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<tr>
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<th>Size</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Red Dog</td>
<td>1/2 Barrel</td>
<td>$39.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Light</td>
<td>1/2 Barrel</td>
<td>$39.99</td>
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<td>Keystone</td>
<td>1/2 Barrel</td>
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<td>Ice House</td>
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Work in progress

Cal Poly has long been considered one of the best public universities in the nation. The university’s unique “learn by doing” approach to education is so often-repeated it has become cliché. But the school’s 98-year history has not been without its share of controversy.

From its modest beginning as a technical school with 13 students, Cal Poly has become the flagstaff institution of the California State University system with more than 16,000 students.

This weekend, Cal Poly puts on its biggest show of the year. It’s a chance to show off our campus, our students, our faculty. The city will be so tightly packed with people this weekend it seems likely it could burst. It’s hardly enough of an opportunity to decide on the next four years of your life. (It will be five or six years for some of you.)

So while you’re here, take a closer look at our community. In this special Open House edition, Mustang Daily provides a frame of reference for the thousands of visiting guests who will descend on San Luis Obispo.

You will find that Cal Poly has grown up quite a bit in its 98 years. Still, there are old problems lingering and new ones to solve. Intertwined with the problems are the success stories, the legends that make Cal Poly what it is today.

Still, this university has a long way to go. We welcome you to a campus and a community that is remains very much a work in progress. — Ryan Becker, editor in chief

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Robert Fernandes
John Garcia
Simone Giachino
Amy Hann
Gavin Hartley
Ryan Horton
Robert Jamison
Josh Jenkins
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Paul Kizirian
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Carly Sjovold
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The carnival will spread out over the parking lot next to the library. Anyone can join in the fun, from sumo-suit wrestling to bottle toss. Each booth game will range in price.

The Cal Poly Rodeo, which is adjacent to the dairy unit, begins at 6:30 p.m. Friday. On Saturday, the rodeo starts at noon and again at 5 p.m.

The Cal Poly tractor pull starts at 1 p.m. on Saturday. Trucks will be making their way out first, followed by tractors. The Tractor Pull is scheduled to end at 3 p.m. Admission is $7.

File photos/Mustang Daily
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Average crime rate remains low in San Luis Obispo

By Alexis Garberff
Mustang Daily

San Luis Obispo's crime rate is below average compared to other California college cities despite recent publicity about three missing women.

While the average crime rate has moved only 2.3 percent a year, reports of rapes and sexual assaults in San Luis Obispo have jumped up 67 percent, said Capt. Pat Topham of the San Luis Obispo Police Department.

Other college cities, such as Santa Barbara and Chico, have crime rates higher than San Luis Obispo, according to Homefront.com.

San Luis Obispo had a crime rate index of 52 in 1997. Santa Barbara and Monterey had rates of 69, while Chico had an index of 69. The crime rates are relative to average of the 50 cities in the Homefront database, which is based on homocide, robberies, rapes, aggravated assaults and motor vehicle thefts.

A rate of 100 means the city is exactly average. A value of 50 means that the city has half the crime rate of an average city. The rate is also determined per 100,000 people.

While San Luis Obispo has a lower rate than similar California cities, reports of rapes and sexual assaults increased 67 percent from 19 in 1997 to 32 in 1998. Over the last four years, Topham said, these cases were mostly date rapes, involving 16 to 35 year-olds.

Police said statistics for 2000 have not been compiled.

Crime in college

Topham also noted that students are more often the victims.

"Students tend to be victims of crime more than the rest of San Luis Obispo's population because students, 18 to 24, make up one of the largest demographic groups," Topham said. "Students tend to be more casual about a lot of things. They set them-

Topham said changes are happening everywhere in the state and when a situation goes, so does its crime rate.

Concerned parents

With an influx of sexual assaults and rape reports, along with the fact that three women have disappeared in San Luis Obispo, many parents have expressed their concerns about safety in San Luis Obispo.

"There are date rape drags, but alcohol has similar effects, and some mistake their alcohol symptoms for a date rape," Dominique said.

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SLO TRANSIT
STUDENTS' VOICE: In 1997 Cal Poly students voted against a fee increase at a Cal Poly Plan referendum. Students have not had the opportunity to vote on the new Plan.

Poly balances student fees, state funds

By Ryan Miller
Mustang Daily

In 1905, living expenses for a Cal Poly student's academic year totaled $215. Payment covered room, board, laundry service, books and supplies, such as chemicals, wood, iron and drawing materials.

A cost-breakdown sheet went to incoming freshmen for the 1998-1999 academic year estimated Cal Poly's total annual cost at $10,751. This covered some of the same basic costs as in the early years, but added new fees to cover health, parking, transcript, thesis binding and other student services.

Mechanical engineering sophomore Kevin Hastings spent $360 on books his first quarter at Cal Poly — $145 more than an entire year's worth of expenses at the school's beginning. Hastings, like many students, is trying to find the balance between quality education and low costs.

"I say give me a two-week demo of this higher (priced) education, and then maybe I'll pay for it," Hastings said.

Currently, students and administrators are attempting to reduce or eliminate the fee hike by appealing to the state for more funding.

Associated Students Inc. is working with President Warren Baker and state Sen. Jack O'Connor to lobby for differential funding. Assistant to the President for University Advancement William Rohde said he added that private support has increased over 50 percent during the past four years.

Private funds have been an alternative funding source since 1940, archivist Teresii Taylor said. There was a very close relationship between Cal Poly and San Luis Obispo at the school's start, which drew in large amounts of private support, she said.

"Sometimes the locals would do fund-risers for furnishings, or would donate livestock," Taylor said.

The profits from student-sold livestock and butter also went to the school, but even that didn't completely meet the school's financial needs. Ultimately, students at Cal Poly in 1919 did the same thing as students of 1999. "They would go to the state every year and appeal for funding," Taylor said.

Cal Poly has a history of supporting fund-raising and fee increases. In 1975, the Board of Trustees of the California State University and Colleges established a Student Services Fee to fund such programs as social and cultural development activities, counseling, testing and health services. This fee was combined with the State University Fee in 1984.

In 1992, students from across the state rallied at the Capitol to protest a proposed 40 percent fee increase per student per year. According to a statement made by demonstration leader Lisa Parker, 250 students dumped packages of Top Ramen, representing life under a tight budget, onto then Gov. Pete Wilson's desk.

Tracy Summers, a local substitute teacher and Cal Poly alumnus, faced those massive fee increases during the recession before her graduation in 1995. When she began in 1989, she paid $331 in tuition per quarter.

"By the time I left, it was $747," Summers said. "Fees doubled in the time I was at Cal Poly."

Summers, a physical education and kinesiology graduate, remembers one of the biggest issues that developed during the recession was Cal Poly's move to Division I sports. Administrators hoped the move would increase the flow of private sector donations.

"They were basically going to cut our athletic program or have a fee increase to move to Division I," Summers said. "I felt that sports is really important, so I supported it, but every one was raised."

The Instructionally Related Activities referendum proposed that students fund the move, starting at $13 per quarter in 1992 and rising to $45 in 1999. The Poly Plan Steering Committee does not know what percent of the current proposed fee increase would go to sports, or any other area. According to John Muller, student director for the College of Engineering, Poly Plan funding distribution will not be finalized until the state determines its budget.
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Constructing a higher quality of education

By Burt McNaughton
Mustang Daily

Cal Poly's history of construction goes hand in hand with its "Learn by Doing" philosophy.

The current construction of the parking garage, the new engineering building, and the Sports Complex are driven by Cal Poly's academic mission.

"Every project has to follow the academic mission," said Robert Kitamura, director of Facilities Planning. "If there's no clear picture how the construction will promote it, then the construction will have to be justified."

The parking structure promotes the academic mission by keeping cars away from the core of campus, Kitamura said.

Cal Poly also tries to incorporate as many students as possible in its construction.

"The parking structure is a joint project with construction management," Kitamura said. "They created a website where you can go to the Internet and pull up the site under construction. This way we can use it to monitor the project and speak with the architect, and the construction management students can use it in the classroom."

Some students and staff aren't as optimistic when it comes to construction around campus.

Students often feel that construction puts a burden on their pocketbooks or affects the surrounding environment.

During the mid-1980s, students were faced by an unusual question — whether or not they wanted to help finance new recreation facilities. Cal Poly had used student funds in the past, but not since the financing of the University Union in 1984.

While the FU was financed solely by the students, the Rec. Center's proposal to entirely student-funded wasn't as popular as an idea.

Former Associate Students Inc., Community Relations officer Mark Reichel didn't believe the student body should be taxed so heavily for a facility that they may not even use.

"It will be hard to get (the proposal) through, because it will be paid for by the students and we don't want to use it," former Cal Poly student Greg Anderson said in an edition of Mustang Daily.

The Rec. Center's proposal failed until the students created another proposal that considered splitting the cost with the state.

Cal Poly can start one new project each year with the state, according to Kitamura.

One of the current projects constructed with state funding is the new Sports Complex. Cal Poly committed 40 acres of land for the project, which cannot receive any state funding because it's not related to academics.

"Half of the complex will be paid for by the state, while the other half will be paid for through donations," Kitamura said.

Besides criticizing the Sports Complex's funding, students and staff are also concerned with some of its environmental consequences.

"I was one of the main people who opposed the site of the Sports Complex," said Phil Ashley, support technician for biological sciences. "Not the core part needed by our students, but the close proximity to the Shepherd and Smith reservoirs."

The close proximity of the fields to the reservoirs may cause a disappearance of waterfowl, which are important for teaching, according to Ashley.

"I don't think we should give up our valuable agricultural, ecological and environmental resources," Ashley said. "Not being able to use the reservoirs will impact teaching when it comes to documenting birds on the ponds or hawks in the grasslands that are now mowed lawns."

Concerns about Cal Poly's construction and its surrounding environment have been around since the 1940s and 50s.

Buildings had to blend into the landscape so as not to cause an eyesore. That's one reason that building 32, the science building, is so spread out. It's all one story, although it looks like three different levels.

"If you put your finger on the edge of the building and walk around it with or without your finger, you'll walk about a mile," said Philip Bailey, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics.

Cal Poly has run into its share of construction problems, including the Fisher science building project in the 1970s.

"Someone, maybe the president, was concerned that the construction of Fisher science would be an eyesore to the people around campus," Bailey said. "So they put up around the construction zone a fence to block everyone's view."

Another orange-fenced project was the campus utilities-upgrade project called Utilidor, which spanned from 1995 to 1998. Utilidor caused parking to waiver, sidewalks to disappear and gave a new definition to the term "alternative route."

see BUILDING, page 27

Partners envision student facility

By Andy Castagnola
Mustang Daily

Cal Poly is dreaming of a new student complex near the Robert E. Kennedy Library, possibly combining hamburgers with clothes and computers.

The idea of a secondary University Union started flowing through Foundation Executive Director Al Amaral's head about five years ago. His vision for the complex includes a technology-driven learning center with meeting facilities and student services — perhaps a laundry room or a barber shop.

The complex, aimed north of the library and west of the Campus Market, might also incorporate a bookstore annex and a food court.

"The natural focus is on what services students want to have available to them," Amaral said.

Vice President for Student Affairs Juan Gonzalez shares Amaral's dream for a multifunctional center.

He sees space for classes and club activities, a food court, computer labs, a library and a multi-purpose room similar to Chumash Auditorium in the FU. He also envisions academic department offices and student advising rooms.

Gonzalez called it an information market place, a place for hooking up laptops and eating pizza.

Amaral said the complex satisfies two demands: the need for space, and the need for that space in the growing northwest section of campus.

Currently, the sports complex and the Advanced Technology Lab are under construction in the northwest comer.

Amaral added that the new facility would not substitute the existing FU or library, or conflict with the newly-refurbished Campus Union.

"Given the number of partners, given the complexity of the project, we have a lot of work to do," — Hiram Davis
Library director

File photo/Mustang Daily

TOP: From 1995 to 1998, Utilidor covered the campus with miles of orange fences and ditches to upgrade utilities. ABOVE: Construction workers are putting together the first pieces of the Sports Complex.
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Sports steps up to Div. I, Big West challenges

By Adam Russo
Mustang Daily

Cal Poly athletics has come a long way from the beginning of the century when the school was not as well known. The athletic department has made great strides in recent years and has become a competitive program.

The athletic program at Cal Poly has undergone significant changes in recent years. In 1994, the school was approved to move to Division I status, which required a significant investment in facilities and programs. This move was not without its challenges, as the athletic department had to comply with new standards and regulations.

The move to Division I has had a significant impact on the athletic program. The team's facilities have been improved, and the athletic department has been able to attract more student-athletes. The team's success has also been recognized on a national level, with multiple conference championships and national recognition.

The athletic department has also been able to attract more student-athletes, which has helped to improve the overall competitiveness of the program. This has been achieved through the development of new programs and the expansion of existing ones. The athletic department has also been able to attract more fans, which has helped to increase revenue and support for the program.

Cal Poly's athletic program is a source of pride for the campus and the community. The athletic department has been able to attract more student-athletes, which has helped to improve the overall competitiveness of the program. The athletic department has also been able to attract more fans, which has helped to increase revenue and support for the program.

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Too many students, too little housing

By Cathy Lee

With an additional 600 freshmen estimated to enroll for Fall 1999 at Cal Poly, demand for housing has increased because the majority of the locals are on the rise in San Luis Obispo.

According to Director of Admissions James Maraviglia, about 3,200 students enrolled for this school year, and the numbers are increasing as enrollment targets get higher.

This next school year 1 anticipate 2,602 to 2,800 freshmen and another 800 to 1,000 transfer students will enroll, a total of 5,600 students,” Maraviglia said. These numbers are unofficial estimates.

Current students see a correlation between the increase in freshmen admitted and the increase in rent prices.

“It’s a simple case of supply and demand,” said Melissa Wesley, a business sophomore.

Amanda Fernandez, an architecture sophomore agrees with Wesley. She said landlords are increasing their rates because of the increase in demand, because there hasn’t been growth in housing.

“We haven’t built a lot of affordable housing in San Luis Obispo in the last 10 years,” Milton said.

The Cal Poly campus dorms can hold 2,285 students at their capacity. This fall only freshmen will be allowed to live in Yosemite, Sierra Madre and South Mountain Halls. One dorm was divided open for transfer students, while returning students will only be allowed to stay in North Mountain Halls.

“There are 300 spaces for returning students in North Mountain Halls, and all the other dorms will be strictly for freshmen only,” Allen said.

Students who wanted to live on campus in North Mountain Halls were selected through a lottery process.

“The lottery gave students a fair and equitable chance to live in a small place,” Allen said.

Cal Poly and the city are looking at a couple of different possibilities to help alleviate the housing problem, but both are still in the planning stages.

Stephen Peterson is a Cal Poly city and regional planning graduate student and also a member of the San Luis Obispo Planning Commission. He said that one possibility calls for land use around the San Luis Obispo airport.

“The city’s general plan calls for the city annexing, or bringing into the city, all of the land all the way out toward the airport, which is a vast amount of land,” Peterson said.

“That is the area that is designated for the city’s new growth area.

The airport land is currently under country jurisdiction, which means in order for the city to develop there, the land would have to be annexed to the city.

The other option for additional housing in San Luis Obispo is outlined in Cal Poly’s Master Plan.

San Luis Obispo city councilwoman Jan Marx is on the Master Plan committee for housing, which is currently looking at ways to build affordable on-campus housing.

“I’m hoping that the on-campus housing for students will be available at a lower-than-market rate,” she said.

Marx also said the hopes the on-campus housing will make more homes available for people who would otherwise have to commute to San Luis Obispo.

Cal Poly intends to expand housing on campus by Fall 2002. Allen said his office is working with a San Francisco consulting firm, Gordon H. Chong & Partners, on the project.

Cal Poly is still in the process of selecting an architect to draw designs of the new dorms.

Until additional housing is built, many people believe rental rates will remain high.

Tony Flato, director of property management for Farrell Smyth Real Estate Company in San Luis Obispo, said, “The rent will continue to rise with escalating rental rates and demand for housing.”

Valencia Apartments, a studentcomplex in San Luis Obispo, is raising rent costs by 1 percent per month for the 1999 to 2000 school year to $390, according to property manager Mike Christensen.

“This is the first time in three years that we’ve increased our rent. We had double the response from students that wanted to come back and sign leases for next school year already,” Christensen said.

Woodsdale Apartments in San Luis Obispo has also raised its rent for next year by 5 percent to $415 to $435, according to office manager Lori Mathews.

For a private room at Steven Glen in San Luis Obispo, the rent will increase from $534 to $539 this next school year, a 2 percent increase.

Students are already speeding beyond San Luis Obispo to find housing.

Judy Nelson, vacation rental manager of Dophin Property Management in Pismo Beach, has dealt with many of these students.

“There has been a scarcity of housing in the last year. Half a dozen students came into the office looking for housing in any area this week,” Nelson said.

Nelson said the average cost to rent a two-bedroom, one-bathroom apartment in Pismo Beach goes for $750 a month with no utilities included.

In Los Osos, the same type of apartment rents for $650 a month with water and garbage.

Linda Geerens, property manager of Los Osos Broker in Los Osos, said she noticed increasing rates and a shortage of housing.

“In the summer, between June and September, I get 100 to 200 students coming in asking for help to find a place to stay,” Geerens said.

Despite lower rent outside San Luis Obispo, many students prefer to live in the city to be close to campus.

“Most of the friends I know live in San Luis Obispo because it’s more convenient for students to get to school,” Fernandez said.

Allen suggests that students who want to live on campus next year should turn in their applications as soon as possible.

freshmen aren’t required to live on campus at Cal Poly, but it is a unique opportunity to transition into college life.

Too many students, too little housing
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By Bryce Alderton
Mustang Daily

For the first time since 1963, Cal Poly is working on a new Master Plan to accommodate growing enrollment while conserving resources.

Last fall quarter, the Deans' Enrollment Planning Advisory Committee developed four Master Plan scenarios, each with a different way of handling more students.

Task forces of Cal Poly students, administrators, professors, and staff, as well as individuals from the city and county of San Luis Obispo, will study these scenarios and look at environmental concerns.

The task forces plan to submit drafts to the Campus Planning Committee by this summer. The Campus Planning Committee includes Academic Senate members, students, Associated Students Inc. members and representatives from the city, county and Cal Poly Foundation.

By March 2001, the Master Plan will move from the Campus Planning Committee to the California State University Board of Trustees for approval.

The final Master Plan could include one or all of the four scenarios:

- student progress
- distributed teaching and learning
- more on-campus academic year enrollment
- no more academic year enrollment

The student progress scenario is aimed at finding ways to increase the percentage of students who graduate while decreasing the time it takes them to do so.

Cal Poly's retention and graduation rates are substantially lower than the University of California campuses that compete for incoming freshmen. Cal Poly's freshmen retention rate is 86 percent compared to 90 percent at UCLA and 94 percent at UC Berkeley.

Possible steps to improve student progress include more evening classes, more night classes and improved advising and academic support. Students may have to go off campus to learn.

In the distributed academic and learning scenarios, university enrollment would grow, but the amount of students at school would diminish.

Science students may spend a quarter at the California Maritime Academy's training fleet. Other students may study abroad in London, Thailand or Mexico for a quarter or a year. These students would communicate with professors through e-mail and hold discussions with classmates on the Internet.

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Students may also study at a new academic satellite center at the Journal of California State University. This center would have a small advising staff and provide free on-campus residence.

The distributed academic scenario is the opposite of the final scenario — no more on-campus growth.

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City maintains SLO growth despite downtown changes

By Jessica Hagans and Andrea Parker

Mustang Daily

What began with the Mission San Luis Obispo de Tolosa more than 200 years ago has grown into a city of more than 40,000 people.

That growth may alarm people in this city. Some think it is too fast, others too slow. Either way, San Luis Obispo's growth is held at one percent per year.

Ken Schwartz, San Luis Obispo city councilman, said this means the city's expected annual growth rate is about one percent of that year's population.

The city council adopted the one-percent growth rate about 10 years ago, according to Jim Mars, San Luis Obispo city councilman.

From that San Luis Obispo is growing too fast may not be justified. Schwartz said that the city has actually been growing at a rate lower than one percent for the past eight to nine years.

"There is a feeling that this is a rapidly growing area, though the city of San Luis Obispo's growth is not that great," said Jeff Jorgensen, San Luis Obispo city attorney.

Cal Poly's growth rate has coincided with the city's rate, even though the university is technically part of the county.

Jorgensen said that the city and university's growth curves have been almost parallel for the past 20 years.

"Growth pressures that the city experiences are directly related to enrollment growth at the university," he said.

San Luis Obispo Vice Mayor Dave Romero agreed with Jorgensen.

"Cal Poly is the biggest factor without question," Romero said.

Just as the city has kept growth to a minimum, Cal Poly's enrollment has changed little over the past few decades.

Justine Nielsen of Cal Poly Institutional Planning and Analysis said this fall's enrollment was 16,296, whereas it remained roughly 15,000 students throughout the 1970s.

Cal Poly students and employees are a benefit to the city because they help boost the economy, Schwartz said.

"Students and faculty -- bring new dollars to the community," he said. "That is one of those things that stimulates the economy."

The university's economic role is evident in the bustling downtown area. San Luis Obispo has historically been the "cultural and social hub of the county," said Deborah Holley, administrator for the Downtown Association.

The downtown area has become more urban in the last 50 years, changing from the original mission and agricultural community.

New businesses came after World War II, bringing with them paved roads and street lamps. In the last 30 to 40 years, the town's changes in commerce have significantly altered the environment, Holley said.

The rebirth, though marked by many modern changes, has not been a total restructuring of the downtown. The resuscitation and preservation of many historic buildings are part of an effort Holley said she hopes will be maintained.

"A lot has changed, but a lot is still there," she said.

Jorgensen said he has seen many changes in downtown just since he's lived in San Luis Obispo.

"There has been a lot of change (in the types of businesses in the 20 years that I've been here)," he said. "It seems as if the nature of the city and downtown is going more toward tourist-oriented and brand-name merchandising."

Even before Jorgensen moved here, downtown's shops were changing.

In the 1960s, Woolworth's used to be there. The Network now houses several shops. Ross stands where J.C. Penney's used to be. The Mission Plaza was built in the 1950s. The five-year-old Downtown Centre is the latest development downtown, according to Holley.

Jorgensen said the newer look and style of shops is what it takes to survive.

"With certain exceptions, the old mom and pop places can't make it in today's economic situation," he said.

Even with new shopping centers emerging businesses outside the central area, downtown's chains continue to draw customers.

Jorgensen described downtown as "an environment, not just a shopping mall. (It has) an important entertainment component that will always be there."

Cold cash is the bottom line in keeping downtown hopping.

Downtown's lively nature attracts businesses, and those new companies increase economic growth in the area.

Holley said there is a wide variety of businesses downtown, including the computer and cellular industries.

Many software companies, such as Seagrove Software and Oddworld inhabitants, are attracted to San Luis Obispo's quality of life and distance from Silicon Valley's competition, according to Jorgensen.

Both the city and county government have offices downtown. Having businesses located next to government offices keeps the area healthy, Jorgensen said.

In addition, these businesses bring sales tax revenue to the city and county.

"C" is the bottom line in keeping downtown hopping.

Downtown Centre opens featuring movie theaters, Barnes & Noble, GAP and Copeland's Sports.

CURRENT STATUS
Schlootsky's Deli, Michael's Vans and Sav-On open in the Margold Center.

FUTURE PLANS
Madonna Plaza and the Central Coast will renovate their buildings and expand.

LEFT: SLO Brewing Co. serves up its own beer and grub downtown just around the corner from Bubble Gum Alley and down the street from the Downtown Centre.

BELOW: The Network, an indoor mall, houses a variety of shops in the same location that Woolworth's stood in the 1950s.

Dawn Kalmar/Mustang Daily
Big businesses, big projects
taking root in SLO County

By Nikki Wilson and Danielle Samaniego

San Luis Obispo County is growing in every direction, but not without considerable debate. To the west, Morro Bay and Los Osos are home to many Cal Poly students who want to escape the high rent costs of San Luis Obispo. To the north, Atascadero and Paso Robles attract some of the area's biggest annual events. And to the south, Pismo Beach, Arroyo Grande and the country's neighbor, Santa Maria, are welcoming big businesses.

Los Osos

Low rental rates bring many Cal Poly students to Los Osos. The town, however, is facing a major growth problem due to its lack of a sewer system. The problem was acknowledged back in the 1970s when the city's population grew from approximately 1,500 to almost 11,200 people, a 32 percent increase in only 10 years.

Another problem facing residents is the lack of sufficient drainage, causing low lying areas to flood frequently throughout the year.

Montana De Oro State Park in Los Osos is a popular place for tourists to enjoy in a car, bike, walk, picnic, surf and camp.

Morro Bay

The Seven Sisters chain of inactive volcanoes lines the stretch of Highway 1 connecting San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay.

Many Cal Poly students find work at restaurants, shops or hotels in town and along the Embarcadero. Morro Bay attracts tourists to see Morro Rock and the Morro Bay Fishing pier, and to shop, camp, surf, kayak or just relax.

Each October the city hosts a weekend long Jazz Festival. Local vendors sell food and crafts, and several stages feature live entertainment.

Atascadero

Atascadero is becoming a developer's dream. Upcoming projects aim to enhance and repair the downtown area. Two commercial developments are under debate: a gated housing development consisting of 122 homes, bikes, and recreational areas called The Lakes, and a shopping center called Cove Creek.

Proponents of the plans see them as ways to increase tax revenue that can be used for other improvement projects. Others see the expansion as an attack on the small town-life and atmosphere.

Currently, the projects are pending approval. A plan to re-zone Highway 41 through the city is already underway.

Paso Robles

Paso Robles is bracing for a population boom within the next few years. While this is exciting to business owners, the city has already begun preparing for the downside of the growth spurt.

Concerns are from the overcrowding of schools to the wear and tear on city streets.

Paso Robles has a large student population compared to other North County cities, primarily due to the North County Community College campus.

The growth of the campus is causing new businesses and new educational opportunities to the area.

Paso Robles is best known as the site of the Mid-State Fair, held in late July. The fair is a huge event, attracting publicists and visitors from all over California. This year's highlights include country singers Tim McGraw and Reba McEntire, and pop vocalists Britney Spears and 98 Degrees.

Other activities include quilting contests and a rodeo.

Free main stage round out in southern San Luis Obispo County. Pismo Beach and the Five Cities, now technically only four cities, Santa Maria, although outside the country line, is economically imperious to the area.

Santa Maria

A city in Santa Barbara County, Santa Maria is a vital neighbor. With a population of 72,965, it is best known for its mall access, because it has the only big shopping center within a short distance of San Luis Obispo County. It also offers the variety of several major chain stores, including Target, Costco, Home Depot and Circuit City.

Santa Maria's Allan Hancock College is home to the nationally acclaimed Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts.

The city is also well-known for its growing agriculture. According to the Santa Maria city web site, growers use state-of-the-art technology to produce internationally distributed crops such as broccoli, strawberries and lettuce.

City planner Peggy Woods said the city is currently growing at 2 percent yearly.

Every year the City Planning Division puts out a list of major residential and commercial/industrial developments in the area. More than 1,200 residential projects were completed by January 1999, and more than 321,000 square feet is under construction for commercial or industrial development.

Businesses currently looking to expand in the Santa Maria area include Coca-Cola, Edwards Cinemas, AMC Theaters and Santa Barbara Aerospace.

Arroyo Grande

Arroyo Grande officially claimed its sovereignty over the Five Cities area when Wal-Mart opened its door January 27.

The top employers in the area include the Lucia Mar Unified School District and the Arroyo Grande Community Hospital.

According to The Tribune, the city, with a population of 15,500, is currently updating its General Plan to handle new land-use issues, asking local citizens where they would like to see growth.

Grover Beach

Grover City took on a new personality when it made the change to Grover Beach. About 12,500 people live in the seaside town, including 5,000 to 5,500 Cal Poly students and faculty.

"We're kind of a bedroom community for students and faculty of Cal Poly," Mayor Peter Keith said.

Keith says that students help add to the work environment, and he encourages them to be a part of Grover Beach.

Call Poly English senior Amber Whelchel said, "I've lived here for all four years that I've gone to Poly. I like it because I'm far enough from the party scene."

Keith notes that many students do not mind the 12-mile commute from Grover Beach to San Luis Obispo if it means saving money on rent.

"We have an abundance of rental facilities here. The rates are lower here because of simple supply and demand," Keith said.

"Whelchel added, "It's a great drive to Cal Poly. You drive by Pismo Beach, and there's never a lot of traffic."

Grand Avenue will soon expand with new restaurants, retail stores and office space.

The city is also developing a state-of-the-art industrial park known as "Grover Gardens."

Pismo Beach

Pismo Beach recently merged with Shell Beach, causing the Five Cities to become four. The newly combined city — population 8,500 — is best known for its wide stretch of beach and for its clam. Every third week in October, the city hosts a clam festival.

The sand dunes running through Pismo Beach and its neighbor Oceano are open to All-Terrain Vehicles, dune buggies, horses and bikers.

In addition, several movie and television producers have found that Pismo Beach makes an ideal set.

Pismo Beach — a new development including an RV resort, residential communities and a golf course — is in the works. Construction should begin in November, and completion is slated for May 2000.

Avila Beach

A few years ago, this beach town was a hot spot for sunbathing by day and boating by night. Today, however, Avila is a hot spot for Uncle cleanup crews.

Both the town and Uncle are working together to remove petroleum products, including gasoline, diesel and crude oil from the soil and water that lies beneath the beach itself. The proposed completion date is May 2000.

Top: Pismo Beach is the main beach destination for Cal Poly students.

Above: Many Cal Poly students find work at restaurants, shops or hotels in town and along the Embarcadero.

File photos/Mustang Daily
MISSING
continued from page 7
was featured on "20/20," "America's Most Wanted," "Unsolved Mysteries," "Geraldo," "Lauer" and in recent issues of People magazine.

The San Luis Obispo Sheriff's Department and the FBI are still looking for Smart, the 19-year-old speech communications freshman who was last seen May 25, 1996. Over the past few months, investigators have conducted interviews with students who lived in the dorms during Spring 1996, when Smart disappeared. They continue to find additional leads in the investigation that opened three years ago.

On the night of May 24, Smart went to a party at a house on Crudell Way just off campus. She was last seen walking by the red-brick dorms with 19-year-old freshman Paul Flores later that night. Flores was arrested by a criminal grand jury. He has never been charged in the disappearance.

Billboards advertising a $50,000 reward for information were posted along Highway 101 at the north and south entrances to San Luis Obispo. Two years passed, the billboards came down and Cal Poly students let the story go unmentioned. Then on Nov. 12, 1996, Rachel Newhouse, a 20-year-old Cal Poly nutrition junior, was reported missing.

The case shocked a campus that had tucked safety awareness into the back of its mind.

Newhouse was last seen leaving Tortilla Flats restaurant between 10:30 p.m. Thursday and 2 a.m. Friday.

When Newhouse did not show up for work on Friday, her friends contacted the police. According to police, Newhouse had attended several parties the night she disappeared and was drinking throughout the night.

"Police suspect that Newhouse left Tortilla Flats on foot. According to witnesses, many saw her walking out of the restaurant.

Investigators turned up nothing solid, until they found blood on the Jennifer Street Bridge, which stretches over the train tracks made by the San Luis Obispo train station. After five weeks, DNA tests confirmed that the blood on the bridge belonged to Newhouse.

Newhouse's case was aired on "America's Most Wanted," in hopes the hope someone would know what happened to her.

Four months to the day of Newhouse's disappearance, another woman turned up missing.

Ayudia Crawford, a 20-year-old Cuesta College student, was reported missing March 12, 1997.

However, Crawford's case differs from Smart's in a few obvious ways. When Crawford reported missing, she claimed she was not drinking and that she was abducted from her home. Crawford's roommate, Carl Bohrman, had police drive by Crawford's house to check on her. When Bohrman still didn't hear from her daughter after police left her a note, she reported Crawford missing.

According to friends, Crawford was not the type to wander without telling anyone and especially not without her Ford Mustang.
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MASTER PLAN

continued from page 19

wanted to achieve through this. I just hope in the next few weeks to facilitate discussion and get everyone involved," Montgomery said.

Cal Poly will hire a consultant from the university for the environmental review. Kitamura said, "Hiring someone from your own community of school is rare. We are lucky that he is a part of the university because he knows what is going on and what the concentration should center on. It helps keep costs down too," Kitamura said.

Kitamura believes the Master Plan will cost less than $300,000. Master plans at other universities cost about $500,000.

The last time Cal Poly approved a Master Plan in 1963, administrators set a capacity of 12,000 full-time students. Administrators set a capacity of 15,000 full-time students.

"Back then there were no environmental regulations so the school built buildings upon circulation and activities. They didn't concentrate into the larger community and now it will influence San Luis Obispo," Kitamura said. The updated plan revolves around its environmental impact, and community members have active roles in the Master Plan through task forces.

NEW

continued from page 11

Market.

"We're looking at this facility as something that augments existing facilities," Amador said.

Library Director Brian Davis agreed: "The last thing we want to do is go out and build another library."

The existing library is 50,000 square feet short of a reasonable and expected facility. Davis said. The new facility would add more than 100,000 square feet for library space.

"This library was designed for books and journals, not for people," he said.

Five partners — Foundation, the library, Information Technology Services, Student Affairs and Associated Students, Inc. — have their hands in the complex planning. Davis said.

Both Davis and Gonzalez stressed the importance of students in modeling the new complex.

DOWNTOWN

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San Luis Obispo. Lomang said car dealerships especially bring money to the area.

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It's a delicate and difficult issue, but growth happens. Since San Luis Obispo is a place very few want to leave, growth might have to happen.

"Whether in the city or the county, there will be growth," Lomang said.

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"I'm going to try to find a job in my field in the area so that I can stay here...because I'm really enjoying it," he said.

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Building

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"If you keep building a better physical plant that can provide a better service to the next generation of students, then it's worth the inconvenience."

The engineering department began expanding its facilities to better accommodate its students in the ever-changing world of engineering.

The new engineering building — the Advance Technology Lab next to the Kennedy Library — will allow students to participate in labs involving aerospace, mechatronics, bioengineering, transportation management and engineering educational research.

"We'll have multimedia enhanced space and hands-on interactive computer interfaces," said Amy Hawes, director of publicity and communications for engineering. "It's like a virtual classroom."

Other plans to advance Cal Poly's academic mission may involve a new agriculture learning center for both teaching students and conducting research with outside industries.

The science department has proposed a new molecular science building to take the place of the old chemistry building, according to Bailey.

"Our (Cal Poly) focus isn't moving the frontiers of knowledge forward, but on using research as an educational tool for our students," Bailey said. "The value system at Cal Poly is that every time you do something, think of the positive effect it will have on the educational environment for our students."

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DOWNTOWN

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