt at the chance to see a group of exceptional riders competing in San Luis Obispo.

"I don't think it matters who town it is, it's just great seeing world class riders (come through your town)," Seetho said.

The Tour of California has generated an enormous amount of buzz in the city and statewide leading to events such as green and fresh hooporn and as well. Vice President of AM Sports, Matt Rehberg said the event is big, had some top people fast approaching the overall goal of one-million total for event.

The tour has a contract for the next three years, but has no obligation to return to San Luis Obispo, Romero said.

"They seem happy, we seem happy and hopefully they'll come back," Romero said.

The Tour of California will resume today with the peloton leaving San Luis Obispo at 10 a.m. Its departure from Monterey Street and winding its way to Highway 227 en route to Santa Barbara.

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**EUSER continued from page 8**

Lucas Euser crossed the finish line in 1:16:10 place of 169 riders, riding as a member of team TIIA-CREF.

"I've been thinking about (the Tour of California) for the last four months," Euser said. "I think that everyone's here and I'm happy to be here. I just want to see what I can do and what cycling is all about. I saw a lot of go Lucas signs out there today." Euser's followers were evident throughout the crowd, holding numerous signs supporting the local talent.

San Luis Obispo natives both young and old witnessed the race. Manchoo Seetho, a 21-year-old computer science major at Cal Poly, isn't an avid cycling fan, but attended the conclusion of Stage 4 because it was "something to do other than work." Even though the only (former) cyclist he could name was Lance Armstrong, Seetho leapt at the chance to see a group of exceptional riders competing in San Luis Obispo.

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**Help Wanted**

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**Lost and Found**

Found Bir Samsung phone contact: (651) 305-7366

Found iPod mini on Franklin St. early, please call (760) 807-4533

Found MPS player near fisher science (805) 756-2499

Reward for Lost Cannon Powderlight Floor Light at Marks' 4. Call Beth @ (717) 544-2672

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**Lost and Found**

Found yellow art bag in parking lot near president's house 2/17/06 Contact: (559) 303-4919

Found game pats in near the bag blag 14 on Feb. 10, call (408) 479-3112

--

Rental July 1 through October. Contact: Sandi box (831) 869-8708

Lost and Found ads are FREE.
In a scene reminiscent of the legendary Tour de France, a sea of colorfully clad professional cyclists raced around the corner of Chorro Street and 300 meters up Monterey Street to the finish in front of City Hall.

Amidst the spinning wheels and the cheering crowd, overall leader, American Floyd Landis of team Phonak, rounded the last corner in the lead, but underestimated the length of the last sprint. He was overtaken by the young Argentinean sensation, Juan Jose Haedo, giving the rookie his second stage win.

Despite the loss to Haedo, Landis still holds the gold jersey given to the overall leader. Behind Haedo, who finished with a stage-best total time of 4:41:02, the Northern California native, Fred Rodriguez of team Duvantamo-Lotto, took second and the German, Andre Kortf of team T-Mobile, took third.

Branded as the "Queen Stage," Stage 4 took riders a total of 130.9 miles from Monterey through the hills and down the coastal U.S. Highway 191 route to San Luis Obispo. Not only did the stage's immense distance and steep inclines prove menacing, but the weather also created another obstacle for cyclists.

"It's difficult to control a long, windy and hilly race like this," Landis said. "This was a long race for February, this race was fast with a lot of attacks."

Though light on casualties, ...