Mardi Gras ends with 13 Fat Tuesday arrests

Liz Soteros-McNamara

Fat Tuesday in San Luis Obispo proved to be nearly as busy for the police department as Saturday night with 13 arrests, nine of which were arrests for drug and alcohol related offenses.

That brought the total of Mardi Gras weekend arrests to 48. Of those arrests, 25 were alcohol related, 23 were traffic citations and the remaining seven were for noise violations, public urination and possession of marijuana, according to SLOPD. This is a 42 percent reduction in arrests from 2005, when police arrested 82 people. Police arrested 206 people during Mardi Gras in 2004, with 195 arrested in conjunction with the riot.

Police officers from outside the area were released from duty by midnight Sunday. Only SLOPD remained downtown before dawn Sunday to watch revelers. "This is great. The message has been received," SLOPD Captain Dan Blankie said.

The weekend did have some setbacks however. Three of the arrests on Saturday night were San Jose State University students that came to San Luis Obispo specifically for Mardi Gras. Additionally, two underage Cal Poly students were arrested for attempting to sneak alcohol into Taco Bell on Tuesday night.

Before the 2004 riot, San Luis Obispo was home to the largest Mardi Gras celebration west of the Mississippi, according to SLOPD Lt. Steve Tolley.

"Losing an eye is worth more than $1 million," Tolley said.

He added that the SLOPD budget for Mardi Gras was $300,000 this year. Tolley said that the total cost of $1 million was not spent excessively. Damage to property hurls property owners and community residents, not the city, he said.

He helped control the Poly Royal riot and the Mardi Gras 2004 riot, and said he sees value in the prevention of riots.

"Losing an eye is worth more than $1 million," Tolley said.

The city will scale back the number of police in San Luis Obispo for the next Mardi Gras. The city's final Mardi Gras costs will not be available for several days.
Underground
continued from page 1
the prohibition are special events
authorized by the Student Life and
the strict regulations prohibiting the
use of skateboards on campus.
"There is just enough lighting out
here at midnight for us to do our
thing without the cops coming after
us," said Jones, the designated cam­
eraman. "Plus, there aren't any dis­
tractions, like some hot chick walk­
ning by. Then the pressure is really on
to bust something (land a trick)."

For more than a month, since
Jarvis first discovered that there was
sufficient lighting in the UU Plaza at
all hours of the night, these skateboarders have come out here to this "urban
playground" to hone their skills and
pursue their passion for skateboard­
ing. During the day there is little
that they can do except dodge the
university police as they skate to
class. Trying to do tricks at Cal Poly
during the day is out of the question.
"There are too many students walking around and too many cars
during the day so we pretty much
have to do it at night. It's definit­
ely a drag, but we've gotten used to
it," said Jarvis, about the illegality of
his hobby.

Jarvis and the group said they
understand the potential public dan­
gers associated with riding skate­
boards on campus and instead blame
the inexperienced and careless riders
on campus for their present plight.
"Anyone who has ever tried rid­
ning a skateboard knows it isn't an
easy thing to control. It takes years of
practice to gain good balance and
control so that you can skate safely,
for yourself and the pedestrians you
skate around," Smith said.

"Staring down at the skateboard
bipping between his hand, Smalls
sighed and said, "We've come to
terms with being a pretty nonsender­
group. Nobody would really understand the amount of effort we
put into this and the triumph we feel
when we accomplish something on
this block of wood and wheels. You
wouldn't understand what we do or
how we feel unless you were a skate­
boarder."

Concerning the destruction of
private and public property, the
group also felt they were being mis­
derstood.
"We don't usually mess up private
property, like small shops or any­
ting, but we should be able to
skate on public property, even if we are
'damaging' it, because we are putting
something like a curb or a ledge or a
set of stairs into use better than any­
one else," Jarvis said.

"Yeah, and the government dam­
aged nature when they put all this
cement here anyway," said Jones
with a snicker.

Though this skateboarding crew
feels that they are utilizing public
property to a greater potential, many
non-skateboarders hold a polar
opposite opinion.

Chief Bill Wattan of UPD leg­
"imizes the prohibition of skateboard­
ing with the inherent risk that
the activity brings. Before skateboarding
regulations were set into stone, he
said Cal Poly was paying $20,000-
$25,000 in skateboarding-related
damages a year. The damages ranged
from chipped benches to scratched
paint on hand rails, from wax stains
to wheel marks on the ground (wax
is used on rough ledges to make the
surface slide better). Since the regula­
tions were enforced, skateboarding-
related damages have significantly
dropped to $1,000-$2,000 a year,
Wattan said.

"The laws we have here are neces­
dary for the concern of damage
to public property for one, and
also the risk to public safety. We
don't want anyone getting hit by
skateboarders as they try their tricks,
or weave through people down
hills," Wattan said.

Wattan also said that the campus
would be taking an unnecessary risk
if skateboarding was legalized "strict­
ly for transportation purposes" be­
cause there is still the danger of
injury.

"Skateboarding can easily become
weapons, not intentionally, but a stu­
dent who is riding a skateboard
might fall off because he or she is
going to fast and shoot the board
into someone's ankle," he said.

"In addition, he said skateboarding-
related injuries are not covered by
any CSU insurance policy, so the
skateboards are not covered by any
insurance connected with this
activity. However, bicycles, a legal form
of alternative transportation permit­
ed throughout campus, are not covered either.

Jarvis and the group feel cheated
in that respect but they are more
concerned with the lack of designat­
ed skate spots (skateparks), and the
illegality of their passion, especially in
San Luis Obispo.

Joey Steele, a dedicated skateboard­
er and employee of Monomount
Boardshop in Arroyo Grande said
that skateboarding is a profitable
business in San Luis Obispo with
retail stores, such as Copeland's, CCS
and Morendiggies, selling a variety of
skateboarding products.

"If the city is willing to allow retail
chains to make a buck off skate­
boarding then they better be willing
to accept the fact that there are going
to be a lot of people using that
equipment and the city better have
a place for them to do it if they don't
want kids to be (Steil raises hands and
makes the quote gesture) 'dam­
aging property.'"

The city has designated a concrete
slab in Santa Rosa Park, a nub-mash
of sun-bleached wooden ramps and
rusted rails, however many of the
skateboarders that go to this park say
the city doesn't care about skate­
boarding. "We've caged animals man," said
one student at the park commenting
on the high chain link fence sur­
rounding the park. "I've seen way
better parks in humiry places like
Salinas or Greenville. SLO considers
us a nuisance so they put us in this
cage."

Though skateboarders on and off
campus may feel persecuted for their
passion, some important members of
San Luis Obispo understand their
plight, but simply can't help them
out.

"In terms of support and alloca­
tion of funds, it would be a huge
undertaking for San Luis Obispo,
considering the tight budget we have," said council member
Christine Mulholland. "My son is a skateboader, so I feel I have a con­
cern with skateboarders, more so
than say other council members, but
skateboarders would need to have
ซิ
courage public support to divert
funds to such a project."

Mulholland also doesn't see skate­
boards as a mode of transportation in
SLO in the near future.

"That is not possible, there is just
too much at stake, be it pedestrians
getting hit on the side walk, or skate­
boarders getting hit on the street getting
creamed by traffic," she said.

Relaying these facts to Jarvis and
the gang, they roll their eyes and
mutter, "Figures." This trio has
grown used to the criticism and the
difference of opinion with non­
skateboarders. Feeling that they have
earned themselves the right to
certify what their hobby, they no
longer see a point in trying to argue
with campus administrators, city offi­
cials or the police. Instead, they ride
their skateboards defiantly through
campus and through city streets.

A silent protest.

For the last three weekends, these
boys have silently crept their way into the UU Plaza,
their skateboards defiantly through
the city streets.

"The average Cal Poly student drinks
Under Four drinks in one sitting."

"The average Cal Poly student drinks
Under Four drinks in one sitting."

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9 6 2 8 4
2 3 4 6 7
1 7 2 5 8
4 6 9 1 7

4 8 2 1 5
8 9 1 2 4
5 8 9 1 5
1 5 3 6 2

Friday, March 2, 2006

Thursday, March 2, 2006

www.mustangdaily.net

THE AVERAGE CAL POLY STUDENT DRINKS

THE AVERAGE CAL POLY STUDENT DRINKS

Under Four drinks in one sitting.
WHO SAID THAT?

Today's scientists have substituted mathematics for experiments, and they wander off through equation after equation, and eventually build a structure which has no relation to reality.

— Nikola Tesla

Any community’s arm of force — military, police, security — needs people in it who can do necessary evil, and yet not be made evil by it. To do only the necessary and no more. To constantly question the assumptions, to stop the slide into atrocity.

— Lois McMaster Bujold, “Barrayar”

Flibbertigibbet: A silly, flighty, or excessively talkative person.

Pleonasm: The use of more words than are necessary to express an idea.

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B breaker
State briefs

SAN LUIS OBISPO (AP) — The Board of Supervisors decided potbellied pigs cannot be kept as household pets in residential areas.

After Oceano residents complained about potbellied pigs in Jim and Julie McDougall’s home, the board agreed potbellied pigs similar to hogs and swine and require at least 2.5 acres of land in a rural area.

The couple keeps 10 pets — four dogs, two cats and four potbellied pigs — on their quarter-acre property in Oceano. Neighbors complained about the number of animals and alleged the pigs smell and attract flies.

SALINAS (AP) — Two teenagers robbed a 74-year-old ice cream man pushing his cart along Meyers Court.

One youth grabbed the man from behind Tuesday afternoon and the teens took a small amount of cash and the man’s wallet, investigators said.

SHOWING OF CARTOONS OF MUHAMMAD RILES UC IRVINE

Gillian Flaccus

IRVINE — A student panel discussion on Islamic extremism that included the “unveiling” of cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad, including one of him wearing a bomb-laden turban, repeatedly descended into name-calling chaos Tuesday night.

The panel, which included one Muslim speaker, was repeatedly interrupted by hecklers from the audience who challenged assertions by panelist Rev. Jesse Lee Peterson that Islam was an “evil religion” and that all Muslims hate America.

Outside, hundreds of Muslims and their supporters noisy protested the event amid a heavy police presence.

At one point, University of California, Irvine police removed two men, one of them a Muslim, from the audience after they nearly came to blows. Although there were numerous heated exchanges, there were no immediate reports of violence.

The 45-seat campus auditorium where the panel discussion took place was nearly full. Outside, several hundred members of the Muslim Student Union and their supporters staged a protest and teach-in to counter the event, which they said was the equivalent of hate speech.

During the panel discussion, moderator with The United American Committee displayed six cartoons depicting Muhammad and three anti-Semitic cartoons he said had appeared in Middle Eastern newspapers.

Thousands of Muslims worldwide have protested, sometimes violently, since the Muslim cartoons were published in a Danish newspaper in September and then in other European newspapers. The drawings are offensive to Muslims because Islamic tradition frowns on any depiction of Muhammad or any other prophets for fear they could lead to idolatry.

The panel discussion got off to a contentious start, with the Council on American-Islamic Relations boycotting the event and calling the UAC a “fringe group.”

Later, panels were cheered when they referred to Muslims as faithful, and accused mainstream Muslims, American civil rights groups of being “cheerleaders for terrorism.”

“I put out a call to Muslims in America: put out a fatwa on bin Laden, put out a fatwa on al-Zarqawi,” said panelist Lee Kaplan, a spokesman for The United American Committee “Support America in the war on terror.”

Osman Umaiji, former president of the Muslim Student Union, equated the decision to display the prophet drawings to the dehumanization of Jews in Germany before the Holocaust. He said none of the Muslims who protested outside the event would attend if the drawings were displayed.

“The agenda is to spread Islamophobia and create hysteria against Muslims similar to what happened to the Jews in Nazi Germany,” said Umaiji, an electrical engineer who graduated from Irvine last spring. “Freedom of speech has its limits.”

Organizers said unveiling the cartoons was part of a larger debate on Islamic extremism sponsored by the College Republicans and The United American Committee, a fledgling group not affiliated with the university.

Brock Hill, vice president of the College Republicans, said his group had a First Amendment right to display the cartoons and noted that the panel was to include a representative from the Free Muslims Coalition.

“We’re not going against Islam whatsoever,” he said. “This is about free speech and the free marketplace of ideas.”

Mohamed Eldeensoky, 21, a criminology student who attended the discussion, said he was disappointed because he felt the panel and the audience were biased against Islam.

“I entered it with an open mind, but I thought it was totally biased. I thought the panelists would be more balanced. I think it did more harm than good,” he said.

Eldeensoky also said he felt slighted and offended when the three panelists who were not Muslims repeatedly held up the Quran and told the audience how to interpret it.
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Ethicists blast study testing fake blood without patients' consent

Lindsey Tanner
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Imagine being in a car crash, lying unconscious and bleeding in an ambulance. With no blood on board, paramedics give you an experimental substitute, but even in the hospital, you get fake blood for several hours before doctors try the real thing.

Medical ethicists say a study that is doing just that on hundreds of trauma patients without their consent should be halted.

It's a renewed attack on research that began in 2004 after Northfield Laboratories got federal approval for its study of the blood substitute Polyheme.

Debate was reignited by a Wall Street Journal story last week that suggested the company tried to hide some crucial details about another blood substitute study back in 2000. The Journal reported that 10 heart surgery patients in that Polyheme experiment had heart attacks, while other patients given real blood did not.

The Evanston, Ill.-based company halted that study and hasn't published the full results, but Northfield Chairman Dr. Steven Gould said there were no attempts at secrecy.

Gould said Sunday that Polyheme didn't cause the heart attacks or disproportionately more deaths. He said the study was stopped, not for safety concerns, but because enrollment was declining and the company wanted to focus on trauma research.

The current study should never have begun, said Nancy M.P. King, a University of North Carolina ethicist who co-authored articles for an ethics journal. She and colleagues wrote that real blood shouldn't be withheld from people who need it without their consent.

"There is a serious ethical flaw in this complicated and novel study," says the article to appear next week in the American Journal of Bioethics.

Finding a viable blood substitute would revolutionize emergency medicine and could potentially save millions of lives. The idea is to create a product that works like human blood but could be carried in ambulances and given quickly to people of any blood type.

Baxter International Inc. halted research on its contender in 1998 when more than 20 patients given the substitute died.

Northfield now seeks to lead the race and said Polyheme fits the bill. It is made by extracting oxygen-carrying hemoglobin from human red blood cells. Unlike saline fluid, the standard pre-hospital trauma treatment, Polyheme has some of blood's tissue-nourishing properties, Northfield says.

The company's previous study — from 1998 to 2000 — involved hospitalized patients with defective heart arteries who consented to get Polyheme. Northfield's stock sank nearly 28 percent after the Wall Street Journal reported there were 10 heart attacks among Polyheme patients.

In the current study, which began in 2004, trauma victims get Polyheme or saline fluid on the way to the hospital. Once there, Polyheme treatment continues for up to 12 hours, while those on saline get blood transfusions.

More than 600 patients at 31 trauma centers in 18 states are enrolled in the study, and preliminary results are expected next year.
Music lovers beware: iPods could kill you

Aaron Rote
THE DAILY ATHENIUM (WEST VIRGINIA U.)

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. — Follow me, faithful reader, as I unlock "The Mystery of the Noise-Canceling Killer." The evidence is probably going to shock you.

With the hard rhythms of a thunderstorm rolling across the outback plains of Australia, the Tap Dogs' boom beat the stage with a rhythm that neither slaps nor stops.

The Tap Dogs, an Australian men that tap-dance, look like blue-collar construction workers, in flannel shirts and denim jeans. Their loud percussion will rattle the rafters today at 8 p.m. in the Christopher Cohan Center.

When I first heard the story, I was skeptical. But this time, he had gone too far — hit too close to something didn't fit. For one thing, I have it on good authority the Tap Dogs' music player.

Ferry left his hometown of Newcastle, England. With a steel workers union card and a dream, he headed south to Sydney. Neither singing nor dancing paid for his supper, so he took a job as a construction worker. At work, Perry is enlightened. He formed a dance troupe for some guy on a motorcycle.

The victim, an Australian law student, was walking home from class, listening to some indie favorites (WHAM!) on her iPod. At the time, I was convinced that it was the devil himself, taking a serious jaunt through Morgantown on his skull of injustice. But after closer beams prevailed, I realized two absolute and undeniable truths about the situation: 1) It was just some guy on a motorcycle and 2) The Noise-Canceling Killer had nearly struck again.

Further research proved that theory wrong. She had been living in London for years, and she rode the bike to work every day. It was a routine. She knew the area, and she knew the inherent dangers. I decided that this tragic accident was probably nothing more than that — an accident.

I pulled my beat-up Volvo over to the side of the road and proceeded to shave whatever I saw. I finished framing the windshield and began wandering down the road. Further down, I noticed a field of fruit orchards that no longer were in use. There was a pool of rainwater on the edge of the orchard that reflected the fruit seeds and the sunlight; this is where my story goes wild.

I carefully walked around the big puddle, looking for the best shot of the reflection. I walked out on some sandbags, which bordered the orchard near the road. The murky water, encrusted with dirt and weeds, did a good job hiding how deep the water really was.

Unfortunately, I figured the pool not to be deep and stepped out on the dried-silt top, thinking I could get a cool shot. The last step I made was a fatal one. I stepped onto the dirt and sunk up to my neck, fully dressed, in mucky bog water. As I fell, I threw my arms straight up in order to save my camera, which ended up unharmed. Picture me neck-deep in a bog, holding my camera straight over my head.

I then put my camera on the side of the bog and climbed out, dripping and smelling of dirty disgusting.

I walked back to my car, about 25 feet down the road, and put my camera away, followed by stripping down to my boxers, which were also soaking wet and drove home nearly naked with a few pictures, a functioning camera and a dead phone that never slops.

As I unlocked "The Mystery of the Noise-Canceling Killer" the evidence is probably going to shock you.
Dy mouth, headache, sore throat and slight memory loss.

I had all the symptoms of a classic hangover.

On a Saturday afternoon, a group of Natural Light at The Shack had sparked the idea of drinking games among some friends and I. "Seven, 11 doubles," and "Bud-a-pound," were the likely culprits.

From there, it was round after round of alcohol, mixed in with some "beer pong" at a friend's house while we waited for the night to begin.

Just before we were ready to head up the street, "The Captain" (who goes by the name Morgan) came in with half a keg. Some military guys had started a dance party, what begins with a salute and get our cups filled.

I guzzled the drink in a gulp or two, and to my surprise, it actually worked.

My hangover wasn't completely gone, but my mouth regained fluid, my mind started to clear and my headache's intensity decreased. I wasn't cured, but I felt a million times better. And after what I put myself through the night before, I wouldn't expect anything to completely cure my symptoms.

I do realize I could have probably drunk any kind of liquid and it would have helped hydrate me. But I'm not planning on reaching that state any time soon to try the alternatives.

I could conceivably get wasted a few more times and try Gatorade, water or orange juice in the morning, but I'd rather not use my health and body for some sick science experiment.

Although I initially dismissed the drink as a Gatorade knock-off, I thought why not give it a shot?
Students give classic new viewpoint

Cal Poly theatre students debuted a new rendition of Arthur Miller’s ‘The Crucible’ last week and hopes to stir things up.

Nick Coury
MUSTANG DAILY

The Cal Poly theatre and dance department presents their winter production, a “unique interpretation” of Arthur Miller’s “The Crucible,” which opened Feb. 23 in the Alex and Fay Spanos Theatre located in the Performing Arts Center.

This production is not the average adaptation of a classic story, but resonates feelings and emotions of a more recent culture. “It (the play) really speaks to the political climate of today’s society,” said Erma Stauffer, director of the play, and lecturer in the theatre and dance and communication studies program. “What is important is not the time period, but Miller’s message.”

Miller wrote the play to take a closer look at potentially bad situations in order to better understand them, and possibly prevent them from happening again. “I want (the play) to lead to thought, understanding how witch hunts start and how to stop them,” Stauffer said.

The new rendition of the play is also portrayed in the acting. The play is done in a technique called “viewpoint,” and Stauffer used it to achieve more natural acting. “One of the things we do is have all 20 characters be on stage for the entire play, and encourage us in every scene,” Stauffer said. Stauffer wants the people to see the play and leave asking questions concerning politics that the play discusses. “Hopefully people will come and see a drama and be caught up in a story.”

Tickets are available through the Performing Arts Center Box Office for $12 for general admission, $10 for seniors and students’ and discount group rates are available. Tickets can also be purchased by calling 756-2787.

Erma Stauffer (director)
www.mustangdaily.net
**OPINION/EDITORIAL**

**Road trips, sex and dirty Taboo**

Two weeks and one day. In that amount of time I will be rid of this desolate, cold quarter and off to sunnier pastures for a week of blissful, completely non-educational enjoyment. While I never plan far enough ahead for those pricey spring break trips that all the cool kids go on, I still manage to get my groove on with a high-speed blender and some hot party music filling the empty hallways of my parents’ house until I pass out, solomone. Even so, it does involve a three-hour car ride up north, which could become an agonizing five hours if traffic in San Jose is bad (and it always is). That’s a lot of boring time perfect for what has saved me at so many tedious parties, stale night conversations, etc.: dirty games.

As college students we all know how to make a game of dirty (just try playing Taboo with my girlfriends and I some night). But I’m referring to games that require no cards remain in your memory, and then find another to make the first seem almost double in comparison. Maybe your stats teacher in high school told you that homeless guy who always uses the computers in the library. Ewww... but who would you rather?

The last one needs no introduction, it’s all in the title: F—, Marry or Kill. Give another person three names of mutual friends, enemies, whatever — but you both must know them. They must then rank each person as to who they would F—, marry or kill (I know, the name isn’t that creative). Only one person gets each designation, so even if three hotties are chosen, one still has to be killed. Playing it with boyfriends is great because they will always choose to remain in your memory, and then find another to make the first seem almost double in comparison.

What does the other sex have to say?

There’s this funny quirk about human nature, where we are all really eager to see each other naked, but need an arbitrary excuse to do so.

Would you rather only have sex once a month, or wear a shirt every Wednesday that says “I Have Chronic Diarrhea”? Surprisingly more people have chosen the shirt — we are a randy bunch without much to hide. Who would you rather? As in, who would you rather get hot and nasty with if you had absolutely no choice in the matter that you must have sex with someone or you will die a horrible death?

The first is the absolute classic: Which would you rather? Here’s the matter in the rare chance that you must have sex with an unattractive person you have allowed to remain in your memory, and then find another to make the first seem almost double in comparison.

**COLUMNIST LINEUP...**

Monday - Guest commentaries
• Talk Back with Jack (Erical view)
• The Right View (Conservative view)
by Jack Ingram and Brian Eller

Tuesday - Political columnists
• Under the Covers with Jamie (Female view)
by Daniel Gingius and Janice Edman

Wednesday - Two Classy Gents
They’re taken by President Baber, Sociology, Law-making and Clark Liddick.

Friday - One conviction

by Mike Mathe and Doug Brownrow

**ONLINE EXCLUSIVE**

LIDEIY... Online Edition

Monday

The Line
by "Your name here"

Tuesday

The Word on the Screen
an online column exclusive

Wednesday

The Bottom
by Daniel Gingius and Janice Edman

Thursday

The BIG
By Julianne Byer

The Healthy
By Erick Smith

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**COLUMNIST LINEUP...**

Monday - Guest commentaries

Tuesday - Political columnists

Wednesday - Two Classy Gents

**ONLINE EXCLUSIVE**

**THE LINE**

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The Line
by "Your name here"

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The Word on the Screen
an online column exclusive

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In response to Cornell Morton's letter thanking us students...
State bill aims to ensure higher-education access

Alice Tsou
Daily Californian (UC-Berkeley)

BERKELEY, Calif. — A new state Senate bill introduced two weeks ago could help colleges and universities accommodate a growing population of high school students. The College Opportunity Act would try to keep California colleges and universities accessible by increasing state involvement in higher education, especially in areas such as accountability and K-12 preparation, supporters said.

The goal is in line with the state’s Master Plan for Higher Education, a long-range vision for higher education enacted in 1960.

“What this bill does is ensure that we adhere to the 1960 Master Plan promise, which is that there would be a place in the school for every eligible student,” said Candice Chung, spokesperson for the Campaign for Higher Education. “The College Opportunity Act aims to ensure the state to set a 10-year enrollment plan and a 10-year financing plan. UC’s compact with the governor currently ends in 2011.

The bill includes new recommendations for the state, such as mandating an annual meeting between higher-education leaders and public officials to assess progress.

In addition, the bill would require the state to be more active in educating students about their college opportunities.

The bill also recommends that state schools use results from state tests given in the 11th grade to help high school students prepare for college.

Employers say felonies can hinder job searches

Elizabeth Cook
Minneapolis Daily (SL-Minneapolis)

MINNEAPOLIS — Flashing lights illuminate the side of the house; police file out of their cars and some students are given minor consumption citations. It’s a common weekend scene in Dinkytown that some might think can hurt their chances of employment.

First year University of Minnesota student Melissa Ritter discovered an option to clear her record when she was ticketed with minor consumption in the third week of September. Along with the citation was information about the restorative justice program, and she decided to erase the incident from her record.

Having a criminal record could affect future employment, depending on the severity of the crime. But most employers interviewed said they aren’t as concerned about misdemeanor crimes as they are about felonies.

Nonetheless, Ritter decided to go through the restorative justice program as November to erase the charge from her record and to save money by not paying the fine. Instead, she did eight hours of community service.

This way future employers will see an unblemished record.

Daniel Hans, the assistant manager of Noodles and Company, said the company does background checks — on which a misdemeanor would show up — on all employees for safety purposes.

Has said during the checks they look for more serious offenses, like theft or any type of behavioral issues. But if someone has many misdemeanors, it could affect their hiring.

In some jobs, every misdemeanor counts. The Army does an extensive background check, said Capt. Valent Bernt III. If anything comes up, it must be cleared through a waiver.

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In some jobs, every misdemeanor counts. The Army does an extensive background check, said Capt. Valent Bernt III. If anything comes up, it must be cleared through a waiver.

Each offense — even juvenile ones — show up, Bernt said. If it’s something like minor consumption, the waiver can be issued in the recruiting office through an interview, Bernt said.

But if it’s something like theft, the waiver process is more extensive and not automatic.

Eighty-five percent of Army jobs require security clearances. If a person has a felony conviction, they will not get cleared, Bernt said.

But they could still find other employment with the Army.

Besides waivers for military jobs and the restorative justice program for livability crimes, there are other ways to get a conviction erased, said University State’s Attorney’s Legal Service Director Mark Karon.

One way is through expungement, Karon said, which seals the record through a court order.

This is easier to do when it’s a lesser offense, but in some cases it can be done in more serious offenses, like assault, Karon said.

Certain employers won’t hire a person if he or she has been convicted of certain offenses, he said.

For example, nurses who work in a job in nursing or the medical field and theft, swindle or fraud would affect the law field.

Dishonesty crimes also can affect banking jobs, said Richelle Messick, a Wells Fargo representative.

Any type of criminal record dealing with dishonesty crimes, such as theft, would prohibit someone from a job with the company, Messick said.

It doesn’t matter how valuable the item was, or how much money was taken, if someone has a theft conviction, they won’t get a job with Wells Fargo, Messick said.

Certain theft convictions can be expunged, and students who might think a drug conviction could haunt them for life, there are ways around that, too.

Judge Gary Larson, the presiding judge of the 4th Judicial District Drug Court, said having a felony, such as certain drug convictions, on a record is a “huge negative” that impacts employment, housing and student loans.

Through the drug court there are two record-clearing programs available involving drug treatment and a probationary period — a diversion program and Minnesota Statute 152.18. These are both for lower level drug offenses. Through these programs a person can go through treatments and drug tests, and in about a year, the conviction is cleared and the person can get a job.

The only difference is that to qualify under statute 152.18, the judge has to be a criminal court judge. Larson said.

Each year nearly 2,000 new cases start here, the largest drug court in the nation, Larson said.

While some employers have hard and fast rules detailing which crimes are acceptable, the University is less explicit when it comes to hiring procedures and what affects employment.

Lori Ann Vichich, director of strategic communications at the University, said each person is dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

During the hiring process, the hirer picks which categories will be included in the background check, depending on the position.

These could include academics, sex offender registration or criminal and misdemeanor conviction.

Some students said they believe background checks are biased by knowing the right people.

English and women’s studies senior LaShayla Alston said a criminal record wouldn’t necessarily disqualify someone, but it also wouldn’t help.

Giving the example of the child of a chief executive, she said, “I think it’s all a matter of other qualifications, she said. “It’s all about who you know.”
Bush is fifth U.S. president to visit India, wants nuclear deal

By Deb Reichmann

NEW DELHI, India — President Bush opened a three-day visit to India on Wednesday to warm relations with the world's largest democracy, but says he doesn't know if he'll be able to seal his elusive nuclear deal with New Delhi.

Bush wants to share U.S. nuclear know-how and fuel with India to help power its fast-growing economy, even though India won't sign the international nonproliferation treaty.

Despite diplomatic threats from India as it flew to South Asia, disagreements remain. It reached the landmark accord would represent a major shift in policy for the United States, which imposed temporary sanctions on India in 1998 after it conducted nuclear tests.

"We will continue to dialogue and work, and hopefully we can reach an agreement," Bush said. "If not, we will continue to work on it until we do." In a surprise detour to Afghanistan on the first day of his trip, Bush denied speculation about the deal's completion. His visit, however, will be judged on whether the two sides can agree on how to split India's nuclear weapons work from its peaceful nuclear program, and place the later under international inspection.

"The one thing that is absolutely necessary is that any agreement will be one that the India has decided to put a reactor under safeguards," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice told reporters on the plane.

An Indian Foreign Secretary Shym Saran has stressed the need for clarity saying, "We need to make sure there are no ambiguities which may complicate the situation."
Underground

continued from page 2

new trick down the plaza steps for almost 20 minutes, and the rest of the crew is beginning to get antsy. With every attempt and minute that goes by, the awkwardness begins to mount. There is only so little time they can make such a racket without going unnoticed.

Jones darts up from his crouched position near the street creak as a suspicious prairie dog busts out of his hole. He sees something coming. "CART," he yells, and the crew runs behind the stairs out of sight from the road, fearful that the lunching sedan might be university police. False alarm. It's just some late night prowler in a beat-up Civic. Everyone heads back to their strategic positions and the skateboarding session continues. "All right, fellas. I've got this one in the bag," says Jarvis as he heads up to land the trick.

SNAP CATCH BAM! Jarvis pulls the trick in one last attempt and is showered by applause as he rides away. With a couple of knuckle taps (the modern day high-five), and beaming smiles on their faces, the crew packs up their gear and heads home. Mission accomplished.

Regardless of what campus or city regulations dictate about their hobby those three are passionate enough to get away with skateboarding wherever and whenever, wherever it takes. It's now 10:07 a.m.

No one ever knew they were there.

Saddam admits ordering trial of Shiites who were executed but insists it was not a crime

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Saddam Hussein said in a defiant courtroom confession Wednesday that he ordered the trial of 148 Shiites who were eventually executed in the 1980s, but he insisted he had the right to do so because they were suspected of trying to kill him.

The dramatic speech came a day after prosecutors presented the most direct evidence against him in the four-month trial of Saddam's presidential decree approving the death sentences for the 148, with a signature said to be Saddam's.

"Where is the crime? Where is the crime?" Saddam asked. "If trying a suspect accused of shooting at a head of state — no matter what his name is — is considered a crime, then you have the head of state in your hands. Try him.

Saddam did not admit or deny approving their executions, but stated outright that he was solely responsible for their prosecution, adding that his seven co-defendants should be released.

"All the chief figure makes thing easy for you by saying he was the one responsible, then why are you going after these people?"

The deaths of the Shiites are one of the main charges against the defendants, who could face execution if convicted. They are on trial also for torture and imprisonment of the Shiites, as well as the razing of their farmlands, in a crackdown launched after a July 8, 1982 assassination attempt against Saddam in the town of Dujail.

The prosecution has argued the imprisonment and executions were illegal, saying the 148 were sentenced to death in an "imaginary trial" before Saddam's Revolutionary Court, where the defendants did not even appear.

The defendants, they argue, were far beyond the actual attackers. They have presented documents that show entire families — including women and children as young as 3 months old — were arrested, unnamed and held for years. Those executed included at least 10 juveniles, one as young as 11, according to the documents.

The five judges will be able to take Saddam's confession into account when they rule in the case. It will be up to them to decide whether Saddam's actions were illegal, since there is no jury. After Wednesday's session, the trial was adjourned to March 12.

The often turbulent trial has become more orderly in the past two sessions under the tough new chief judge, Raouf Abdel-Khalim, who broke a defense team boycott and clamped down on outbursts, shouted insults and arguments by Saddam and other defendants.

The discipline could boost the trial's credibility, which U.S. and Iraqi officials hope will encourage Iraqis sharply divided and Sunni to accept the verdict. But outside the courtroom, those divisions have become only broader. Nearly 100 people have been killed in the past two days in sectarian violence.

The trial is also beginning to tack on the core of the case against the defendants, as prosecutors presented a series of documents — memos, decrees and reports from Saddam's office and the Mukhabarat intelligence agency — detailing the bureaucracy behind the crackdown.

On Wednesday, the prosecution played an audiotape of Saddam discussing the razing of the Dujail farms with a Baath Party official in the early 1990s and showed satellite photos of the flattened land.

Chief prosecutor Jaafar al-Mousawi showed the court hand-written letters allegedly sent by three of the defendants days after the assassination attempt, informing of Dujail farms linked to the Dawa Party, a Shiite opposition militia accused in the attack.

At least 18 of the people named in the letters, sent to the Interior Ministry, were later sentenced to death. Al-Mousawi said the three men therefore had a direct role in their deaths.

"May my hand be cut off if I gave information against anyone," said defendant Ali Dayih, who was allegedly one of the letters. "It's all a frame-up.

Two other defendants — Abdullah Kazim Rowayyad and his son Mizhar, who, like Dayih, were said to be local Dujail officials from Saddam's Baath Party — denied the handwriting on the letters was theirs.

Saddam stood to defend the men, saying that even if the letters were authentic, they were simply notifying authorities. "This was an informing operation, like any policeman when he tells something to his station or any citizen who sees or hears (a crime)," he said.

The prosecutor presented lists of vehicles that transported 399 Dujail detainees from a Dujail facility to a desert prison in southern Iraq in 1984. Each handwritten list included the number of the vehicle, the driver's name, and the names and ages of the prisoners carried in them — 25-40 of each in a vehicle.

The names included entire families — women with daughters and sons below the age of 30, even the name of a 3-month-old girl.

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These are just a few facts that, I don't know, totally blew me away. About you? Whether you're surfing, swimming, tanning, sightseeing or eating seafood, it doesn't really matter. You should grow very concerned, because in one way or another, the state of our oceans holds us all.

So the next time that you hear the rain clattering on your window, don't think about how disgusting it drenches our water-ways are becoming. Then begin to think about how you do something about it.

Chris Gunn is a journalism major and assistant sports editor. You can e-mail him at cuod@calpoly.edu.

Kickboxing
continued from page 16

suspends and it doesn't matter
your arm is raised at the end
because you did something
you think you could do.

That attitude is something
that Sandahl and Malatamban wanted to teach to their students, especially the 12 children involved in the Budo-Ryu kids program. "Teaching martial arts to kids is important to me because this is not a nice world," Malatamban said. "I understand that kids need direction and martial arts is a way for these kids not do things that they feel pressured to do."

In addition to training, Budo-Ryu also has an important social atmosphere. Malatamban is famous for his barbecue trip.

"This is not just a place to work out, it's also a social gathering, it builds self-esteem," Malatamban said "I think everybody should do this, young and old."
Jennifer Hall  
Mustang Daily

With all the growing trends of dieting and exercising over the last few years, the sport of kickboxing has become a popular means of a cardio workout.

This increase in interest is music to the ears of people like Eric Sandahl, owner and instructor of the Budo-Ryu School of Martial Arts in San Luis Obispo.

The training center opened in March 2005 and offers classes in muay-thai kickboxing, shotokan karate and Japanese sword fighting.

“Kickboxing seems to be growing all the time,” Sandahl, 27, said. “Part of the reason is instant gratification. You’ll see and feel results with kickboxing right away.”

Budo-Ryu has grown to accommodate 40 to 60 patrons throughout the week. They offer classes every day except Saturdays, including kids programs and adult classes that accommodate people from age 17 to late 40s.

“We have all these different martial artists that come here because they just want to come here,” Sandahl said. “We try to give more of the cultural aspect of things and be more relaxed.”

The kickboxing classes are available for all skill levels. The one-hour class includes punching and kicking drills, stretching, strength conditioning, an ab workout and develops strong muay-thai basics.

“Kickboxing is really cardio oriented,” Sandahl said. “We’re technically oriented as well and better than I did.”

Sandahl has trained for over three months in Thailand for six to seven hours per day, six days a week. He feels that the training enables him to give a more well-rounded education to his own students.

“We want people to learn who they’re doing this and how to apply it,” Sandahl said. “We try to pay more attention to detail.”

Malatamban has been practicing martial arts for over 30 years and after meeting up with Sandahl he began training at Budo-Ryu.

“I’ve always liked being a teacher,” Malatamban said. “I was an ok fighter, but what I found I have a niche for is training fighters.”

Malatamban currently trains middleweight Sandahl, super middleweights Ryan Cruz and Buc Stolberg, and his youngest son Zeke.

Sandahl recently won the California Muay Thai Association Championship for the 165-pound class on Feb. 15 in Whittier.

During a fight, each fighter starts with 10 points and points are deducted for letting the opponent control the ring, landing concurrent blows, standing eight counts, and blows to the head or legs.

“Competing makes me strive to be better,” Sandahl said. “It works on the weaknesses in my own perspective.”

Back in California, if you don’t fight, then you don’t eat or go to school,” Sandahl said. “It’s quite intense. I felt really awkward because the kids knew that boxing gives the gym a little more credibility.”

The competition was only his sixth and he has been training in muay thai kickboxing for three years.

“I haven’t fought for a year so I’m kind of dusting myself off,” Sandahl said.

“Kickboxing is really cardio oriented,” Sandahl said. “It works on the weaknesses in your own perspective.”

Competitors are matched up based on weight, competitive bouts and experience.

“Competing is interesting. It takes months and months,” Sandahl said. “You wake up some mornings and you just don’t want to do it anymore, but you get up and go to the gym and do what needs to be done. You keep going and going.”

The scoring system for kickboxing is similar to regular boxing. Each competition starts with 10 points and trims to keep their points while taking points away from their opponent. Points are awarded for letting the opponent control the ring, landing concurrent blows, standing eight counts, and blows to the head or legs.

“Competing makes me strive to be better,” Sandahl said. “It works on the weaknesses in my own perspective.”

Kevin Peluso, 27, another local competitor, added, “I think kickboxing is for everyone. You don’t have to be a fighter, but it’s great to do it.”

When I think of human impact, I think of places like Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco. Big cities with big populations, large landfills and air that some day might cast their populations into hospitals with lung problems similar to lifetime smokers.

I don’t mean to be melodramatic, but when I think of San Luis Obispo County, pollution is not the first thing that comes to mind. It’s long covered with wild grasses, rocky volcanic terrain, dunes in the south and pines on the sea in the north.

I think of fresh air, the salty sea, blue skies and, yet after it rains I go online and look at the surf report and am greeted with a poor water quality caution. If you do not know what a poor water quality caution is, well, it is essentially a flag on the surf line report that represents poor water quality at the particular beach you are looking at.

It is more or less a reminder that there are large amounts of pollutants in the water on the central coast after heavy rains. Whether those pollutants are pesticides from local non-organic growers or untreated sewage from the extraordinary amount of septic systems in San Luis Obispo County, it doesn’t matter. Either way, it’s there and it’s a shame.

Did you know that you can contract Hepatitis A from swimming in contaminated ocean water? Hepatitis A is contracted through oral fecal contact. Yeah, that’s one for the books and sure it’s great that they warn you about this on most surfing sites. But think about it, the local population knows about the problem, yet seemingly does nothing. It’s all of California coastline that we have to be concerned about, and just so you know, sewage runoff is not a problem in places like North Carolina. In fact, in North Carolina, large storms are a surfer’s dream.

Here are some facts from www.SurfShot.com that give a little insight into what you see all over.

**Kickboxing**  
see Kickboxing, page 15

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