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Not so SLO

Driving around San Luis Obispo this weekend, you may come across a few license plate frames boasting, "I love the SLO life!" It's a catchy double entendre suggesting life in San Luis Obispo is easy, kick-back and worry-free.

Mustang Daily's Open House edition looks at a few heavy topics on the table for San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly. Namely, we dive into underage drinking at Cal Poly and how the university is addressing the problem through education and enforcement. We also look at two plagued construction projects on campus and what has gone wrong along the way to completion.

There's also a bit of irony in the small-town pride. While most want to keep San Luis Obispo under control, the town finds itself with a huge corporate structure called Cal Poly Foundation and a state-of-the-art sports facility called the Sports Complex.

Finally, in honor of the last official "Open House," we flip through the memory book of Poly Royal and the tradition that next year's name change carries.

Welcome to the not-so-SLO life.

Sincerely,
Andy Castagnola
Editor-in-Chief

Road to the big event
What it takes to throw an Open House 5
Schedule of events 5
Minors in possession
Addressing underage drinking at Cal Poly 7
The big digs
Inching toward parking structure and Sports Complex completion
Building a foundation
Three retiring Foundation directors leave a multimillion-dollar operation behind
Open House in transition
This is the last official 'Open House' for Cal Poly. See what next year's name change means for alumni and the community

Extra change
Students find jobs that adapt to their lifestyles 14
Women's movement
Cal Poly's Division I women's teams have stolen the spotlight this year
Fields of dreams
The ins and outs of the much-anticipated Sports Complex
Small-town facade
San Luis Obispo isn't the cute town it appears to be
It's no Empire State Building
Campus construction looks inefficient in comparison to history's monumental projects

Open House
Advertising Director

Alumni Association ........................................ 8
Alumni Association .................................... 18
Ani DiFranco .............................................. 14
Associated Students Inc. ............................... 10,11
ASi Events ................................................. 5
Back Bay Inn ............................................. 8
Career Services ........................................ 12
Chile Pepper's ........................................... 8
College of Liberal Arts ................................ 16
Corn Dev .................................................. 6
Domino's Pizza .......................................... 15
El Corral Bookstore ..................................... 20
Embassy Suites .......................................... 2
Film Doctors ............................................. 4
Foothill Cyclery .......................................... 4
Gamma Phi Beta .......................................... 16
Health & Psychological Services ....................... 4
International House of Pancakes ...................... 16
Mt. Carmel Church ....................................... 8
MTV Campus Invasion ................................ 3
Mustang Village .......................................... 8
Planned Parenthood ..................................... 6
Seasoc .................................................... 16
Sieger's Optical Images ................................ 4
SLO City Storage ......................................... 12
Splash Cafe ............................................... 2
Stanner Glen .............................................. 6
Sycamore Mineral Springs ............................ 19
The Parable ............................................... 2
Valencia ................................................... 2
Virtual World Cafe ...................................... 16

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Editorial ◆ (805) 756-1796
Advertising ◆ (805) 756-1143
Fax ◆ (805) 756-6784

Victoria Siebenberg photo editor
Shelly Curry, Courtney Harris, Whitney Phaneuf arts editor
Andrea Parker opinion editor
Alex Castagnola, editor in chief
Joe Nolan, managing editor
Alexes Garbeff news editor
Katherine von Stein features editors
Adam Russo, sports editor
Matt Sterling, assistant sports editor
Andrea Parker opinion editor
Ryan Miller, assistant opinion editor
Whitney Phaneuf, arts editor
Steve Grogan, entertainment editor
Brian Anderson, new media director
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Victoria Siebenberg, photo editor

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ASI EVENTS

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Monday, May 1
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♦ IN CONCERT "BUSH with special guest MOBY"
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♦ HYPNOTIST
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April 6
LuLu Tamaso
April 13
Open House
April 20
Rocky VI
April 27
Little Bear & Kate
May 4
Goza
May 11
CP Jazz Band
May 18
Cultural Festival
May 25
Noggintoboggan
June 1
Atia & Dave

OPENHOUSE 2000
Friday, April 14, 2000

Counting down to the big weekend

By Robin Nichols
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

This weekend, a full year of Open House preparation comes to a head with three full days of activities. Every year, Open House coordinators begin planning on the Wednesday following Open House weekend. The chair is selected right after the event, and the committee directors are chosen by the end of spring quarter. After the summer break, those selected come back to school ready to work.

Committee members are chosen in the fall, filling out applications and going through interviews. This year there are 20 members. Club Relations Committee member and English freshman Jennett Rocha remembers her rigorous application process. "It takes a lot of time, and they want to make sure you're dedicated," she said. "You have to deal with a lot of people in the city, and you need good public speaking skills."

During fall, Open House committee members meet to set deadlines for themselves. Winter was when the real work began. Deadlines are set for club officers, who are sometimes difficult to pull together. "Clubs are all on different schedules, and they change officers at different times," said Open House Chairwoman and mechanical engineering senior Barb Borgonovi. "A lot of times what happens is the old officers started the process of Open House but never emphasized the importance of the meetings (to the new officers)."

Coordinating more than 200 clubs is a time-consuming process. There are six forms for every club, and each needs to be looked over carefully to ensure no errors prevent the event from taking place. Each club proposes what it wants to do, and the Open House committee chooses to approve or deny it. Clubs are allowed to sell food off campus during this weekend only, a compromise of Campus Dining and Open House.

"The main rule is no outside business employees or logos," Borgonovi said. "The clubs are subject to many other restrictions concerning their booths. The Open House Web site lists the regulations, from electricity to fire safety to hours of operation. Revenue for Open House is generated mainly by outside sponsors. Some money is made from the pancake breakfast and other activities, but the committee doesn't usually see PLANNING, page 14

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, April 14
7:30 a.m.- noon: Check-in for admitted students (Cal Poly Theatre lawn).
7:30 - 10 a.m.: Pancake breakfast (sponsored by Student Affairs).
8 a.m.: Design Village opens (Poly Canyon).
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.: Resource Fair (University Union Plaza).
9:30 a.m. - 10 a.m.: University Welcome #1 in Rec Center ( Colleges of Agriculture, Engineering, and Science and Math).
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.: College and departmental activities (various locations).
10:30 - 11 a.m.: University Welcome #2 in Rec Center ( Colleges of Architecture, Business and Liberal Arts).
12:30-1 p.m.: University Welcome #3 in Rec Center ( Colleges of Science).
1:30-2 p.m.: Cultural Festival.
2 p.m.: University Welcome #4 in Rec Center ( Colleges of Business and Social Sciences).
3:30-4 p.m.: University Welcome #5 in Rec Center ( Colleges of Business and Social Sciences).
4:30-5 p.m.: University Welcome #6 in Rec Center ( Colleges of Business and Social Sciences).
6:30 p.m.: Cal Poly rodeo (Cal Poly Rodeo Arena).
8 - 11 p.m.: Casino Night in the Rec Center's main gym. Sponsored by ASI Events (for the admitted students and their families).

Saturday, April 15
8 a.m.: Design Village opens (Poly Canyon).
9 a.m.: Open House reception - by invitation only (Dexter Lawn).
10 a.m.: Opening ceremonies (Dexter Lawn).
10:30 a.m. (tentative): Opening ceremonies and club booths open.
10:30 a.m. (approx.) - 4 p.m.: Club booths are open for business.
noon: Cal Poly rodeo (Cal Poly Rodeo Arena).
noon - 4 p.m.: Math contest sponsored by the math department.
1 p.m.: Tractor pull (field east of the crops unit).
1 p.m.: RoboRobodance (building 208).
5 p.m: Cal Poly rodeo (Cal Poly Rodeo Arena).

Sunday, April 16
8 a.m. - noon: Design Village (Poly Canyon).
7:30 a.m.: Golf tournament check-in begins.
8 a.m.: Golf tournament tee-off. Golf tournament luncheon. Various alumni events will take place throughout the day (coordinated with Alumni Relations).
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Call us today to discuss your birth control options.
By Adam Jarman
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

A recent survey suggests Cal Poly students in general are drinking more alcohol than before, despite university efforts to curb underage drinking.

Recently, a case against Cal Poly's chapter of Sigma Chi fraternity has brought attention to underage drinking. The district attorney's office is investigating allegations that the fraternity knowingly served alcohol to a minor.

"Our usage has increased significantly," said Rojean York-Dominguez, director of health education.

She said Cal Poly participates in a survey every three years that asks university students about alcohol use.

"We are close to average with other California campuses," York-Dominguez said.

The study shows that Cal Poly students are drinking more now but are drinking more when they do.

"What is alarming is that students are drinking five drinks or more, more than two times a week," she said.

Face to face with Judicial Affairs

"I try to be proactive," said Artith Tregenza, coordinator of Campus Student Relations and Judicial Affairs. Although she interacts with students mainly after a violation has occurred, she says she likes to involve her department in programs that educate the campus about underage drinking.

"I think I have a responsibility to educate students," Tregenza said.

Judicial Affairs has been involved in the Violence Intervention Program, which focuses on sexual assault. Tregenza said that alcohol plays a large role in violent crimes.

Judicial Affairs has also made presentations during Week of Welcome in order to introduce incoming students to the pressures they will be facing. York-Dominguez said her department works with CPD to prevent each incoming student from information about alcohol and its varied effects.

When a student is called to a hearing by Judicial Affairs, Tregenza said she focuses on the student's decisions.

"It is important to talk with students about their choices and how they reflect on them personally and academically," she said.

In 1999, Judicial Affairs dealt with 36 underage-drinking incidents. According to department records, the majority of these cases involved students in the residence halls. Others involved drunken driving.

For 1999, the case load was slightly higher with 45.

Tregenza said she ultimately wants to help students improve their personal responsibilities.

Judicial Affairs hearings can result in a variety of actions, she said. One piece of the outcome may be for students to use "Alcohol 101," an interactive CD-ROM program offered through Peer Health and Education. This activity places students in scenarios that depict real-life situations, such as alcohol poisoning, peer pressure, sex and alcohol or binge drinking, she said.

"We can select specific programs with Alcohol 101 to best meet the student's immediate needs," York-Dominguez said.

Other Judicial Affairs outcomes may include attending the Health Living Choices course offered on campus or Alcoholics Anonymous meetings for a given length of time.

"I want students to ask themselves if they are being mindful with their choices," Tregenza said.

Police as educators and enforcers

University Police Chief Tony Aarts said he sees his department's role as both an educator and an enforcer.

University Police has an officer assigned specifically to the residence halls. "This provides us ongoing access with students," Aarts said. "This is important because most of the residence hall students are minors."

The residence hall officer provides educational programs concerning alcohol for residents. Aarts said the information presented involves all alcohol-related situations. "It ranges from drunken driving to the chances of sexual assault when alcohol is involved," he said.

The police department offers a variety of informational brochures that detail the effects of alcohol, and a listing of resources is available through Judicial Affairs.

In addition, University Police is consistently investigating students who use false IDs to purchase alcohol.

Last quarter, University Police made a bust of over 200 false IDs at a local liquor store. The majority of those, according to Aarts, were used by minors to purchase alcohol.

"A major factor in underage drinking is fake ID's," Aarts said. "As students are identified, we notify the DMV and request a suspension of their driver's license."

The DMV also works with law enforcement agencies to enforce new legislation concerning underage drunken driving.

According to the DMV, anyone under 21 who is caught driving with an alcohol blood level of more than 0.01 percent will automatically have their driver's license suspended for one year.

This is intended to be a stronger deterrent to drinking, according to the DMV.

University Police does not directly work with students after they have been involved in underage drinking cases, but refers them to Judicial Affairs or Housing and Residential Life.

Learning from peers

Peer Health coordinates several measures to increase awareness of the effects of alcohol. It has informational booths at all major events on campus, said York-Dominguez, who advises and trains about 50 Peer Health educators.

These educators are divided into small groups, each with a different focus area.

Alcohol awareness is part of the Thoughtful Lifestyle Choices (TLC) group.

"Peers would rather talk to someone their age that they can relate to," York-Dominguez said.

Over 100 proof truth events. Price said, are stories written by Cal Poly students about personal, experiences with alcohol.

"Our hope is not to teach or preach abstinence but to give students true and factual information about the dangers of alcohol use," Price said.

Another program in the residence halls is Aprilfest. Justin Price, coordinator of student development for Fremont Hall and Aprilfest coordinator, said, "April has been set aside by Housing and Residential Life as a intense alcohol awareness month."

"Last quarter, 545 students in the residence halls were given a lot of information regarding alcohol at the beginning of the year but this information is often ignored because students have not yet had much experience with alcohol.

"We feel that by the time April rolls around, most students have experienced alcohol or the secondhand effects of alcohol, and this is a perfect opportunity to realign the residence halls," he said.

Aprilfest activities include events such as "mocktail" parties and "100-proof truth" Mixology parties featuring non-alcoholic drinks and an opportunity for students to ask questions about the effects of alcohol.

The 100-proof truth events, Price said, are stories written by Cal Poly students about personal experiences with alcohol.

"Our hope is not to teach or preach abstinence but to give students true and factual information about the dangers of alcohol use," Price said.

"We don't say, 'Don't drink.' We say, 'If you choose to drink, here are some things to make sure you do it responsibly,'" York-Dominguez said.

Crying FERPA all the way home

By Adam Jarman
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Federal regulations are designed to protect students' rights to privacy, but also allow campus officials to circumvent that right when necessary.

The Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) reads that students have the right to privacy concerning their personal records. They may review and appeal any information in their records they believe to be untrue.

Ardith Tregenza, coordinator of Campus Student Relations and Judicial Affairs, said that the original 1974 federal legislation was amended in 1990 to allow campus officials to contact parents or guardians when they deem fit.

"There are cases when the student could be best served with parental intervention," University Police Chief Tony Aarts said.

Each case is looked at individually, said Tregenza, who coordinates hearings for students who violate campus policies. "It doesn't mean that we automatically call the parents," she said.

FERPA allows directory-type information such as names, majors and class standing to be released at the discretion of officials. Students have the right to restrict such information if they do not wish for it to be released.

The Office of Academic Records handles such requests.

Privacy Act (FERPA) reads that students retain control over all records concerning their personal records. They have the right to access and correct any information they believe to be inaccurate.

1974 federal legislation was amended in 1990 to allow campus officials to contact parents or guardians when they deem fit. This may be in cases of underage drinking, she said.

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The Office of Academic Records handles such requests.
Cal Poly Recognizes the Alumni Association Board of 2000

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Expires 5/15/00
By Kirsten Orsini-Meinhard
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

As spring quarter slowly rolls toward summer, the Cal Poly community is held in collective breath in anticipation for the grand openings of the parking structure and the Sports Complex — two new campus structures scheduled to be completed within the next six months.

The parking savior

After nearly two years of construction, the parking structure has faced two major delays and, recently, a lawsuit. Construction on the parking structure began in December 1998 with an expected completion date of January 2000.

When finished, the four-story structure will provide Cal Poly students and faculty with an additional 936 spaces of much-needed parking.

Project manager Katherine Dunklau said funding for the $8.8 million parking structure is generated from a combination of different sources. Primarily, money for the structure comes from parking revenue from Parking and Commuter Services.

Funding also comes from the state, which had set aside money to pay for parking structures on state university campuses, Dunklau said.

After a year of construction, the parking structure faced its first delay in December 1999, when a routine inspection revealed lack of reinforcements in two levels of the structure, Dunklau said.

The problem was due mainly to the lack of cross ties in the columns of the second and third levels. Cross ties strengthen the columns and are essential to the completion of the structure. The lack of reinforcements meant the structure was not up to building code, Dunklau said.

"This was all a seismic issue," she said. "There wasn’t any danger of just standing there and falling through."

Facilities Planning estimated that fixing the problem would move the completion date back to April 2000.

The problem was not up to building code, Dunklau said.

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ASI Student Government
ASI/UU Programs and Services Committee
Board of Directors
ASI President's Student Executive Staff
ASI Officers
ASI Personnel Committee
Event Co-Sponsorship

ASI Employment Opportunities
Students and Staff Recruitment
Graduate Assistantships
Employee Health and Safety Programs
Employee Training Programs

ASI Services/Operations
ASI Club Web Page Support
Audio Visual Support
Building Services and Maintenance
University Union Information Desk and Room Reservations

ASI Events
Leadership Program
Poly Escapes Student Volunteer Outings Program
ASI Events
Rose Float

McPhee Union
(managed by the
ASI Bi)

ASI Employment Opportunities
Students and Staff Recruitment
Graduate Assistantships
Employee Health and Safety Programs
Employee Training Programs

ASI Services/Operations
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Building Services and Maintenance
University Union Information Desk and Room Reservations

ASI Events
Leadership Program
Poly Escapes Student Volunteer Outings Program
ASI Events
Rose Float

Please visit the ASI Web Page at www.asi.calpoly.edu for information on how to become involved in ASI organizational structure, bylaws, related policies and much more, on
Associated Students, Inc.

University Union (the Associated Students)
- SI Events
- Business Office
- Machines
- Repair Room
- Workroom
- Coffee Shop
- Act Center
- Credit Union
- Outdoor Equipment Rentals
- Pizza Parlor
- Edition Copy Center
- Escape
- Float
- Government Offices
- Student Life Office
- Travel Agency
- Bookstore
- Club 221
- President's Programs

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- Informal Recreation
- Intramural Sports Program
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Building a foundation

By Sarah Goodyear

Friday, April 14, 2000 13

Building Cal Poly's new Master Plan will fall on the shoulders of a future generation of Foundation directors.

Three top-level officials will leave their positions in the next few years. Their retirements come on the heels of a record-setting year for Foundation, which earned a total income of $60.3 million last fiscal year.

Executive Director of Amaral expects to leave his post by October. Don Shemenske left his position as director of administration and planning in February, 1999, and Associate Director Robert Griffin said he plans to retire within the next few years.

"I knew that (Amaral) was scheduled to retire. He had talked about it a number of years ago at board retreat," Griffin said. "He then stopped talking about it until recently, when he announced (his retirement). There was a block of time there where we didn't talk about that much.

Cal Poly President Warren Baker said, "I knew that was getting very close to retire­ment, and that it would be somewhere between now and three years from now. But I was a little surprised that he decided to leave now.

Amaral and his wife, Rose, said they felt now was the best time to allow new leadership to take over.

"The university is working on a new Master Plan for the next 10 or 20 years. That allows somebody to come in and get in right at the ground floor and help the university achieve their Master Plan objectives," Amaral said.

The university has enlisted a professional search firm to find a qualified replacement.

"We are looking for someone who really understands what the university community is like and the culture of the university," Baker said.

But also someone who is entrepreneurial and has good business sense, because that's important for the university." A

Amaral became the executive director July 1, 1971, and has since provided overall manage­ment of all Foundation operations. Prior to joining Foundation, Amaral had been a member of the agricultural business depart­ment faculty since 1967.

Foundation began in the early 1920s to manage funds for campus dorms and food ser­vices, student projects and a faculty-operated student store. The various functions became incorporated in 1940. It is chartered under state laws as a public benefit, auxiliary organiza­tion, but is not a private foundation under IRS code. In other words, Foundation is a separate organization designed to raise funds and provide services for Cal Poly.

"It's a nonprofit. It is separate from the university, but there is obviously a very close integration between the two enti­ties," Amaral said. "I have reporting responsibilities both to the Foundation Board of Directors and to the university president.

Foundation has grown substantially under Amaral. Much of the growth may be attrib­utable over the years, we've added services to meet the demands of the campus community."

Two recent additions to campus services include John's and BackStage Pizza.

"As student demands developed for those kinds of services, we're in a position to try to move in and provide them," Amaral said.

Financial reports for Amaral's first year as executive director were unavailable from Foundation or Robert E. Kennedy Library, but the 1967 annual report recorded $1.8 million in funds passing through Foundation.

Some $126 million moved through Foundation during the fiscal year ending June 1999. Foundation controls Campus Dining, campus printing, agricultural enterprise pro­jects, research contracts, El Corral Bookstore and an endowment program.

More than $53 million of the endowment fund is invested in government and corporate bonds, corporate stocks, real estate, mutual funds and cash equivalents pending long-term reinvestment. Investments are made by Foundation itself and with the aid of outside financial advisors and investing services.

Returns from the year's investments largely contributed to a 28 percent increase in net earnings, despite a 2 percent loss in income from auxiliary operations. These include Campus Dining, El Corral, University Graphics Systems and the agricultural units.

"We've got one overall goal, and that's to support the university's educational mission. We do our best by fulfilling all these various functions," Amaral said. "In other words, we see FOUNDATION, page 14

Open House presents Poly Royal’ has big shoes to fill

By Robin Nichols

Saturday April 15, 2000 14

Mustang Daily Staff Writer

Chaos, destruction and Cal Poly. Although these things might seem separate in today's students' minds, back memories of the event 10 years ago.

In April 1990, the 58-year-old Poly Royal festival changed forever. Alcohol mixed with thousands of people and turned cars, destroyed private property and assaulted police officers.

There were 127 arrests, 100 people injured and 15 police officers hurt over the course of the weekend, according to the Tribune. An esti­mated 100,000 people visited San Luis Obispo during the two days, leaving an overwhelmed police department.

University Police Investigator Mike Kennedy said, "I was there for both nights' riots. It was pretty much chaos. There were a lot of rocks thrown at police. One man hit was so drunk by a flying champagne bottle and rendered unconscious. The crowd was so unruly they couldn't get an ambulance to him. I got hit in my hand with a full beer can. All of this occurred off campus, from Tab and California to Foodball and downtown.

Former Cal Poly student Karen Kadlic said, "They tried to do things like they did many years ago. The thing that most comes to mind was the tractor pull. Poly Royal had a dif­ferent flavor (than it does now). I think President Baker is wisely trying to have a balance between the name Poly Royal and the name Open House. He is well aware of the con­notations of Poly Royal, but we have had a series of very successful Open Houses. The key is that classes are being offered on campus, and the structure is very different than Poly Royal of the '80s."

In previous years, most classes were cancelled on the Friday preced­ing Poly Royal. Local architect and Cal Poly grad­uate John Pryor remembers Poly Royal from the 1970s as very different than 1990. "When I went to school, students knocked our proj­ects for a week, putting in 40 hours. Students spruced up the campus and did construction projects. Maybe school spirit changed (in 1990). I think you almost couldn't duplicate that. As to whether the name change will affect Open House, Pryor said, "I think enough time has gone by that the name reflects tradition."
Students hawk wares to refill empty wallets

By Jennifer Beard

Architecture senior Trudie Winters turned to Mary Kay Cosmetics to help bring in additional money this year. "I wanted to make a little money while I'm in school, but I also like it because I only work when I want to, I don't have to be at work at a certain time, I can take off work if I want to," Winters said.

Winters has been selling Mary Kay for the last eight months. She said that besides earning flexible hours with her job, she has the opportunity to work with more diverse women in the San Luis Obispo area who have encouraged her to keep with it. "We don't have to sell in the stores because everyone brok and I don't have to be a salesgirl, but I feel like it's a good start to this quarter," Winters said.

Students who have never used Thompson transferred from Long Beach State University to Cal Poly to earn some extra money. "I got a nice discount, it helps out," Thompson said.

This is Thompson's second year working in the business. She said that the transition to the new store wasn't that bad. Thompson went to school full-time at Long Beach State college and worked 40 hours a week.

Another profitable field students are entering in is engineering senior Monique Matta has been representing Cutco Cutlery for the last four years and is finding a higher level of success locally.

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Women find their place at top of Poly athletics

By Katherine Hays

Student Athlete of the Year

In the 1999-2000 season, Cal Poly's women's basketball team went 22-9 overall and reached the Big West Conference Tournament finals. The team finished second in the regular season, securing a spot in the Big West Conference Tournament.

The team was led by senior guard Catrina Taylor, who was named to the All-Big West Conference team. She was also named to the All-USA West Region team.

Taylor was one of four Mustangs named to the All-Big West Conference team, along with seniors Jessica Woolfolk and Nicole Melton, and junior forward Janelle Watson.

The Mustangs had a strong showing in the Big West Conference Tournament, where they defeated Long Beach State in the semifinals before losing to UC Santa Barbara in the championship game.

Despite the loss, the team had a successful season and set the stage for future success.

The Mustangs will continue to compete in the Big West Conference and hope to reach the NCAA Tournament in the future.

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Sports Complex

By Matt Sterling

MUSTANG DAILY ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

The much-anticipated Cal Poly Sports Complex is set to open in October.
Six multipurpose fields, three softball and baseball fields, and two soccer fields will be available for use.

The complex will be used for both athletic competitions and recreational use.

The numbers

- 6 multipurpose fields with lights
- 3 softball fields with lights
- 1 NCAA regulation, 300-seat softball stadium
- 1 NCCA regulation, 600-seat baseball stadium
- 160 spaces in the parking lot

The quotes

"Our teams have been practicing far from campus and have had to deal with holes in the schedule. Practice time is at a premium, and games are forced to be played in the afternoon because of inadequate lighting. The team has no locker room and is the third priority behind high school teams and youth leagues."

"The softball team now plays in a field by an agricultural unit."

For McGuffin, the complex seems to have no negative aspect.

"When we think of the complex finishing was a little bit, but it should open in October."

"The complex will have something for everyone on campus to use, whether a club sport athlete or someone playing a game of catch."

"The Sports Complex will have a chance to play at high-quality NCAA Division I level units."
Don't let small-town atmosphere fool you

While waiting in line at El Corral Bookstore last week, I overheard a conversation between two students. They were talking about why they came to Cal Poly.

"The area was a big motivation," said one student. "San Luis Obispo is such a cute town; it's nothing like San Jose."

The other girl replied with, "Yeah, I love living in a small town. It's a lot safer, too." They both stood in front of an entire rack of "Remember" shirts.

Frankly, I have to wonder when Cal Poly students will stop referring to San Luis Obispo as a safe town. Obviously, the murders of Rachel Newhouse and Aundria Crawford last year have not hindered these students' opinions that San Luis Obispo radiates protection and goodness. They are not the only ones affected by San Luis Obispo's small town image. Despite the horror Cal Poly students had to face last year with the deaths of two of their own, I still see students walking the streets alone at night.

San Luis Obispo seems to paint the perfect picture of tranquility. Murders and rapes just don't fit in among the stunning foothills and the strikingly green landscapes that surround Cal Poly. In San Luis Obispo, big businesses are shunned and people smile at you in the street. The town is the polar opposite of the crime-ridden, mug-filled streets of big cities like Los Angeles. So why carry mace in your purse or refrain from riding your bike at night when your neighbor is most likely to be Mother Teresa?

The answer is simple: Small towns do not equal safety. Beneath the mom-and-pop stores that line downtown San Luis Obispo hide the staggering crime statistics and newspaper headlines that reveal our angelic town for what it really is. San Luis Obispo has more in common with big cities than meets the eye; it's just a matter of seeing through the small-town facade.

According to The Tribune, there have been 10 store robberies on the Central Coast since December. Of those robberies, six took place in San Luis Obispo. Three bank hold-ups and three restaurant burglaries.

For a town with only 42,000 residents, this is a staggering amount of robberies in a short amount of time. San Luis Obispo is no longer the college town that it once used to be. Two Paso Robles men have received long-term prison sentences for the murder of a San Luis Obispo woman last summer. Her body was found in a Dumpster. Only in big cities, right?

The violence that everyone would like to believe is absent from small-town life is, in fact, right next door. Even the mom-and-pop stores that are symbols of a close-knit community aren't always as safe as they seem either. This year, the owner of Tony's Barbershop in Templeton was sentenced to six years in prison for molesting two 10-year old girls.

Like a disease, violence continues to plague San Luis Obispo as it does the rest of the world. Like a disease, violence continues to plague San Luis Obispo as it does the rest of the world. The only difference is, here in quiet 'SLO' town, people believe that nothing can touch them. The danger of living in a town like San Luis Obispo lies in the small-town image that is created, causing residents to be oblivious to the violence that is taking place.

People living in big cities are probably safer than those living in smaller ones, because they assume that crimes will take place and are ready for them. In small towns, everyone believes that nothing can happen.

The murders, the rapes, the robberies - they will continue, just as they do in every other city, big or small. I only wonder if there will ever be a time when San Luis Obispo residents realize that crime doesn't stop upon reaching the "Welcome to San Luis Obispo" sign.

Kirsten Orsini-Meinhard is a journalism junior and Mustang Daily staff writer.

Letter policy

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Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, proficiency and length. Please limit length to 350 words. Mustang Daily encourages comments on editorial policy and university affairs. Letters should be typewritten and signed with major and class standing. Preference is given to e-mailed letters. They can be mailed, faxed, delivered or e-mailed to opinion@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu.

Don't let small-town atmosphere fool you

Like a disease, violence continues to plague San Luis Obispo as it does the rest of the world.
Poly’s construction pales in comparison to history’s feats

From groundbreaking to moving in, it took about a year to complete construction. It’s not our plagued four-story parking structure. It’s not the infamous Sports Complex. It was the Empire State Building, and the year was 1931.

With the nation trying to cope with the Great Depression, 3,500 laborers spent more than 2 million man hours constructing the Empire State Building. As it rose more than four and a half stories in a week, the tallest building in the world. The 102-story structure was supposed to be open sometime in January, but it is now about six months behind schedule. Setbacks on the project were due to both a structural error that caused reinforcement to be added and bad weather. I appreciate that the mistake was corrected before any serious damage was caused, but I am left wondering how a successful jump through the numerous hoops allowed such an error to occur.

As far as the weather is concerned, it is understandable that unforeseen circumstances can delay a project. But, I would venture to say the New York project experienced a harsh winter, too.

Poly’s construction pales in comparison to history’s feats.

If the structure opens according to the new schedule in June 2000, it will have taken just short of two years to complete the four-story garage. That is a bit less than impressive.

At the other end of campus is a project of an entirely different proportion. Our new Sports Complex isn’t but a month behind schedule; it should be complete in early fall.

The controversy here is the nearly $1 million that was used to fill some gaps in the funding. This money sparked a thunderous roar from students because it was taken from the Student Union reserve fund, money held by Associated Students Inc., but under the complete discretion of the president. Students felt proper communication between the president and ASI was in order before such a transfer of funds occurred.

This project isn’t damned by the system but by the people who run it. Naturally, the Empire State Building construction project had its flaws and controversies. None of them, however, sacrificed overall efficiency. Understandably, there are much stricter building codes and regulations today than in 1931, but I would hope our methods of efficiency would have grown with the same vigor.

We could learn a lot from depression-stricken New York.

Adam Jarman is a journalism sophomore and a Mustang Daily staff writer.
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