Mustang Daily readers’ poll brings in variety of results

Editor’s note

We pulled the readership of Mustang Daily — faculty, staff and students — about the best things at Cal Poly and in San Luis Obispo County.

We wanted answers for the best in 55 categories, everything from the best classroom on campus to the best Italian food.

Some people questioned if a few of the categories were jokers — but parking lot on campus (see page 7) and best place to eat on campus (see page 3). Others offered up an answer to every question.

In this issue we showcase the results to our readers as a guide to the best of Cal Poly and San Luis Obispo County.

Under almost every category there is a description of the first place winner. The second and third place winners are also listed. We also noted other interesting answers with honorable mentions.

Best burger

1. Firestone

2. Bishop Hamburgers

3. Fresh Habit

Best burger joint

1. Bishop Hamburgers

2. Firestone

3. Frank’s

Best Mexican food

1. Pepe Delgado’s

Luis Contreras, Pepe Delgado’s server for nine years, said he always recommends the steak tacos Mexicanos for dinner. He also highly recommends a combination dinner of shrimp and chicken fajitas dinner to impress an out-of-town visitor. The entrees reflect Pepe’s festive ambience with burritos and enchiladas smothered in colorful sauces. If it’s tough to decide on one entree, there are more than 20 combination dinners, complete with rice and beans. Pepe Delgado’s also offers an inexpensive lunch special for only $4.50 — a burrito, an enchilada or taco with a side of beans and rice. Pepe Delgado’s is located on Monterey Street and is closed Mondays.

2. Chili Peppers

3. Tonti’s

Best cup of coffee

1. Starbucks

Hot, cold, iced, blended, espresso, decaf, coffee of the day — Starbucks offers just about anything to tickle the taste buds from two locations — Footpath and downtown. Espresso drinks dominate the menu with exotic coffees like Caffe Americano, and Mochiato, and familiar drinks including Mocha and Cappuccino. “I would say the most popular hot drink is a Mocha,” said Kate Hammond, Starbucks employee. “And the most popular cold drink is Mocha Frappuccinos.” There’s also hot chocolate, steamed cider and tea for the non-coffee drinkers.

2. Linnaea’s

3. Uptown Expresso

Best coffee shop

1. Linnaea’s

Linnaea’s Cafe has been serving its cozy coffeehouse atmosphere on Garden Street for almost 13 years. Framed black and white photographs and local artist’s creations hang on the walls. An ivy-covered patio complete with koi pond is in the back. Music and coffee are still filtered through the cafe. Students sit with open books across tables, perhaps rubbing a desk or purse until midnight. Linnaea’s features a quiet atmosphere in the afternoon, and in the evenings the atmosphere comes to life with live music and events.

2. Starbucks

3. Uptown Expresso

Best margarita

1. Pepe Delgado’s

A Pepe’s home recipe margarita is a regular margarita with a secret twist, said server Luis Contreras. In addition to midori, strawberry, peach and regular flavors, there is the Cadillac margarita — a regular margarita with top-shelf tequila on the rocks and Grand Marnier on top. The Cadillac is $7.50. Blended fruit margaritas are $3.50 and on the rocks costs $4. With the best Mexican food and chips and salsa on the side, you can’t go wrong.

2. losoy’s

3. Hudson’s

Best pizza place

1. Woodstock’s

The secret is in the crust. White or wheat fresh-made crust can be seen twirling around the pizza maker’s hands. Classic, pepperoni or creamy garlic sauce is then spread to the crust’s edges and folded under to ensure flavor to the last bite. The pizza is then topped with anything from traditional pepperoni to broccoli or barbecued chicken. Woodstock’s, located on Higuera and Osos, also offers Wild Bread Garlic and herbs with optional cheese on a pizza crust with ranch or pizza dipping sauces.

2. Palindrome’s and Round Table

3. Hudson’s

Best Italian food

1. Rosa’s

Price Street in Pismo Beach is home to Rosa’s Ristorante Italiano. Rosa’s specializes in regional Italian food and also serves seafood. “It feels very authentic,” said Jennifer Holcombe, a business sophomore who recently traveled to Italy. She said the food is also authentic Italian. Holcombe said she remem-bers the good bread and good service that complement the pasta, lasagna, salads and seafood served there. Located close to the beach, Rosa’s meal is the perfect prelude to a romantic walk.

2. Angioño’s and Cafe Roma

3. Giuseppi’s

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Best deli sandwich
1. Gus’s
Gus’s Grocery, located on Osos Street, has made-order sandwiches and daily specials. The deli offers a wide variety of breads—from sliced sourdough to rye bread and toppings—and many sandwiches to choose from. They also offer a variety of other menu items, including breakfast items, fresh buns, and chicken salad. Greek Gyro is available on a 1/2 sandwich or in a wrap. Gus’s also delivers. It stays open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Happy hour is every din from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. With an outdoor patio for dining, Gus’s is a great lunch destination seven days a week.
2. Kona’s
Art of Sandwich
Kona’s on Osos Street serves individually-priced sandwiches and wraps, chicken Caesar wraps, and daily specials. The deli offers a wide variety of breads—from sliced sourdough to rye bread and toppings—and many sandwiches to choose from. They also offer a variety of other menu items, including breakfast items, fresh buns, and chicken salad. Greek Gyro is available on a 1/2 sandwich or in a wrap. Kona’s also delivers. It stays open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Happy hour is every din from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. With an outdoor patio for dining, Kona’s is a great lunch destination seven days a week.
3. Lucy’s
Blazing Blenders
Lucy’s Blazing Blenders on Osos Street serves individually-priced smoothies and wraps. The smoothies are made with fresh fruit and vegetables. They also offer a variety of other menu items, including breakfast items, fresh buns, and chicken salad. Greek Gyro is available on a 1/2 sandwich or in a wrap. Lucy’s Blazing Blenders also delivers. It stays open from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday. Happy hour is every din from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. With an outdoor patio for dining, Lucy’s Blazing Blenders is a great lunch destination seven days a week.

Best late-night dining place
1. Taco Bell
The most inexpensive menu around, Taco Bell is a good bet after you spend all your cash at the bars downtown. It offers 20 items under $5, and the full menu includes 46 items. Hard tacos are the most popular item. They also offer drinks, desserts, and pizza cheese. Taco Bell has three San Luis Obispo locations—Madonna Plaza, Santa Rosa Street, and the Marigold Center. All locations are open seven days a week. Santa Rosa Street stays open until at least 3 a.m., most days.

Best local bar
1. Bull’s
This tavern has the crappiest-tasting shooter on the Central Coast—a Bull’s Sweat. The concoction of wild turkey, 151 rum and Tabasco sauce is almost a must for college students celebrating their 21st birthdays in San Luis Obispo. The bartender warns not to have more than one, though. Bull’s also boasts of being the only bar on the Central Coast to serve Pyramid alcoholic beverages. In addition, it sells domestic beers and cider, but the tavern on Chorro Street doesn’t offer a happy hour.
2. Frog and Peach
3. SLO Brew

Best happy hour
1. Pepe Delgadis
Happy hour at Pepe Delgadis’s happens every Tuesday through Saturday. For two hours, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., the Mexican restaurant on Monterey Street serves margaritas for $1.25 and 60 cent pitchers of beer for $6.25. You can’t order any food during happy hour, but you can indulge in all the free chips and salsa your mouth can handle. Watch out though, because the salsa is hot.
2. Tortilla Flats and the Library
3. Izzy’s

Recent News
Friday, March 5, 1999
3. Best ice cream shop
1. Coldstone Creamery
Customers can watch their custom ice cream creations being made in front of a frosted marble slab, a method unique to Coldstone Creamery. Toppings are chopped and blended into generous scoops of ice cream instead of sprinkled on top. The mixes include a wide variety of candies, fruit, nuts and other goodies, like hot fudge or brownies. One favorite customer creation: coffee ice cream with Hot! bar and caramel. The first run in is included in the price, and additional scoops are $1. Caps and与其他 food and drink items are sold separately.
2. Ben and Jerry’s
3. Baskin Robbins

SELF SERVE SWEETNESS:
Balls is a yogurt lover’s wonderland.

Best frozen yogurt shop
1. 8 Ball’s
Frozen yogurt is completely self-serve at 8 Ball’s. A variety of toppings, including 8 Ball’s own creations, can add a ton of flavor to pure yogurt. The frozen yogurt shop has two locations in the downtown area to serve the Cal Poly community. The first location is downtown at 8 Calle Cuatro and Santa Rosa, the second is on Osos Street near the student union. Everyone can enjoy the frozen yogurt and it’s a great place to hang out with friends. The second location is open seven days a week, and the first is open 365 days a year.

Best place to eat on campus
1. Campus Market
This newly remodeled Campus Market offers a large variety of food and drinks. The market has a fresh produce section, deli sandwiches and sliced pizza. According to one student, the Campus Market has pizza that are to die for. Campus Market still serves barbecued tri-tip and chicken sandwiches on Thursdays in front of the market. For chip lovers, the Campus Market has a huge selection of chips and pretzels. It offers a wide assortment of beverages too. The Campus Market also serves Cal Poly produced products like jams, flowers and dairy goods.
2. Backstage Pizza
3. The Avenue

Best place to eat off campus
1. Campus Donuts
2. Campus Market
3. SLO Brew

Best donut shop
1. Campus Donuts
Campus Donuts, on the corner of Foothill and Santa Rosa behind Texaco, offers more than 45 donuts every day. The most popular donuts are the Blueberry and apple fritters, but they also make the Polaris Peanut Butter bar, a donut with peanut butter inside. It also offers muffins, baked cinnamon rolls, cookies, coffee and espresso, milk and juice. It has a student deal—buy one donut and coffee for $1. For the perfect snack, it remains open seven days a week from 4 a.m. to 4 p.m.
2. San Luis Obispo Donuts
3. Sunshine Donuts

Best place for a steak
1. McClintocks
McClintocks has four different locations in San Luis Obispo County. Two of the restaurants are in South County—Arroyo Grande and Shell Beach. One is in San Luis Obispo, and the other one is up near the Cal Poly campus in Paso Robles. The saloon/restaurant house serves Grade A Harris Ranch raised beef, and the burgers are made with the freshest ingredients. McClintocks offers fresh-cut, white rice, steaks, like ribeye and strip-
Allowing a felon to be President

Editor:

Holding my tongue thus far has taken a tremendous amount of will power. However, I can no longer sit in silence at what I watch my fellow students debate on an issue that is vitally important to the future of our great nation.

The definition "high crimes and misdemeanors" seems to have confused a lot of people. Specifically, the word "high" seems to imply that a crime of greater severity is impeachable, but lesser crimes are not. This, however, is not the case. Any student who has passed History 204 (history of American ideals and institutions) should realize that "high" refers simply to the position (the presidency is a fairly high office), not the type of crime. Hence, any crime the president commits is a high crime. Even if you don't believe this definition, you must agree that a felony is more serious than a misdemeanor, and therefore fits the definition of "high crimes and misdemeanors."

There were some startling statistics released by CNN a few weeks ago. So startling, many of us chose to ignore them. Approximately 80 percent of Americans believe President Clinton lied under oath. Since lying under oath is a felony, that means 80 percent of Americans believe, indirectly, that President Clinton is a felon and should have been removed from office. (The Constitution says that a felon should be removed from office; this is not open to interpretation.)

About 82 percent of Republicans in the Senate voted for removal from office on both articles of impeachment, while zero percent of Democrats did. Although I haven't yet taken statistics, I would venture to say that 80 percent is a lot closer to 82 percent than zero percent. Now who represents the people? The Republican Party, of course.

People often mention the $40 million "scandal" on the Start Report in their debates on this issue.

Personally, I don't believe $40 million is a bargain when it comes to upholding the laws upon which the longest-lasting democracy in the history of the world was founded. In fact, I can't think of a better way to spend the money I've worked hard to earn than to use it in upholding the Constitution. There are 250 million people in the United States, so this little "scandal" cost us each 87 cents. In a country where we spend that much on a movie ticket, we should be no less exacting to watch it be used in such a worthy manner as upholding the foundation of our democracy.

Barbara Boxer, Democratic senator from California, recently said on a television interview that it's "punishment enough for Bill Clinton that his name will forever be followed by the word "impeached" in the history books."

I take great offense to this statement.

It's like saying, "Since we all know O.J. killed Nicole, it's okay that he didn't go to jail!" This is absurd! I'm also disgusted because I would hope that a senator would be educated enough to realize that impeachment and removal from office are not punishments for wrong-doing—"they are simply tools used to save our great system of government from corruption. However, considering the level of corruption displayed by the Democratic senators in voting against conviction because of a poll, I'd expect much ignorance from Hillary's sister-in-law.

It's definitely a tragedy when most Americans are so intimidated off this great economy that they no longer care what goes on in this nation's capitol. If we've learned anything from the fall of the Roman Empire, we should realize that we need to be most concerned with maintaining our democracy during the times of prosperity, for that is the time it is most susceptible to decay.

In allowing a felon to hold the highest office of the land, we've effectively raped the Constitution and set a legal precedent that future presidents can use to escape the consequences of their actions.

The only hope is that the American people can be elected to a President who uses his brilliance in a positive manner, rather than to save himself.

Michael Sullivan is a computer engineer-freshman.

Nate Pontious is a "pretentious" journalism major who really does love his anonymous roommate.
I get tired of watching people take things for granted. So many Cal Poly students don’t appreciate that they enjoy a standard of living and health which is considered luxury by the majority of the world’s citizens. While many people in third-world countries struggle to find enough food to survive and clean water to drink, some students complain that campus isn’t cool enough or that the bad taste of our tap water. I bet a starving family would gladly eat the potatoes served at campus dining establishments, and a person getting sick from dirty water would gladly take a sip from a San Luis Obispo drinking fountain. While they hold an Aquafina bottle in hand and toss away lunch leftovers, I wonder whether people stop to consider just how lucky they are to never worry about starvation or dehydration.

I think a lot of people also take their physical fitness for granted. Ask an old, feeble or paralyzed person if they would mind walking a few blocks or a mile on a warm, sunny day — if they were given the same tools, would they hold an Aquafina bottle in their hand and toss away lunch leftovers, or would they read this stupid stuff and still manage to pass your classes and will manage to pass your classes and will realize what a privilege it is to have a well-rounded education, because all you have to do is to realize how stressful their 12 units are, and gripe about how mom and dad did decide to reduce the allowance they are still receiving. I find this ridiculous. I bet a teenage mother working two jobs to support her children is glad to see her 12 units be turned into a health education.

In closing, I would just like to say to Mr. Jennings, lightening up. Cal Poly will still be the California State University Flagship University tomorrow, hey, maybe next time we can get those rally-derby teams from The Nashville Network to come put on a show for us.

Justin Timothy Moffett is a forestry and natural resource senior.

Is diversity just a dream? Editor: 

What does diversity really mean? Is it a far-off, fantasy goal that no one will ever really reach? Do most students care about Cal Poly’s becoming diversity, or are we all just selfishly going through college blindfolded, only caring about our classification? If that is true, then we are forgetting that diversity is educated, diverse people with different personal skills. It was described. Did all the people doing starvation or disease choose to be born into that world, only to be fed a diet that makes them sick? I challenge Cal Poly to think about this a minute. Open your mind to the few diverse faces that walk by every day. Racism, sexism, prejudice do exist. Catch your self and strive to be a productive individual of this society and respect people of all colors. It will make you a better person.

Christina Alzizo is the president of Mexa and a business junior.

Cal Poly Plan problems Editor:

The major problem I see with the Cal Poly Plan is it could indirectly finance something else. By raising fees, the university will have more money to spend. Granted, there are things in place that state the money can only be spent in certain ways, but it still can be abused. Say your psychology professor and a fellow student agree that this is a bad idea. Due to this addiction, your roommate sends all his tuition money on drugs. Now he asks you to borrow money to pay for school. If you give him the money, you would be indirectly supporting his habit. Since high school, he can afford to waste his money on an addiction. This could happen with a lot of people. People are spending their money for something else the students don’t want (Sports Complex, Performing Arts Center, etc.). I’m for the Plan, but I’m not confident enough the money will be handled properly and not abused.

Nathan Sanchez is a biology sophomore.

A few choice words about our famous columnists Editor:

If I promise to be ignorant, irrational, and self-righteous, can I have my own weekly editorial column in Mustang Daily? Apparently these are the only requirements. All year I have read columns by Alan Dunn and Jamie Rudolph that made me cringe. Mr. Dunn’s column in Wednesday’s paper was a personal attack on Jon Wilson.

Dunn said, “Maybe some of these philosophy kids should climb down from the mountain top and hang out with some econ. students ...” and in referring to Wilson and his anti-Poly Plan group, “I would encourage them to Put the bs aside.” How did you know? Al! Yep, all of us free thinkers meet every Tuesday night at the top of Bishop’s Peak to smoke massive amounts of marijuana and talk about pseudo-philosophical ideas. You should come and join us next week.

Mr. Rudolph had a recent column that really disturbed me. She talked about the Y2K problem and said something to the effect of, “If all you computer scientists are so damn smart, then why can you just fix the problem?” Shit, is that all we have to do? Thanks Jamie, we really didn’t know where to start, but you have given us new direction.

Matthew Toomey is an management information systems senior.

Higher cost doesn’t mean a better quality product Editor:

Why do so many of you think that by paying more we’ll get a better education? It’s not worth it. You won’t even get the money you should have gone to a private school, like University of Southern California, and paid three times as much.

Al Dunn says in his article, “Student Group Raises Concerns.” Feb. 3, that if you want everything Cal Poly has to offer “‘Free, pay for it.” That is ridiculous. That is like saying that if I order a Backstage Pizza for nine bucks, it’s going to taste better than a Woodstock’s that only costs eight bucks. No way! I don’t think so.

Cost doesn’t equal quality. It’s going to take more than just pure money to fix the problems at Cal Poly.

Barnaby Hughes is an architecture sophomore.

Letter policy

Columns, cartoons and letters reflect the views of their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Mustang Daily. Daily encourages comments on editorial policy and university affairs.

Letters should be typewritten, double-spaced and signed and include your major, class standing and a phone number.

Letters received by e-mail and letters containing around 300 words or less will be given preference over others. Letters containing more than 600 words will be given last preference and may not be printed at all.

Editors reserve the right to correct submitted pieces for grammar without changing the meaning.

Letters can be mailed, delivered or e-mailed to Opinion Mustangdaily.calpoly.edu.
Best local wine
1. Corbett Canyon
This inexpensive and popular wine has been produced in Arroyo Grande since 1992. Debra Vanderberg, administrative assistant, said the thinks Corbett Canyon's appeal is its quality and price range. The wine is sold internationally and the most popular variety is Chardonnay. Corbett Canyon has five coastal classic varieties priced at $4 to $5 a bottle, including Chardonnay, Merlot, Cabernet, Zinfandel, and White Zinfandel. Corbett Canyon's three reserve wines are priced at $50. The locals can be proud of this very popular wine which is enjoyed by thirsty college students and wine lovers around the world.
2. Wildhorse
3. Meridian

Best winery
1. Arroyo Grande winery
The Arroyo Grande winery closed its tasting room in 1997, but visitors can still see wine production on its 70-acre property. The winery produces in its 70-acre property.
2. Meridian
3. Eberle

Best grocery store
1. Lucky
The two Lucky markets in San Luis Obispo were voted the best markets in the city by Cal Poly students. Both markets feature a bakery, butcher and deli. Coupons are tailored to what you buy and are printed on the back of the receipt each time you buy groceries. You can also save money if you have a LuckyOnRewards card, just swipe the card every time you shop and save.
Lucky markets were just bought out by Albertsons, so the Lucky on Madonna Road will soon have a new look. Soon there will be a card for Lucky in town that accepts the card.
2. Vons
3. Food 4 Less

Best music store
1. Boo Boo Records
Voted best music store because of its variety of music and family atmosphere. The store has an excellent customer service because each employee is familiar with a certain genre of music. Boo Boo Records even plans special orders for those rare and hard to find music pieces. Besides offering a wide array of used CDs, records and collectible memorabilia, the music store also sells tickets for local bands and community events.
2. Cheap Thrills
3. Wherehouse

**QUIET A KNACK:**

**Stu<%f-o-rama has:**
- pipes of all shapes, colors and sizes.
- jewelr>, lava lamps and black light items.
- the best-sellin clothing items. Other stores, like Gap and Old Navy, follow. Their T-shirts, the original denim shirt, are always there to help even the most scantily-clad woman.

**Wherehouse**
- The store boasts excellent customer service because each employee is familiar with a certain genre of music.
- Stuff-o-rama has gifts and gadgets of all kinds.
- Voted one of the best knickknack stores because of the great gifts offered for the whole family. This trendy gift shop is packed with cute baby clothes, cool picture frames and groovy candles. Penelope's even has gifts that Al Bundy would love, including a beer can holder that is in the shape of a scantily-clad woman.

**Best clothing store**
1. Structure
2. Gap
3. Ross Dress For Less

Best movie theater
1. Fremont Theater
2. Downtown Theater Cinemas
3. Palm Theatre

**NEWS**

**Best gas station**
1. Chevron
Besides offering cheaper gas, Chevron also contains a wide variety of books, magazines and comics. The Chevron in Monterey also contains a wide variety of books, magazines and comics.
2. Shell
3. Arco

**Best place to dance**
1. Graduate
Three words why the Graduate is the best place to dance: College Hump Night. Many college students flock to this Wednesday night party to dance and drink the night away. Another reason to go on Wednesday: Draft beers are only 25 cents from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. There are also many places to sit and people-watch for those wanting to take a break from the crowded dance floor. The Graduate also hosts a Swing Night on Tuesdays and Country Night on Thursdays.
2. Downtown Theater Cinemas
3. Palm Theatre
Best Sports Team
1. Men's Basketball
   While Cal Poly's men's basketball team was a preseason favorite in the western division, their first time ever loss to UC-Irvine kept them from qualifying for the Big West tournament. Despite two losing streaks, which helped the team fall to fifth in their division holding a record of 11-16, 6-10 in the Big West, Cal Poly's student body still recognizes them as our best sports team.

2. Men's Water Polo
3. Men's Soccer

Best Sorority
1. Gamma Phi Beta
   Excessive partying and binge drinking are not the words I'd use to describe this year's best sorority choice. Rather, Gamma Phi Beta is a talented group of young women who strive to achieve their internal goal of fostering the finest type of womanhood. Young ladies who perform charitable and philanthropic work all over the community. Then after their work is through they go out socializing, partying and best of all they have a good time together.

2. Sigma Kappa
3. Alpha Phi

Best Fraternity
1. Alpha Gamma Rho
   Besides being known as a crowd bunch of guys who wear obnoxious tight jeans as they drive their oversized trucks filled with game racks, belt buckles and used spitters, Alpha Gamma Rho is the only social professional fraternity on Cal Poly's campus and the winner of this year's best fraternity award. All of Alpha Gamma Rho's 92 members have a common tie of agriculture, and they all share the same goal of building men into leaders on and off the campus...or at least Dan Geis does.

2. Sigma Kappa
3. Alpha Phi

Best place to check email
1. Home
2. Library

Best parking lot on campus
1. none
2. Grand Avenue
3. Library

Best classroom
1. Business building 03, room 213
   Room 213 in the business building, the 'sib,' is one of the largest classrooms on campus, and can hold around 220 students. It's perfect for shy people who want to blend into the crowd, or for those who would rather not go to class. Teachers say the semi-circle shaped hall is nicely designed, and one teacher liked the fact that he could see every student's face. It has full multimedia capabilities, including TV and video, both a PC and a Macintosh, and audiovisual equipment, including two slide projectors, an overhead projector, and large screens.

Best professor
1. Craig Russell, music professor
   Music professor Craig Russell is most well known for his antics during MU 120, music appreciation. Russell uses wigs, ties and candy bars to demonstrate music visually. Russell, who has been voted most Distinguished Teacher, also instructs music of the 60s, a class that fills up on first priority.

Best Class
1. Bowling

Best campus club
1. Water ski club
   Wakeboarding, waterskiing, camping or just floating on the boat, the water ski club does it all. Spring Quarter will feature day trips to the lake every weekend.

Best daily newspaper
1. Mustang Daily

Best professor
It has become a senior tradition. Besides having the time to refine your bowling techniques. Bowling also offers a fun chance to meet more people. And who could pass up the chance to take a class that meets in the bowling alley.

Best campus club
1. Water ski club

Wakeboarding, waterskiing, camping or just floating on the boat, the water ski club does it all. Spring Quarter will feature day trips to the lake every weekend.

Above: Music professor Craig Russell, Cal Poly's best professor, is known for his antics in his classes like cutting off his tie.

Steve Schueneman/ Mustang Daily

Left: The water ski club gets ready to go out one of the few lakes it is not banned from. Courtesy photo/ Mustang Daily

WELCOME TO THE NEWS 
50TH YEAR OF SERVICE
Some organic food not worth the extra cost

By Rachel Robertshaw
Mustang Daily

Eating organic foods has grown in popularity for years, and many students are deciding that it's the way to go. However, organic food may not be as superior to conventionally produced food as some consumers think.


According to crop science professor John Phillips, in order for foods to be considered organic, farmers must produce food without the use of toxic pesticides and fertilizers. This means the fertilizers may be substituted with manure or compost. Phillips estimates that less than five percent of growers in San Luis Obispo County grow organically. Phillips doesn't have a big concern with conventionally produced food being unsafe.

"As far as I'm concerned, the risk is nonexistent," Phillips said. "I think a lot of times it is a negligible difference. In my opinion, conventionally grown produce is safe to eat as well."

Phillips said many people choose the organic route because they feel it is safer, but by the time conventionally farmed produce reaches the public, virtually all traces of pesticides or synthetic fertilizers have been eliminated.

The amount of pesticides in food are so minute that we probably get more just out of our everyday environment," he said.

Phillips said he is not sure what evidence that organic food is more nutritious than conventional food, nor is there evidence on how dangerous chemical residues are in food when only eaten in very small amounts.

There are documented problems of harm to farmers who are regularly exposed to large doses. Even though organic growers don't use toxic pesticides or synthetic fertilizers, this doesn't necessarily mean that organic foods are free of these. Although they are not added to the soil in production, the wind, rain and groundwater can transfer pesticides from miles away.

Organic growers also use natural pesticides derived from plants. Natural toxins are not necessarily safer than artificial toxins, and both types of sprays can leave residues on the food, according to a consumer report on organic foods.

Conventional farmers often use agents that prevent naturally occurring cancerogens, molds and fungus growths. This study shows organic farmers use other methods, such as forced-air storage, to prevent these harmful growths.

Phillips said many people choose to eat organic food because in production, it is healthier for the land. In doing this they are supporting a movement by the agricultural industry to produce food in environmentally friendly ways.

Art and design senior Jamie Fend used to eat more organic food when she lived at home. "It's just better for the environment," she said. "When I was in high school I used to eat organic food, because my parents would buy it. It just got too expensive."

Some local businesses that sell or serve organic food include Foods For the Family, New Frontiers Natural Foods, Linnea's Cafe, Questa Co-Op, Natural Foods and Blending Biscuits Juice Bar. And, of course, there's the weekly Farmers Market. Many students who buy fruits and vegetables there assume the food is organically grown. Unless growers have a certificate identifying them as organic farmers, they may not be following organic-farming standards.

"You can only say you're organic if you are certified," Phillips said. "It will be very evident if the grower is organic. But only a small percentage of vendors at farmers market are organic."

If the vendor claims to be organic but doesn't have a certificate visible, consumers can ask for the name of the certifying organization and ask to see the certificate.

By Dawn Kalmar/Mustang Daily

EAT HEALTHY: New Frontiers', a health food store, produce section features organically grown food.
Best place to workout
1. Rec Center

Best bookstore
1. Barnes & Noble
With its central location Barnes & Noble is the perfect spot for studying after running an entire downtown. The store not only has a great selection of books, but also an extensive magazine selection. The popular sale section is also an excellent area for bargain books. Everything from classics to self-help books are available at reasonable prices, fitting right in a student's budget. Plus it features an in store coffee shop and the one way elevator in San Luis Obispo.

2. SLO Kickboxing
3. Cory Everson's

Best video rental store
1. Hollywood video
With nearly 25,000 movies and video games available for rent, it's no surprise that Hollywood Video is the students' choice for best video store. Located just outside of campus at 850 Foothill Blvd., Hollywood Video also boasts convenience for grabbing a quick flick on a Friday Night. Store manager Bridgitte Miller attributes the store's popularity to their customer service. "We want to make sure our customers and our guests leave happy," she said. Hollywood Video guarantees that top new releases will always be in stock.

2. Blockbuster video
3. Studio Video

Best radio station
1. KCFR 91.3
With a phone number matching it's call letters, Cal Poly's own KCFR 91.3 seems to please the most listeners. When it comes to variety, no other station comes close, offering a selection that includes classical, jazz, country, punk, reggae, ska, electronic, oldies and even hours dedicated to the 80s and the 90s.

2. Jive-n-Direct
3. Studio Video

Best local band
1. Jive-n-Direct
With three of its six members being Cal Poly students, jazz/funk/rock group Jive-n-Direct really can't go wrong. The group's unique sound comes from trombone and saxophone work combined with more traditional keyboards, drums and guitars. Jive-n-direct can often be found playing in the University Union or at SLO Brew downtown, or donating their talents to events such as this past February's "Take Back the Night" concert. They can also be heard on their debut album "Then When?"

2. Jester's Dead
3. HM Hotchkivelson

Best beach
 Morrro Rock is widely believed to be one of the best surf spots on the central coast. There are well formed waves, and in the winter time, size is not a problem. Some days are so big that no one goes out. Unlike most of the central coast, Morrro Rock has a channel that allows surfers a quick and easy way to get into the lineup. An added bonus are the occasional warm currents from the outtake valves at the Duke power plant. But don't worry — the water is not radioactive.

1. Pismo Beach
2. Montana de Oro
3. Montaña de Oro

Best video rental store
1. Hollywood video
Located at 1346 Higuera St., Central Coast Surf sells a variety of snowboarding, skateboarding and surfboarding equipment. As for surfboards, the store sells longboards, shortboards and fun-shaped boards. Central Coast Surf sells many brands of snowboards including Rusty, Burton, Jerivds and Lib Tech.

2. Blockbuster video
3. Studio Video

Best place to surf
1. Morro Bay
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1. Pismo Beach
2. Montana de Oro
3. Montana de Oro

Best place to camp
1. Pismo Canyon
Pismo Canyon, behind the red brick and transfer dorms, is a wide dirt trail that runs for a couple of miles up the canyon. Generally pretty quiet and secluded, and good for all levels and types of mountain biking. There are a number of trails that lead to more difficult trails near Campus Grade. A good local ride for all levels and types can be made into almost any type of ride you want.

1. Montana de Oro
2. Montana de Oro
3. Montana de Oro

Best place to hike
1. Montana de Oro State Park
Located at 736 Higuera St., Montana de Oro State Park offers more than 50 miles of hiking trails. Two of the most popular are the Bluff Trail and Hazard Reef. The Bluff Trail, located on edge of the cliffs and provides views of the shoreline, Morro Rock, and migrating whales during the winter months. The Hazard Reef trail is covered by eucalyptus trees and goes through Hazard Canyon, where you find a stream and tide pools. Also, look for Monument butterflies in the eucalyptus trees from October to March.

2. Bishop's Peak
3. Poly Canyon

Best place to mountain bike
1. Poly Canyon
Poly Canyon, behind the red brick and transfer dorms, is a wide dirt trail that runs for a couple of miles up the canyon. Generally pretty quiet and secluded, and good for all levels and types of mountain biking. There are a number of trails that lead to more difficult trails near Campus Grade. A good local ride for all levels and types can be made into almost any type of ride you want.

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1. Pismo Beach
2. Montana de Oro
3. Montana de Oro
NEW BATS continued from page 12

Would you have had, he has already seen a difference in the scores of Cal Poly games.

Price too, has witnessed a change.

"Balls hit this year were not remotely as cheap as they were last year,

or even in our practice games this year," Price said.

With the new bats only a week away, the Mustangs need all the practice they can get to compete with top teams in the nation.

"The thing about the Big West is that you get teams like Fullerton and Long Beach who just naturally reached in the top ten, series after series," Price said. "We need to play at the level of those teams, because that's how good the Big West is."

Sensor six Zarelli (3-0) will lead the Mustangs on the mound Saturday.

"I really feel that we are ready for these games. We're just about to stick together and perform like we know we can," Ham said.

The first game against the Owls will be Saturday at 7 p.m. at San Luis Obispo Stadium. A doubleheader will follow Sunday, and one game will be played Monday.

SLEWING NEW NEW BATS: The Mustangs, in accordance with NCAA regulations, are using new bats this year that have a smaller barrel (from 2 3/4 to 2 5/8 inches) and have a smaller length to weight differential (from five to three units).

BASEBALL continued from page 12

... are still putting nitrogen air pockets inside.

That's not how baseball was meant to be played. It takes a special hitter to hit with wood...

"These bats are pretty ridiculous ... They are still putting nitrogen air pockets inside.

That's not how baseball was meant to be played. It takes a special hitter to hit with wood. With aluminum, you have more of those cheap hits that fly into the outfield or cut off the fence, that really have no business being hit that far."

Despite the more equal ground of the hitters, but according to Blue Jays manager Davey Johnson hats give hitters an extra edge.

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SPORTS

CAL POLY SPORTS STATISTICS

MEN'S BASKETBALL

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BIG WEST Standings

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Western Division

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WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

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Final Big West Scoring

Player | PPG | AVG
Bergersen, Boise State | 26 | 22.4
Loyd, Long Beach State | 26 | 18.0
Borklund, Cal Poly | 27 | 17.9
Bumton, Santa Barbara | 27 | 17.2
Curry, Idaho | 26 | 16.7
Rummel, Nevada | 26 | 16.4
Wozak, Cal Poly | 27 | 16.2
Williams, Pacific | 26 | 16.2

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**SPORTS**

**Baseball**

**New bats bring back old style ball**

By Trisha Thorn
Mustang Daily

In recent years, technological advancements have created an interesting dilemma in college baseball — are bats really that good or are the bats giving them an unfair advantage?

On Jan. 15, the NCAA executive committee finally addressed this issue. They approved standards to reduce the barrel diameter from 2.34 inches to 2.58 inches, and change the weight-to-length differential from five to three units. The changes will affect Division I, II, and III.

In recent years, scoring has risen to a ridiculous level. The final straw may have been last year's College World Series when University of Southern California defeated Arizona State 21-14, in the Championship game. The new regulations have caused two key changes.

First, the smaller barrel diameter allows less of a sweet spot, making it easier for batters to get bashed off. The change in the weight-length ratio will result in slower bat speed, which in turn, affects how far the ball gets.

According to Cal Poly Athletic Director John McCutcheon, the new standards are products of ongoing technological advances.

“The concern was that if things were left unchanged, technology could have made unsound conditions for athletes,” McCutcheon said. “The changes are a result of a growing concern that bats would change the game. The new standards bring the traditional aspects back. There is less dependency on the long ball, it puts the play back on the field.”

According to Cal Poly head baseball coach Ritch Price, the changes will be good for college baseball.

“It will restore the integrity of the game.”

— Ritch Price
head baseball coach

**DROP IT DOWN:**

Matt Elam drops a bunt down the line with a new NCAA sanctioned bat.

**ROCKIES give Walker mile-high contract**

Associated Press

TUCSON, Ariz. — Larry Walker didn't have to become a free agent to cash in on baseball's escalating salary scale.

Walker, who won a batting title and the National League MVP award in the past two years, agreed Thursday to a $75 million, six-year contract extension with the Colorado Rockies that ties him for the sixth-highest average salary in the game.

The agreement came less than two weeks after Walker sat in front of his locker and openly wondered if 1999 would be his last season in Colorado.

“I'm going to relax, finally,” Walker said before the Rockies' spring opener against the Arizona Diamondbacks. "I've been shaking for the last three days, not only about six years and all the money that's involved, but just the fact that it's over and we can quit talking about 'What if.' I'm so glad it's over.'

Walker, 32, will make $5,075,000 this season as he begins a five-year contract. The new deal calls for a $1 million signing bonus, $12 million each in 2000 and 2001 and $12.5 million annually from 2002-05.

His new deal, with a $12.5 million average annual value, ties him with Boston pitcher Pedro Martinez and New York Yankees outfielder Bernie Williams, behind only Los Angeles pitcher Kevin Brown ($45 million), Anaheim first baseman Mo Vaughn ($12.33 million), Arizona pitcher Randy Johnson ($13.1 million) and New York Mets catcher Mike Piazza and Baltimore outfielder Albert Belle ($13 million each).

Walker said Martinez for 5th in total dollars, trailing Brown ($105 million), Piazza ($91 million), Williams ($57.5 million) and Vaughn ($80 million). "The main thing was to stay here,” Walker said. "I was going to say the money doesn't need to be astronomical going through the roof, but it is. You think about it, it's ridiculous.”

After being voted the NL MVP in 1997, Walker hit .363 last year to win the batting title. Slowed by offseason elbow surgery, Walker dropped from 49 home runs to 23 homers, prompting him to adopt a rigorous offseason weight training program.

"He looks terrific," Rockies owner Jeff McMorris said. "We still have to play the games, but he sure passes the eyeball test.”

**ROCKIES give Walker mile-high contract**

By Jayme Fulford
Mustang Daily

Although the Cal Poly men’s baseball team started off slow, it expects to turn things around this weekend.

The team has a four-game series against the Temple University Owls, who, with a 0-5 record, have only played a few games. The series will mark the beginning of several West Coast games for the Owls.

It will also conclude the Mustangs’ nine-game homestand. Their record at home is 1-2, with 6-7 overall.

“Temple is just starting their season, so we expect to do very well against them,” second baseman Matt Elam said.

The Mustangs feel this could be a turning point for their season.

“We have had a slow start this year, but as long as everyone sticks together, we should do very well,” Elam said. “This series should give us some momentum going into the Big West Conference next weekend.”

**ROCKIES give Walker mile-high contract**

**DROP IT DOWN:**

Matt Elam drops a bunt down the line with a new NCAA sanctioned bat.

**ROCKIES give Walker mile-high contract**

**Big West teams battle for one NCAA spot**

By Adam Russo
Mustang Daily

With the winner of the Big West Conference Tournament receiving an automatic invitation to the NCAA Tournament, drama is running high in Reno.

Barring a miracle, the NCAA Selection Committee will not give any other teams from the Big West an at-large bid to the big dance. This comes as no surprise to New Mexico State coach Lou Henson, who said midway through February that he didn’t believe more than one team from the Big West would go to the NCAA Tournament.

So every team in the tournament has a chance. The team that wins three in a row will be playing next week, most likely matched up with a top-seeded team that didn't need to win its conference tournament to play in the NCAA Tournament.

"So why would a team from the Big West want to put itself through such drama when winning the national title is all but impossible?” Henson said. "That's why.

In the history of college baseball, upset have been a staple of the tournament format. The underdog inevitably gets overlooked by the favored team, which usually is looking for TOURNAMENT, page 10