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Spring cleaning made easy

Cleaning house without the garbage, finding new uses for old things

Amanda Kwan
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Springtime is here again, and with it the annual tradition of cleaning house. But that doesn’t have to mean bag after bag of garbage.

Given fears of a recession and worries about overflowing landfills, there’s new incentive to find second lives for many household items.

“We can’t afford to keep living disposable lives,” said Lori Baird, a co-author of “Don’t Throw It Out: Recycle and Reuse to Make Things Last,” a compendium from Yankee magazine. “It makes sense for all of us to be more careful about how we spend money.”

Some of Baird’s favorite tips include using the wire racks from an old refrigerator as cooking racks for baked goods, and donating old towels to animal shelters, which use them for dog beds.

But not everything can be salvaged. Baird warns against reusing items such as children’s car seats, which have expiration dates because of frequent changes in safety features. “If there’s ever a question of safety involved in reusing an object, I’d say don’t do it,” Baird said in an e-mail.

For everything else, repurposing often requires a little washing up and a touch of imagination. The next time you’re contemplating giving something the old heave-ho, here are 15 tips to give it new use.

1. OLD DISHES, NEW PLANTER
Filling large outdoor planters with soil for a small plant can be costly. Pieces of a broken clay pot or ceramic dish help drainage and prop up undersized plants. Place shards at the bottom of a large pot until almost half the pot is full. Add a layer of plastic foam pieces or a mixture of gravel or pebbles (you can also use filler from old aquariums or wine corks), and then fill with potting soil.

2. OLD BRANCHES, NEW DECOR
If you’re trimming trees to prepare for the growing season or cleaning the yard, save long fallen twigs or branches that are in good condition. Tie in a bunch and let dry completely in the garage. Spray paint them in white, silver or gold and display in a vase or large urn as indoor decorations.

3. OLD MAILING TUBES, NEW WINE RACK
ReadyMade, a savvy do-it-yourself magazine, suggests making a wine rack with mailing tubes and an old milk carton crate from your college dorm years (or a box that’s at least 12 inches in depth). Measure the depth of the crate and cut the tubes to this length with sharp scissors. Stack the tubes in the crate and turn the crate on its side on a flat surface. Each cubby hole can fit a wine bottle. Be sure to store the crate in a dry, cool area.

4. OLD PENS, NEW SILVERWARE
Forks, spoons and knives with broken handles can get new bodies from old pens, according to Jaspal Marwah and Sarah Hunt of Vancouver. They’re winners of ReadyMade’s MacGyver Challenge, a monthly contest that challenges readers to find innovative ways to reuse common objects. To make their pen cutlery, discard everything inside the pen except its tube and cap. Fill the tube with hot glue, shove in the heads of forks, spoons and knives, and let sit until dry.

see Cleaning, page 6
Goodwill Has Savings
On Stuff You’ll Always Need

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Cleaning
continued from page 5

the cutlery, and let dry.

5. OLD SHOWER CURTAIN,
NEW GRILL COVER
Take a stained or tired shower curtain! Baird suggests using it as a
waterproof cover for outdoor furniture or a grill.

6. OLD PAPERWORK, NEW
DOG BED
Shredded paperwork from your home or office shredder, small
rags or bath mats, and old towels can be
donated to local animal shelters. The paper and bath mats make
beds for dogs and cats, and towels are needed to wash animals.

7. OLD BINDER, NEW CD
CASE
Watch this! Three-ring binders
from yours or your children’s
old school days can house CDs or DVDs that have lost their cases.
“Don’t Throw It Out!” says to store
them in an album refill pages for 3
7 photos.

8. OLD SOCKS, NEW ORNAMENTS SAVER
Save old socks or ones that’ve
lost their partner to store delicate
Christmas ornaments. You can also
use socks to stuff the inside of shoes so they don’t lose their shape
in storage.

9. OLD PANTYHOSE, NEW BROOM
Revitalize an old broom by
covering the bristles with ruined
Pantyhose. Cut a piece from the
leg, and stretch it over the broom’s
bristles. The nylon’s static will at­
tract lint and small dust particles as
you sweep.

10. OLD BOOK, NEW SAFE
Make a safe out of an old hard-
cover textbook or outdated encyclo-
daedia. “Don’t Throw It Out!” suggests opening the book to a spot at least
one inch from the back. Prop the book open with a paperweight. Use a pencil and a straightedge to mark a rectangle in the middle
of the page. Cut out the rectan-
gle with a craft knife, score the
edges heavily, and you’ll be able to
cut through several pages at a time.
Repeat until you’re about to cut
into the back cover. Place a piece
of cardboard or a thick piece of
scrap paper over the cover so that
you don’t cut into it.

11. OLD PILLOWCASE,
NEW TOY
Fashion a toy for Fido from a
discarded pillowcase, says “Don’t
Throw It Out!” Roll it longwise,
and make three knots — one in
the middle and two at the ends.

12. OLD NEWSPAPER,
NEW WINDOW WASHER
Go through the paper recy-
clables before you wash the win-
dows, because you can use old
newspapers to clean glass surfaces.
Scrunch up newspaper and dip it
into a mixture of equal parts white
v vinegar and warm water. Wipe
windows with the wet paper.

13. OLD YARN, NEW NEST
Another tip from “Don’t Throw
It Out!”: Help birds build nests by
giving them leftover yarn from a
crafting project. Cut the yarn into
3-inch strips and put them in a
netted bag, similar to the ones gar-
ded or onions come in. Hang the
bag in a tree.

14. OLD MOP, NEW CUR­
TAIN ROD
The long handle of a broom or
map makes a cheap curtain rod for
a small window or doorway. Wrap
the length of the pole with metal-
sic contact paper. Drill a small hole
at the ends of the pole to insert an
L-hook, from which you can hang
the curtain.

15. OLD SOM, NEW MOTH
REPELLENT
Dry leftover slivers from bath
shoes so they don’t lose their shape
in storage.

Mustang Daily
Housing

You deserve a break.

We’ve got plenty to distract you from those textbooks.
How to get that rental

Kory Harbeck
MUSTANG DAILY

The arrival of March officially marks the beginning of house-hunting season, a process that can produce Elmer Fudd-like results for the most well-prepared prospective renter. With the ever-growing student population, there is a larger exodus of students from the dorms and apartments each year, which makes finding affordable, conveniently located residences more and more like “hunting wabbits.”

San Luis Obispo Realty property manager Dawn Bell said 95 percent of her business is with students. So be very, very quiet as the Mustang Daily gives you its guide to making the ordeal as painless as possible.

Get on it

The early bird gets the worm. This sentiment holds true for the housing market. As competitive as things can get in San Luis Obispo, it’s important to be in that first flood of applications.

Most real estate agents in the area agreed that renting was not a first-come, first-serve business, but extra credibility is given to applications that are turned in earlier.

With agencies getting a better idea of what houses will be available in the fall, students should begin their due diligence now. Rushing into a housing situation can result in any number of dire situations.

The biggest issue, according to San Luis Obispo Realty, is students not checking out the property in person. Online descriptions accompanied with a small photo can only show so much. The needs and wants of each household are unique and can best be addressed by actually seeing the property.

Be professional

The most important thing to remember is to be as organized as possible in dealings with real estate agencies. "It goes a long way when the application is turned in with everything complete, the fees and all taken care of," Bell said.

Penmanship may seem like a trivial matter, but an illegible or scribbled application is a warning sign for evaluators, and the same goes with face-to-face meetings. Terry Leigan of JDR Real Estate says attitude is important when potential renters come into the office.

Terry Leigan of JDR Real Estate says attitude is important when potential renters come into the office. "I don’t care about piercings or tattoos but when someone comes in looking like they rolled out of bed. I take notice. A friendly attitude and an ironed shirt always make a good impression," Leigan said.

Another red flag renters want to avoid is filling out rental history with roommates rather than landlords. "Incomplete, or rental history that isn’t solid, is fishy," Leigan explained.

Go the extra mile

A complete, early application separates the contenders from the pretenders, but what does it take to stand out from the rest of the field?

Making the bid unique rather than just another name on paper was the most common sentiment among real estate agencies. Applications with cover letters and short tenant biographies were the most memorable applications, Leigan and Bell said.

“When (applicants) take that much effort in the process, it stands to reason that they’ll take good care of the property,” Leigan said.

“Our first responsibility is to protect the homeowner. Finding responsible, mature tenants makes things that much easier,” Bell said.

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ARMY ROTC. START STRONG.
Back in the dark ages — 1977 — I tood off to college with a "homemaking" chart from my grandmother offering cheap, quick and easy ways to tackle life's scum, smears, gloop and spills.

Quick and easy, that is, if you happen to know what oxalic acid is or keep a jug of Javelle water on hand. Well, turns out Javelle water is a bleach and oxalic acid is a rust remover, both valid remedies for stains today.

My grandmother died long ago, but I still have her now-yellowed tips using everyday fare from the fridge, pantry, medicine chest and utility closet as the first line of defense against stains. Though carpets, fabrics, countertops and floorings are more sophisticated, home-based stain rescues remain rooted in the old world — with some new twists — and are immensely popular across generations.

And not all involve doing strange things with food.

"They're tried and true," said Kathleen Seefeldt, 73, a grandmother from Woodbridge, Va. "Water. Ammonia. They're cheap and they work."

Do-it-yourself stain busters may be cheaper than store bought, but they aren't necessarily a quick fix. They often require meticulous attention to multiple-step instructions, lots of elbow grease and intimate knowledge of the type of fiber or the kind of countertop you're dealing with. Otherwise, it could be goodbye to that favorite silk blouse.

A world of home remedies are floating around the Internet, with whole books dedicated to a myriad of uses for both vinegar and baking soda, prompting several experts who test formulas to urge caution amid your panic when the red wine hits the carpet.

"People would love one magic wand and that obviously doesn't exist," said Carolyn Forte, home appliance and cleaning products director.
for the Good Housekeeping Research Institute. “Know your fabrics, know what kind of stain it is. There’s a little bit of science and a lot of luck behind it.”

Getting a stain up fast will swing the luck part in your favor. Cornstarch, cornmeal and talcum powder are absorbents and will work on greasy stains, for example. For stains on upholstery and carpets, reach for a bleach-free, lavender-free, liquid hand dishwashing detergent — a surprisingly versatile stain fighter.

“One surprise for me was liquid dish soap,” said Jaimee Zanzinger, editor of Real Simple magazine’s new household guide, Real Simple Cleaning. “Just your basic hand liquid with no coloring agents. Degreasers can be dangerous on certain surfaces, but the plain kind is safe on everything and dirt cheap. You can clean your windows, your marble countertops. Using products that you already have lying around the house to do your dirty work is kind of a no-brainer.”

Other versatile remedies include salt for blotting and scouring, lemon for its acidic value, nail polish remover on spilled correction fluid, and hydrogen peroxide for stubborn chocolate stains. Zanzinger suggests Alka-Seltzer to make toilet bowls shine, powdered lemonade to clean and deodorize an empty dishwasher, ketchup to scrub copper and toothpaste on chrome.

For some of spring’s toughest challenges, try eradicating grass stains with a solution of water, white vinegar and liquid dish soap, or apply a paste of vinegar and baking soda on ring-around-the-collar before throwing it into the wash. Baking soda also works well to rid washable surfaces of crayon. You can even mix a combination of vinegar and baking soda in a plastic bag, tie it to a shower head and trade scum and hard water buildup for a just-new shine.

“When I have a stain, I call my mother, except I go for the eco-friendly vinegar and baking soda over the ammonias and chlorines,” said Paula Seefeldt of New York City, Kathleen’s 42-year-old daughter and the mother of two. “She definitely likes ammonia.”

Ammonia may not be Earth-gentle enough for some, but the regular household version will make dried blood, perspiration and felt-tip pen disappear. (Don’t use it on silk or wool, though.)

And never mix chlorine bleach and ammonia! Toxic fumes can ensue.

“I fret when I get a letter saying I remember when you wrote about using ammonia and chlorine, and I’m like, ‘No, no, no. It’s one or the other’.”

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Come pick up your copy of “The Cal Poly Guide to Independent Living 2008”
Welcome to the neighborhood

How to be a good neighbor in San Luis Obispo

Your front yard
• Keep weeds to a minimum and clean up your trash. Residents can be cited for overgrown weeds and debris in their yard. Also keep random parts out of the yard, such as from cars or boats.
• Couches and other furniture items should be kept out of front yards. San Luis Garbage Co. can remove these for you.

Roofs
• Solar collectors and antennas are acceptable on roofs, but require permits. Placing furniture on your roof, however, can damage the living space and jeopardize your rental deposit.

Fires
• Open fire pits or burning trash in your yard is prohibited.

Parking
• Check out your street; many neighborhoods have restricted parking for residents only. Obtain a permit or you could be cited for this.

Be respectful
None disturbances are the most common complaints received by the police department. Just because students may not have to be in class until noon, their neighbors don't necessarily have that luxury.

Don't let conflicts get out of hand
If a problem does come up with your neighbors, don't make it worse. No one likes living in a feuding neighborhood. Despite what the government tells us, diplomacy is always a good thing. Try talking openly with neighbors about any problems. It may be easier than most may think to find a common ground. The most common reason for animosity between neighbors is a perceived lack of respect and understanding on the part of one, or both, parties.

When planning a party, let the neighbors know in advance, or set up a rule of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. for quiet on the property lines. Try to keep guests inside and the stereo turned down to underlying tension between permanent residents and the transient student population.

When moving into a new residence, go next door and introduce yourself to the neighbors. Because students move more frequently, it is seeing results.

Choosing to seek professional mediation may be a tough step to take, but it beats living in a war zone any day.

Dustin Stone
MUSTANG DAILY
San Luis Obispo is a lot like a dysfunctional Thanksgiving dinner. Recently relatives from around the country migrate to the home of a generous family member, drink to excess, drive their host crazy and leave a trail of destruction in their wake.

Only in this case, the city’s long-term residents play the gracious host, while the role of the drunken uncle defecating on the front lawn is more than adequately filled by students.

Neighborhood Services Manager Anshik Tregunsa said a large percentage of civil disputes in San Luis Obispo can traced back to underlying tension between permanent residents and the transient student population.

In an effort to relieve this tension and cultivate a more harmonious environment for all residents, the City of San Luis Obispo Office of Neighborhood Services developed the Respect MO Box program. The organization provides college students who live off campus with the following resources and tips for becoming better neighbors.

Make new friends
When moving into a new residence, go next door and introduce yourself to the neighbors. Because students move more frequently than much of the general population, the concept of being part of a neighborhood can get lost in the shuffle.

“I think it’s important for neighbors to try to relate to each other positively in order to get to know and respect each other,” Tregunsa said.

A little bit of face time with the elderly couple next door may help erase the stereotype of the loud, obnoxious college student and allow them to see the hardworking, upstanding citizen you really are. It also makes it easier for them to address you instead of the police should a conflict arise.

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Just take out the trash

Living with your parents is one thing because they love you unconditionally, whether you leave your dishes in the sink or your clothes on the floor. However, when you move in with friends or total strangers, those bad habits must disappear. Everyone has quirky things that they cannot live with or without. My thing is that I loathe the trash can overflowing and I change it regularly, but one of my personal bad habits is that I leave my shoes everywhere. When I moved in with my two best friends, learning how to share space and not get into arguments with one another were trials we all had to overcome. Yet being friends and living together is definitely a trial for us every day. The other day I brought the mail in and forgot to sort it into our mail slots, which is a frequent habit of mine, and the girls scolded me for not remembering. Mallory, one of my roommates, was looking for our gas bill for about two weeks and it was lying under a pile of junk mail I left on the counter. Oops! But since we are friends first and roommates second, they aren’t mean about my little slip-ups, and we never get into huge arguments over who left stuff in the living room. Communication is really important to have in co-habiting relationships.

“I’d say patience and understanding are important to have. Respectful of others’ property, I’m a neat freak and I hate messes after cooking and when people don’t clean up. It doesn’t have to be spick and span, just tidy,” said nutrition senior Kristi Melchiorse.

My roommates are pretty much clean freaks and they like cleaning. Don’t get me wrong; when I’m pissed off or frustrated, the first thing I do is pull on my rubber gloves and clean the entire house. However, I don’t do it on a regular basis. Finding out what you like and don’t like to do is easy. Have a checklist of...
other,” said Heloise, the syndicated columnist and high priestess of household hints.

While my grandmother likely fell back on home remedies for lack of reliable commercial products, we now have shelves and shelves of choices. Cold water on a fresh blood stain works beautifully, but protein-fighting enzyme pre-washes and detergents work well, too, and may be easier.

Forte suggests proceeding “dowly, cautiously and smartly” when it comes to home remedies for stains. Read care and product labels, and always test a remedy on a small spot first. What works on a soft drink stain on a T-shirt may not be the right approach for the same spill on your carpet, so assumptions can be dangerous.

Loosening up tough stains like mustard and curry on carpets and upholstery is as easy as reaching for glycerine, which is available in pharmacies, but petroleum jelly works best to soften hardened grease, tar and oil, for example.

Heloise said many hints passed down from our grandmothers and mothers are no longer valid but may still be circulating, or just stuck in the back of our minds and dredged up at crunch time.

Way back when, we might have been advised to use hairspray on ballpoint pen on clothing you launder, she said. Now, with ink, fabrics and hairspray formulations so dramatically different, her best advice is to use rubbing alcohol instead, though some people swear by hairspray to rid walls and hardwood of permanent marker when a little Picasso gets inspired.

My grandmother’s chart suggests ironing and towel blotting for candle wax, but ice is more effective to freeze the wax solid and break it up, chased by a dry-cleaning solvent to remove any leftover residue.

Some families have a near-religious attachment to club soda as a miraculous stain fighter, but Forte said there’s no scientific basis for its popularity other than it’s usually on hand so a stain is treated quickly. Tap water is less expensive and works just as well, she said.

Food condiments are wildly popular in the world of stains, including a teaspoon of pepper in the wash cycle to keep bright colors looking their best and a slice of white bread (cut off the crusts) to scrub greasy little fingerprints off wallpaper.

No matter how quick and prepared you are, some of today’s stains may be too tough for the traditional family fix and commercial cleaners alike.

“Long-lasting lipsticks are a nightmare,” Forte said. “They last on your lips and they last on your clothes.”

One thing hasn’t changed.

“This is so important,” Heloise said. “Never, ever, ever put a stain in the dryer. After you treat it let it air dry to make sure it’s gone. If a stain goes in a hot dryer it’s over.”

Commentary

continued from page 11

chores, and maybe another roommate will like to clean the thing others hate.

Getting everything out in the air will help when you get frustrated that someone isn’t doing their share of the household work.

“Being respectful of my stuff is really important, and having common sense,” said Rachel Hutchison, a graphic design sophomore.

Just because there is food in the fridge doesn’t mean it’s yours to take. Labeling food, as lame as that sounds, is a good way to know what bread belongs to you, or what Top Ramen package is yours. Also, when you move in, making a list of all your belongings makes situations easier when it comes time for someone to move out. Then you aren’t fighting over pots and pans or touch.

Another thing to keep in mind is schedules. In my house, we have a whiteboard calendar to keep track of all of our school/work schedules. That way, if someone comes in late or not at all, everyone knows where she is and doesn’t worry.

“I really like it when our girls have their schedules printed so everyone knows where they are. Especially living in a house with so many girls, it’s important to know where everyone is at all times because of safety reasons,” said Madeline Hauffman, a marketing junior and a sister of Sigma Kappa.

Having roommates can be fun, especially if you are close with them and like to do the same things. You always have someone to talk to, go out with or just kick it at home with. Just remember to pick up your stuff, and if you live with me, take out the trash!

Raiza Canelon is a journalism junior and a Mustang Daily reporter.
Housing shake-up

With Poly Canyon Village opening to sophomores next year, there is no definitive answer as to how this will affect housing around San Luis Obispo, especially with nearly one-third of students living on campus by 2009.

Story by Cassandra Carlson
Photos by Bryan Beilke

Off-campus student housing officials said it is too early to tell how the new facilities at Cal Poly will change the demand for student housing in the area.

Tim Kershner, manager of Stenner Glen and local real estate broker, said since Cal Poly cancelled summer school classes for incoming freshmen, they will have to wait to see how many students Cal Poly will enroll in the fall.

"At this point in time it depends how many they accept," he said. "It is too soon to affect anything for us."

Stenner Glen started accepting applications for next school year's housing March 1.

Valencia Apartments manager Sara Smith agreed with Kershner about the waiting game until next fall when most of the applications come in.

More on-campus housing is an attractive convenience for students, as many will not even have to leave campus to attend to their needs. The Poly Canyon

see Village, page 14
Village complex will hold more than 2,700 students in its nine high-rise buildings upon completion next year.

Freshmen roommates Spencer Spade, an industrial technology major, and Kevin Matthews, a computer science engineering major, are part of the 1,510 accepted through a lottery for Poly Canyon Village next fall — half of those who applied.

Matthew said he is looking forward to living at Poly Canyon Village.

"It’s going to be a brand new experience especially since a bunch of my high school friends will be my roommates," Matthews said.

However, many students like communications freshman Alyssa Ziegeler, who did not get into Poly Canyon Village along with her friends, will have to seek housing off campus next year.

"I actually might end up living with my (older) brother because I have no idea where else I would live," Ziegeler said.

Neither Spade, Matthews or Ziegeler attended any of the Poly Canyon Village informational sessions about applying to the complex because they all said they could find the information online.

Residents next year will pay $672 a month, which includes cable, Internet and utilities, costing the sophomores $6,068 annually.

Preston Allen, head of housing at Cal Poly, said the pricing is very affordable for the area.

"We wanted to price it in a way so we could offer students affordable housing and keep students on campus by providing all the amenities," Allen said.

"Affordability is always going to be challenged ... to some degree we set the bar for the community, but we don’t want to be so far out there," he added.

Students who are unable to make the high payments also have the option to share rooms in the few six-person floor plans offered in Poly Canyon Village.

Allen said when the Cerro Vista apartments opened on campus, rents adjusted in the city, but eventually the market adjusts and stabilizes.
After living in on-campus residential halls for a year, living off campus may seem like a dream. No more residential adviser-enforced quiet hours. No more campus food. No more roommates who stay up until 4 a.m. playing Halo.

"You may think you're on your own in the dorms since your parents aren't around, but you aren't really free until you move off campus," mechanical engineering senior Ryan Boughey said.

Many students dream of the day when they pack up and move from the dorms to a house or apartment with their friends. But living off campus isn't a yearlong party. Students often find that they have new responsibilities and must make adjustments in order to succeed.

"It's definitely different than the dorms," Boughey said. "Some students think they are still being supervised. When they have roommate problems, for instance, they come to me for help. But I'm not their RA. I can't get involved," she said.

"I love to cook and got really tired of dorm food. So it's nice," nutrition junior Hillary Vogue said. "But I remember my roommates in Cerro Vista standing in front of the pantry trying to figure out what to eat for dinner. One girl lived off frozen turkey pot pies."

Another issue is getting to campus. Students accustomed to free cable, high-speed Internet, and unlimited hot water must now sign up for such services, and pay for them every month.

"I get students coming to see me at the start of the year, wondering how to get Internet or cable," said Jamie Moreno, property manager of Murray Station.

Boughey, who moved into a house his junior year, had this problem. "No one ever told me how to get those things before," he said. "Apparently, utilities don't magically appear."

But Moreno thinks that the lack of supervision is the biggest difference between on- and off-campus life. "Some students think they are still being supervised. When they have roommate problems, for instance, they come to me for help. But I'm not their RA. I can't get involved," she said.

Students who need help adjusting to off-campus life have several options. Cal Poly offers free counseling services Monday through Friday where students stressed about their living situations can go for advice. Another option is Creative Mediation, a San Luis Obispo-based service that works with Cal Poly to help students resolve relationship problems, whether romantic, platonic or roommate-related. Cal Poly Peer Health Educators can help students learn how to stay physically healthy.

"Living on your own is a big step after leaving an environment that provided food, cleaning and even a resident advisor. While exciting, leaving that behind can require students to make adjustments in their lifestyle. But with a little common sense and, if needed, some assistance from one of Cal Poly's free advice services, students can successfully make the transition from dorm life to real (or almost real) life.

"It's nice being far from campus, but you have to get up a lot earlier to get to class, and since it's hard to get back home between classes, I end up spending a lot of time off campus," she said.

More responsibility is another problem. Students accustomed to free cable, high-speed Internet, and unlimited hot water must now sign up for such services, and pay for them every month.

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Oh SNAP!

Student peers are patrolling the noisy party scene armed with clipboards and pens as part of the Student Neighborhood Assistance Program (SNAP)

Cary Conrady  
Ml STAN(. DAILY

Whenever a grumpy neighbor calls the San Luis Obispo Police Department complaining of too much noise, two SNAP officers are sent to the scene to give the homeowners a "first warning."

"A lot of people like to see us rather than the police because we're sort of their first line of defense against a big ol' fine," said Oggie Brower, a mechanical engineering senior and SNAP officer.

"The people who know what we are and know what we do are happy to see us. But there are other people who think we're just there to break up their party."

However, Jennifer Jenson, a SNAP officer and kinesiology graduate student, said the biggest misconception about SNAP officers is that their job is to break up the party.

"We're not there to break up the party at all. That's the party person's choice. We're just there to let them know that their neighbors are calling the police department ... so it's really just to help them out," Jenson said.

The fine for a noise violation in San Luis Obispo starts at $350. The next noise violation is $700 and a third noise violation is $1,000. That might sound expensive, but it could be worse. In Tempe, Ariz. and San Diego, noise violation fines start at $1,000, said Arthid Tregenza, the Neighborhood Services manager for the San Luis Obispo Police Department.

SNAP started in San Luis Obispo in 1993 in response to the overwhelming number of noise complaint calls made to the police department. Currently, the city gets more than 3,000 noise calls every year, Tregenza said. SNAP officers stay busy on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, dealing with all of the noise violations so the police can focus on major offenses, like DUIs and fights.

When SNAP officers arrive at a house, they issue the homeowner a DAC — a Disturbance Advice and Management Card — which is a formal warning that stays in effect for 24 hours. If the police department receives another call within 24 hours because of noise, an officer will then come to the home and issue a $350 fine.

If two or more DACs are received within 60 days, the resident is then put on the "premise list," which means that the house is no longer visited by SNAP officers. Instead, the police are sent directly to the residence for the next six months.

"It's very effective ... it's very seldom you see anyone that gets on the premise list and keeps partying because it puts a serious dent in your party budget," Brower said.

Large parties of more than 75 people do not receive a SNAP warning. Officers are automatically sent to deal with the complaint.

"We hear from the officers a lot that students think they're entitled to get a DAC the first time, but that's not true at all," Brower said. Officers can issue a citation on the first contact if they observe a noise violation.

SNAP officers Brower and Jenson explain that what counts as a "noise violation" for a house is not the same as for an apartment. They said they base a violation on a "50-foot rule." If they hear any noise from 50 feet away, they will visit the residence with a warning.

"It's any noise that can be heard above ambient level 24 hours a day, if it's unreasonable for the proximity of sleeping areas," he said.

See SNAP, page 22

Greg Smith  
MIJSTANC, DAILY PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

SNAP officers serve as the city's first line of defense for college students partying too loudly.
Battle of the sexes, or not?

Rachel Gellman

It is a strange transition — leaving the comfort of home for the college dorms, a place of freedom where weekday parties are common and, as liberal studies freshman Mark Grisale said, "you just walk out of the shower in a towel and there will be girls. Right there."

Co-ed living is an idea students contemplate after leaving the college dorms for a variety of reasons. Although it is usually to sublease a space, sometimes students are just ready to try something different.

Biology senior Megan Branson and her two female roommates lived with two male roommates last year. One was randomly placed in an open room, while their other male roommate, who lived with them in the winter and spring, studied abroad.

"I'd live with a guy again," she said. "It wasn't really different than living with girls."

Branson said, contrary to public assumption, her male roommates didn't smell bad and were respectful of the female roommates' space, though she described the bathroom situation as "kind of interesting" given that the women were cleaner. "It was nice having someone to kill bugs and spiders and stuff," she said.

There are costs and benefits to co-ed living. While Branson said living with men was ultimately drama-free, she usually found herself watching sports on TV, and the food she

MARGARET SCOTT NEWART

SEE PAGE 22 FOR MORE
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June 21 - July 19, 2008*
Information Session
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Guide

continued from page 18

The upside? The on-site study hall offers free tutors five nights a week. The downside? There is only one floor plan to choose from.

But tenants have access to a pool, recreational center, laundry room and fitness center.

Mustang Village I (located at 1 Mustang Dr.) and Mustang Village II (located at 200 N. Santa Rosa St.) offer the same amenities and more. Combined, there are three fitness centers, two pools, six laundry rooms, a basketball court, a convenience store, barbecue pits, a computer center and a two-acre park.

Mustang Village I consists of studios and shared one- and two-bedroom apartments, while Mustang Village II tenants live in private rooms in three- or four-bedroom apartments.

Tenants choose from four different floor plans in Mustang Village I and II. They also sign individual leases, which, according to leasing agent Brant Nelson, helps out in case a roommate flakes out on rent.

"It's just a really nice place to be if you're a college student," he added.

Valencia Apartments, located at 555 Ramona Dr., only offers one floor plan for its 160 three single-bedroom townhouses, but the amenities more than make up for this. There is a fitness center, heated pool, computer lab, game room, study center and TV lounge. The facility also offers good student discounts.

"It's a good incentive," said Cesar Pimentel, an assistant in the fitness center, who went on to explain that students should choose the facility because it's clean and gets remodeled frequently.

see Guide, page 23

INFORMATION BY MICA VINCENT, GRAPHIC BY LAUREN RABAINO

Guide: continued from page 18

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see Guide, page 23
This new housing really creates a whole new climate for living on campus and a new, unique dimension by enjoying the social playground that will be at Poly Canyon Village.

—Preston Allen
Cal Poly's head of housing
Live at Poly Canyon Village
Take a vacation from searching for parking.
Save precious time to have more fun.
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The interest list is open
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Battle

continued from page 17

shared with her roommates al­
taster than if she was living with
always seemed to disappear much
stuff," he said. "But they would
ger, as tar as getting ready and
things would probably take lon­

Trinity Hall, said he would try
form before move-in dates if co­

Housing officials do not rec­

that students are older

"Girls should live with girls,
friends of his, one male and one

Grisafe, who currently lives in

The dorms were a lot cleaner and

meeting a few students who have

He said he found both situations

"I didn’t want to live with college
guys ... girls are more mature, the

"NEO is kind of the same thing as
SNAP. We’re not handing out citations,

they have a really good response rate with that.

Tregenza said the job appeals to many
college students because of the high pay
rate that allows many SNAP officers to
pay their way through college.

Plus, the job has more perks than you
might think.

"We actually get to go to all the parties
... we’re going to pretty much every party that night. So we don’t miss out
on the action too much," Jenson said. "You’re getting paid to drive a police

Many students wonder why someone who
in college would give up their Friday or
Saturday night to be a SNAP officer and
hand out noise violation warnings.

It doesn’t happen right away with
people, he shared similar

"It would be a lot cleaner and

"It’s a little tense."

"If people are going to school
and they’re trying to study, it just
adds another element of potential
easiness," he said, adding that
college students in relationships
are not usually ready to live with
each other.

“Girls should live with girls,
and boys should live with boys,”
he said.

Not all co-ed living situations
are subject to romance, though.

David Boortz, an aerospace
engineering graduate student, has
lived with females on several oc­
casions. During his sophomore
year at UC Santa Barbara, he
shared one small room with two
friends of his, one male and one
female, a situation he described as
"a little tense."

After living with a 55-year-
old woman when he first moved
to San Luis Obispo, Boortz lived
with a group of five females while
his roommate studied abroad.

He said he found both situations
pretty well in a short period of
time on a level that I would say
doesn’t happen right away with
guys,” he said.

In terms of the costs of liv­
ing with men, he shared similar
sentiments to Grisafe. He lived
in a house with seven other men
in Santa Barbara where music
always blared and the space felt
more crowded than when he
lived with women.

When he came to San Luis
Obispo after graduating he said,
"I didn’t want to live with college
guys ... girls are more mature, the
household vibe was a little more
adult, the girls studied."

Civil engineering senior Kay
Rathe has lived with only wom­

en since leaving the dorms. Next
year, she plans on switching things
up and throwing a man or two
into her living arrangements.

"Because I’ve lived with girls
so long, I would like to try liv­ing
with men out,” she said. "I’m in
an engineering, so I’d say a majority
of my friends are guys ... Because
I’m used to good friendships
with guys, I think it would be a
beneficial thing to try living with
them.”

SNAP

continued from page 16

a group of four people can be issued a noise violation for simply watching
a TV too loudly, he said.

"Usually the most difficult is when we have to show up at some­one’s house at 8:30 p.m. People think that the noise ordinance starts at 10
o’clock, but in San Luis it’s 24 hours a day," Brower said.

But SNAP officers don’t just hand out noise violations.
During the day, they also deal with parking violations, noisy animals and paper­work.

They also enforce NEO — Neighborhood Enhancement Ordin­ances. For example, if you have a couch on your roof or a cat in your lawns, SNAP
officers will come to your house and in­form you that you are in violation of a city ordinance.

"NEO is kind of the same thing as
SNAP. We’re not handing out citations,
we’re just giving them notices that it’s
against the municipal code and they have
72 hours to correct it," Jenson said. "We
have a really good response rate with that.
And usually it’s because people just don’t
realize it’s a violation.

SNAP officers must be a college stu­
dent at either Cal Poly or Cuesta, taking
at least 11 units and have a GPA over 2.3.

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is in college would give up their Friday or
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... we’re going to pretty much every party that night. So we don’t miss out
on the action too much," Jenson said. "You’re getting paid to drive a police

"Either way you look at it, we’re saving them 350 bucks," Brower said.

"The big night of the year for us is
graduation night and the bad part
about that is you have the parents in
town. The parents are 10 times worse
to deal with than the students."

— Oggie Brower
SNAP officer and kinesiology
graduate student

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•••

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MUSTANG DAILY

Housing

Friday, March 14, 2008
Clockwise from the top left: Mustang Village I, Murray Station and the Valencia Apartments.

Guide
continued from page 19

Murray Station, another remodeled complex, is located at 1262 Murray St. Its one- and two-bedroom flats and townhouses come with access to three new laundry facilities, a new study room, a pool and barbecue areas. There are two floor plans to choose from.

Czech Chalet Apartments, located at 572 E. Foothill Blvd., offers 31 two-bedroom units, laundry facilities and free parking.

California West Inc. manages the final two facilities: El Dorado Apartments, located at 555 Westmont Ave., and Garfield Arms Apartments, located at 738 Grand Ave.

El Dorado Apartments offers primarily one- and two-bedroom units, a pool, free parking and laundry facilities. Garfield Arms & Triangle Apartments offers one-, two- and three-bedroom units and laundry facilities.

According to Property Supervisor Ellie Malykonn, a list of prices and available units will be released April 1 to prospective tenants. She encourages anyone who is interested in either property to visit www.california-west.com.

All facilities are located within walking or biking distance to Cal Poly and most offer on-site management and/or security.

For more information, visit the general housing information Web site at housing.calpoly.edu.

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Jennifer C. Yates

UPPER ST. CLAIR, Pa. — Like a suburban stalwart, I have watched from my front window as dozens of neighbors picked up boxes from their garages and headed to the Jersey shore, set off for a week at a North Carolina mountain resort, and jetsetted to Las Vegas. I admit it. I suffered from vacation envy.

But after spending a relaxing two-week vacation at home with my family — with no packing, no airport delays, and no backseat chime of “Are we there yet?” — I was refreshed. It was just the vacation I needed. I recommend it to anyone who sighs with envy. It requires more time and energy than a typical week can offer.

Here’s how I enjoyed 14 days last summer:

I went to an amusement park planned my 7-year-old’s birthday party; splashed around at a wave pool; planned my 7-year-old’s birthday party; and turned an unused bedroom into an office (including taking four trips to Ikea).

Most importantly, I was able to take time off and have more unscheduled absences.

In the summer of 2006, Joye Marino knew she wouldn’t be able to take a vacation because of two recent knee replacement surgeries. So Marino, 69, of Baltimore, decided to spend a week at home.

“I’m a hairdresser so I stand up all day,” Marino said. “I knew that if I didn’t take care of everything at home, I would feel more pressure to get into and go back to work just as tired as when I left.”

With a clean house, she spent the week making a stained glass window and four Christmas presents and lounging in her garden. When she wasn’t out having dinner, she cooked gourmet meals after splurging on lobster tails, crab cakes and shrimp.

Marino, who plans to travel Australia on a future vacation, said she wishes other people would take the time to enjoy their own spaces.

“This can be paradise, I’m here to tell you,” Marino said. "..."
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To the Green Team:
You are my lucky charm! We beat the Gold! Love, Jules

To the Ladies of GLAM-F:
Good luck with procrastinating! Don’t let finals get in the way!

Mustang Daily Staff - Good luck on your exams! Love, J. Latney

Dear Sydney House girls, Good luck on finals next week! I love you all. Janelle

Lil Lucky Notes

Hypercube members of the news team: Next Tuesday, we throw down some serious trivia. Jam up and jelly tight. -Cookie Cyn
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PARTY

21+

FREE BREAKFAST BUFFET FROM 6AM UNTIL IT'S GONE!

1119 GARDEN ST, SLO

FIRST 20 THROUGH THE DOOR WILL RECEIVE A FREE T-SHIRT!

$2 JAMESON SHOTS
IRISH STOUT DRAFTS

Happy St. Patrick's Day 2008!