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Best electronic store

Best Buy

No wonder Cal Poly students voted Best Buy their favorite electronic store — it's the largest electronics outlet in the United States. Best Buy offers installation and maintenance service, technical support and subscriptions for cell phone and Internet services.

Another advantage Best Buy presents is the Geek Squad, for those who are not technologically savvy. The Geek Squad offers new personal computer set-up and security, repairs and upgrades, wireless networking and data protection, among other things. They can fix any computer any time, anywhere — no matter where the equipment was purchased.

The Geek Squad mission: "to create a world where computer problems are obsolete." They have agents on duty anywhere, any time and also make house calls.

— Kristen Cass



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NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

Boo Boo Records, located in downtown San Luis Obispo, recently expanded their selection to include a range of DVD products.

Best place to buy music

Boo Boo Records

Referring to Boo Boo Records as merely a place to buy music is like aluding to Disney as a company that simply makes cartoons.

For longer than most of us have been alive, Boo Boo Records has been supplying customers with a deep selection of music that goes beyond the surface of today's pop radio hits. The record store is notorious for offering superior customer service, holding regularly scheduled live-in-store performances, and is the primary ticket

outlet for concerts in San Luis Obispo County.

"We just had 300 people in here for the Matt Costa in-store," said Mike White, owner of Boo Boo Records. "That was an amazing event."

Recently, Boo Boo's has expanded their operations to include a massive inventory of music videos and movies on DVD.

Despite the increasing popularity of online music downloads such as Apple's iTunes and Limewire, Boo Boo Records continues to be the local front runner as a source for music.

"I think (people) still want to support the artist and the entire statement the artist makes by purchasing the whole album, not just a song here and a song there," White said. "People like all of the music out where they can see it, rub up against it, and feel it ... it's much more of a personal connection."

Boo Boo Records is located at 978 Monterey St. in San Luis Obispo or visit them on the web at www.booborecords.com.

— Anthony Circosta



Best book deal/bookstore



BRYAN BIELKE MUSTANG DAILY

Aida's bookstore on Foothill Boulevard strives to offer textbooks within the student budget.

Aida's University Book Exchange

One of the truly inescapable burdens of attending an institution of higher learning like Cal Poly is searching, locating and purchasing textbooks.

Imagine if last quarter, in a desperate bargain-hunting adventure, you decided to order your textbooks from a clandestine online distributor. Weeks later, when you finally received the eagerly awaited package, you were distraught to discover that not only was the textbook water-damaged and the wrong edition, pages 54 through 67 were completely missing. What a nightmare!

Moments like these are when Cal Poly students must thank their lucky stars that, just a block away nests their frugal friends at Aida's University Book

Exchange, where prices are low, quality is high and customer service comes second to none.

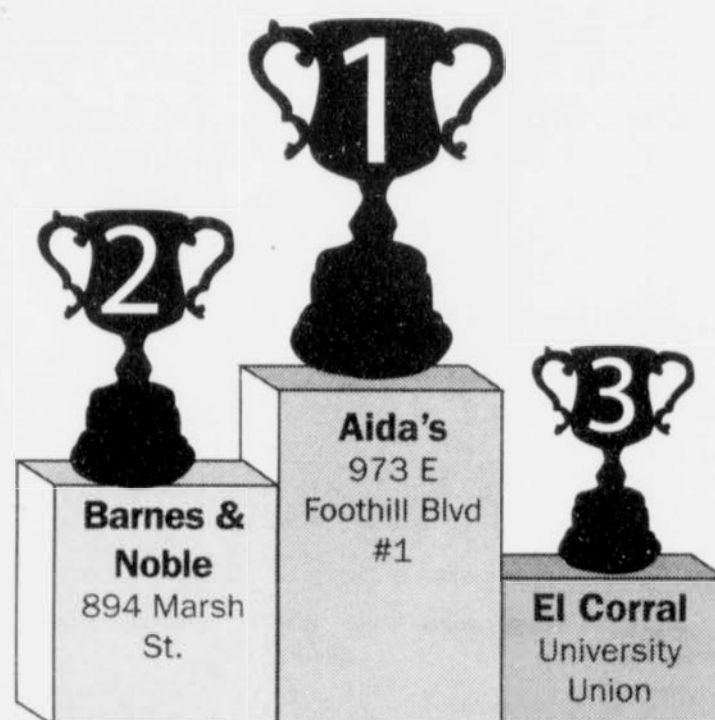
"We're competing with Cal Poly so we try to make all of our prices lower than Cal Poly," said Ryan Rasmussen, general manager. "It's really easy to find help if you can't find your classes or if you need help finding books ... there's someone available."

With the average textbook lifespan lasting not much longer than two to three years, Aida's bookstore must constantly be on the lookout for used and cheap books from wholesalers to maintain prices within the student budget.

The trick to a successful textbook-purchasing endeavor is to arrive at Aida's early in the term to acquire the unspoiled used copies, to care for your text during the semester as though it was your first born child, then hurry back to the bookstore during finals week — when buyback prices summit — to sell it while there is still a demand.

Aida's University Book Exchange is located at 973 W. Foothill in San Luis Obispo.

— Anthony Circosta



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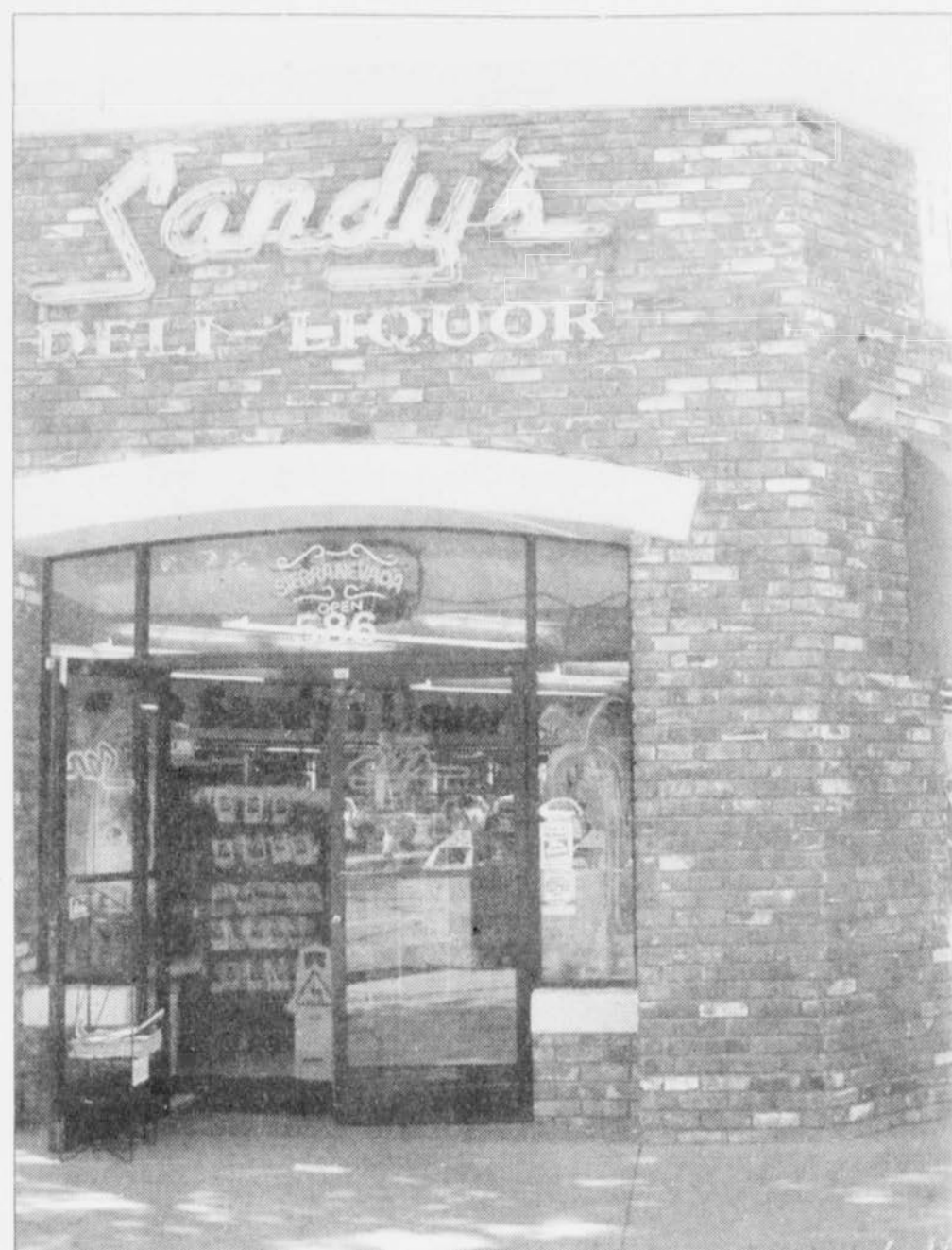
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KALI BILLS MUSTANG DAILY

Sandy's Deli-Liquor offers not only the best prices on favorite beers, but also a wide range of rare alcohol specialties.

Best keg deal

Sandy's Deli-Liquor

With such high demand and so many liquor stores in San Luis Obispo, the fact that students regard Sandy's Deli-Liquor as providing the best keg deals actually means a lot.

Perhaps, part of it hinges on their ability to corner so many markets. Reasonably priced kegs of high-end beers pull in the bachelor party planners and beer snobs alike. The cheap kegs of college staples like Miller High Life pull in the apartment partiers who put kegs in their bathtub and the stereotypical mass college revelry that requires saving a larger amount of money when buying a larger amount of beer.

Sandy's prides itself on more than just keg selection and value. They have the cheapest deal on a 30-pack of Natural Light. In addition, they also stock rare alcohol finds like the blue and red flavors of the hip energy malt beverage Joose.

Outside of alcohol, they provide even more for your party run. The store contains massive amounts of snacks and a wide tobacco selection ranging from some pretty good cigars to most brands of cigarettes.

Architectural engineering senior Jesse Bo Widmark describes the store as having "the most wonderfully amazing customer service" as store clerks tend to be rather good at remembering faces — a key ingredient for a good liquor store. The best keg deal includes some smiles, some jokes, cheap prices, wide variety and plenty of other store extras to throw in your basket. Sandy's definitely has all of those things.

— Graham Culbertson

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Best happy hour/drink deal



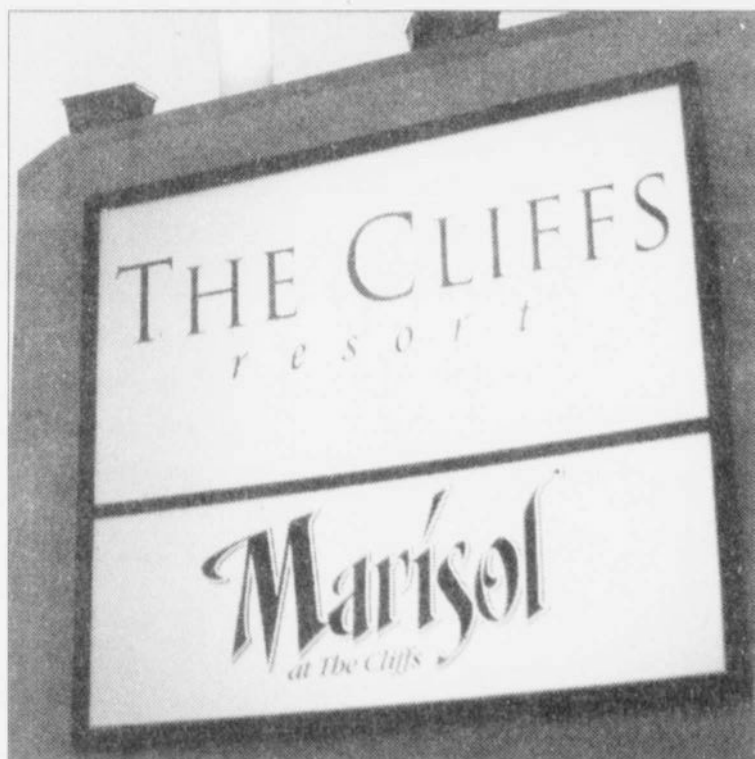
RYAN POLEI MUSTANG DAILY

Overlooking the shores of Pismo Beach, The Cliffs draws students to its alcohol specials and taco bar.

The Cliffs

When it comes to the best happy hour deal, what comes to mind is The Cliffs. Perched atop bluffs overlooking some of the Central Coast's most beautiful beaches, The Cliffs Marisol Restaurant is a great get-away spot when you need that break (or drink) to get you through the day. With its beachfront patio and breathtaking view, it's no wonder students choose to take their cocktails at The Cliffs.

"I really think the atmosphere separates the Cliffs from other bars or restaurants. You really can't find a place that has such an amazing view. It's laid back, comfortable and relaxing," manager Dave Elcon said.



Senior recreation major Jen Rigler said, "I love the beautiful sunset and the bartenders make the best strawberry margarita. It's the best place to go for birthdays or just to pre-party before hitting the bars."

The Cliffs offers specials from margaritas and well drinks to beers and cocktails. But what's really popular amongst Cal Poly students is the taco bar.

"I mean c'mon, you can't beat free unlimited tacos and chips," statistics junior Lauren Olerich said.

So next time you're hanging out at Pismo Beach and need a cold one, or you just need to take a break from the hustle and bustle of college life, indulge and try The Cliffs happy hour special.

The Cliffs is located at 2757 Shell Beach Rd., in Shell Beach.

— Megan Korbel



Best local wine

Tolosa Winery

When first walking into the tasting room at Tolosa Winery, the chic design looks like a Las Vegas club.

Located in the center of vineyards, Tolosa Winery is a charming central coast winery with a modern design accentuated by the natural beauty of its surroundings.

The innovative tasting room opened in August 2004 and was designed around the principles of wine making. The large stainless steel door at the entry is framed by wood panels that represent wine barrels and the fermenting tanks. These elements can be found all around the tasting room along with elements of glass and cork floors to represent wine bottles.

Another unique design feature is the outdoor patio where wine can be served from the outdoor bar. "We have a fun and educational staff, and you can come here and relax on the patio or come to learn about wine," events manager

Katie Noonan said.

The winery is a frequent stop for tourists and students who want to learn more about wine and the process of making it. With all of the grapes grown on the estate and an onsite production facility, visitors can take the self-guided tour through the winery. There is also a sensory evaluation kit to identify different aromas in the wine.

"I like the environment outside. They grow their own grapes and sell to other wineries so you know that it's quality," Cary Polston, 32, said.

Known for producing Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Syrah all grown in the coastal climate of Edna Valley, the tasting room is on the edge of town, just a 10-minute

drive from downtown San Luis Obispo. There is an equal balance of both white and red wines on the tasting list and a variety of different styles are available.

Tasting fees are \$5 a person, which can be applied toward a wine purchase. The tasting room is open daily from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

— Grace Abel



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Best place to pamper yourself

Nails Poly

After long, stressful days on campus, Cal Poly students need a place to break away from the pressures and anxieties of academia. What better place to do so than Nails Poly?

Conveniently located close to campus at 862 E Foothill Blvd., Nails Poly offers customers a full array of ample amenities (and student discounts) including manicures, pedicures, waxes and massages. Many love taking the opportunity to indulge and relieve the stress of the day by soaking their precious piggies in Nails Poly's luxurious foot spa.

Both men and women are welcome at the salon and it's not unusual to see a pleased man leaving properly manicured.

"They know how to pamper like you wouldn't imagine," mathematics sophomore Kaley Conrow said.

Nails Poly is certainly the best place to spoil yourself in a comforting environment with diverse, reliable services. Most importantly, Nails Poly turns out a satisfied customer, perfectly pampered by a job well done.

—Jennifer Giese



KALI BILLS MUSTANG DAILY

With student discounts available for manicures, pedicures, waxes and more, Nails Poly is available for all sorts of stress relief.



KALI BILLS MUSTANG DAILY

Michaels, located on Broad Street, is full of ideas and inspiration for any arts and crafts project.

Best party supply store/craft store

Michaels

Conveniently packed with everything from cupcake tins to foam boards, it seems as though Cal Poly students can find anything needed for party time and craft time at Michaels.

What really makes Michaels Arts and Crafts store, located at 3880 Broad St., is its diverse selection and excellent prices. There truly is something about Michaels that brings truth to the "imagine" slogan they have created for themselves.

"Sometimes I don't even know what I need for a project before I walk in the door," theater senior Michele Tondreau said. "But as soon as I take a walk down the aisles I quickly realize they have everything I need — and usually lots of things I didn't even know I wanted."

Michaels' excellent party supply selection is what makes it so popular among many college students. Its Web site even boasts an "inspiration" section to help you come up with unique party decorating ideas and then journey to the store to find them.

"I can definitely credit Michaels to some very fun

parties," chemistry senior Diego Baptista said.

Whether your mission is fun or crafty, Cal Poly students love Michaels for its variety and inspiration.

—Jennifer Giese



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Best place to put up parents



Apple Farm

It could be the prospect of free and delicious fresh-baked muffins and homemade boysenberry preserves that prompted Cal Poly students to vote the Apple Farm on Monterey Street as the "Best Place To Up Parents." The cozy hotel boasts one of the best breakfast menus in town.

"I love taking advantage of my parents' visit at the Apple Farm restaurant," business senior Allison Peck said. "Their treats are better than any coffee shop downtown."

The Apple Farm's own onsite mill house and gourmet gift shop (complete with top floor suites and hot tubs) certainly make it one of the most scrumptious places in town. But it's not just the food that keeps proud Poly parents coming back to the Apple Farm for visits. The hotel's amenities are endless including everything from a day spa to a three-level gift shop.

Afternoon tea is served in their green gardens daily, as well as a wine reception in the lobby. Each room at the Apple Farm is well-equipped with those fuzzy white robes you always want to steal, a big plush sofa to curl up on, and a fireplace for ultimate relaxation.

— Jennifer Giese



BEN ROZAK MUSTANG DAILY

Located conveniently close to campus, Apple Farm offers an impressive breakfast menu in addition to cozy lodging.



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KALI BILLS MUSTANG DAILY

From Wednesday through Saturday, The Graduate hosts various themed events every evening from "Country Night" to "Hot Latin Nights."

Best dance spot

The Graduate

The Graduate, located at 990 Industrial Way in San Luis Obispo, is a restaurant by day and home to the Central Coast's largest dance floor by night. For those 21 and over, there is a full bar with nightly drink specials.

Wednesday nights at the Grad is College Hump Night. Doors open at 9 p.m. and everyone 18 years old and older with a valid college ID or SLO County ID are welcome. For those 21 years old and older, 25 cent beers are served from 9 to 11 p.m. and \$4 Long Island Iced Teas are available from 11 p.m. to close.

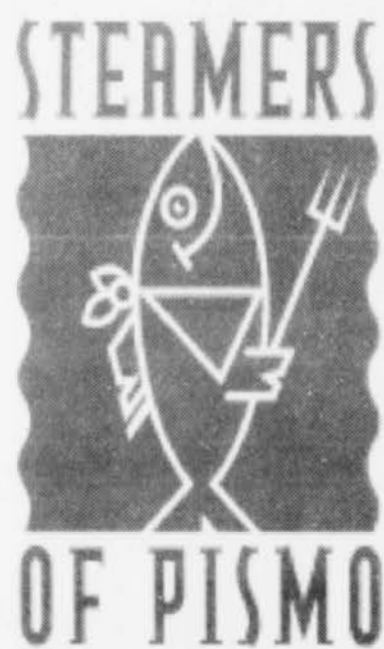
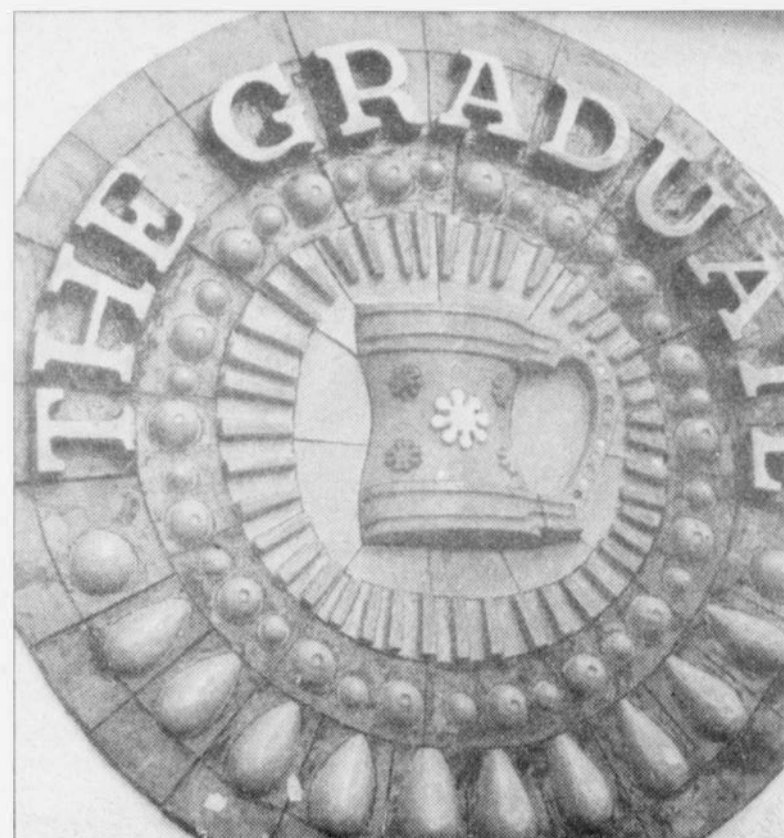
Thursday nights are "Country Night," beginning at 9 p.m. Cover is \$8 for those ages 18 to 20 and \$5 for those 21 and older. Thirsty? Draft beers are only \$1.50 from 9 to 10 p.m.

"I've gone to Country Night almost every week for about a year. Everyone there is in good spirits and it's a lot of fun. It's the perfect place to meet down to earth chill people," Cuesta College student Chris Skinner said.

Friday nights at the Graduate are "Noche Caliente" or "Hot Latin Nights," beginning at 8:30 p.m. On Hot Latin Nights, attendees can listen and dance to Cumbia, Salsa, Meringue, Rock and Pop in Spanish. Cover is \$8 for 18 to 20 year olds and \$5 for those 21 and older.

The first Saturday of each month is "Big Chill" night at the Grad. All other Saturdays are Rehab at The Grad Night. The night is 18 and over and offers two-for-one cocktails from 10 p.m.-midnight.

—Kristen Cass



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Best movie theater

The Fremont

A movie at the Fremont is more than a film, it's an experience. Since the theater's inception on Memorial Day 1942, it's been a big hit not only with patrons attending shows, but with movie stars like Laurel and Hardy and other Hollywood celebrities. The first show ever displayed at the theater was "This Above All," starring Joan Fontaine and Tyrone Powers.

The theater gives a feeling of going "back in time." The 1920s Art Deco designs are original. If you sit in the theater and look at the ceiling, you'll see its "black-lighting system" with ultraviolet bulbs covering the art designs and setting the theater aglow.

The theater is set apart in many ways, from being a historical landmark in San Luis Obispo to offering more than new first-run movies. The newest development is its 3D series. The first showing was "Meet the Robinsons" and the next 3D series will be U2 concerts by National Geographic, manager Jeremy Kramer said.

To keep the classics alive, the theater offers The Classic Series on Tuesdays. Some of the classics were played at the Fremont on its original debut. Developed and dedicated to Cal Poly and Cuesta students, the theater offers cult classics called the SLO Rewind series like "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."

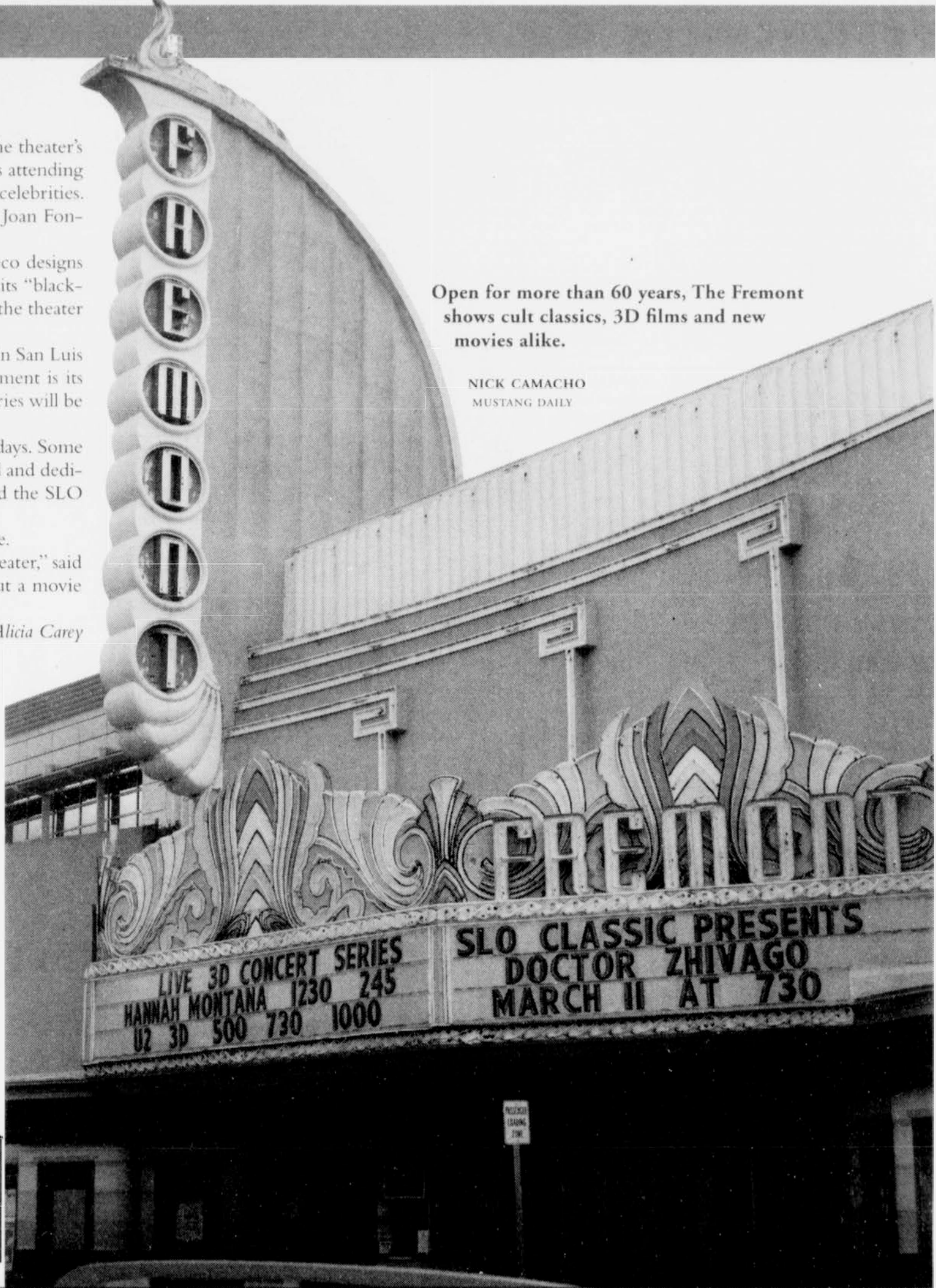
Fremont staff and patrons agree the atmosphere is "friendly" and unique.

"The theater gives a cooler experience versus the sterile downtown theater," said architecture senior Gerald Hunt. If you want a more than just a movie but a movie experience, the Fremont Theater is for you.

—Alicia Carey

Open for more than 60 years, The Fremont shows cult classics, 3D films and new movies alike.

NICK CAMACHO
MUSTANG DAILY



Best surf shop



NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

Catering to fans of skateboards, surfboards and snowboards, Central Coast Surfboards provides brand-name gear yearround.

Central Coast Surfboards

If there is one word to describe the advantage Central Coast Surfboards has over its competition it would be experience. In 1975, former Cal Poly student Mike Chaney founded the first surf shop in San Luis Obispo County and since then has continued to provide locals with quality customer service and a wide selection of products at a reasonable cost.

The team at Central Coast Surfboards prides itself on helping a wide variety of customers — for them, it's all about a genuine care for clientele, and that's why Cal Poly students persistently support this local legacy.

"I think most people want to spend their money where they get treated well," said Tom Brubaker, CCS store manager.

Although CCS does focus its inventory on surf-related products like surfboards, wet suits and other accessories, the shop also supplies the most skateboarding equipment of any

sporting good store on the Central Coast. When winter storms roll through and drop snow on nearby mountain ranges, students may also find a huge selection of snowboarding equipment. Other items, like fashionable apparel, shoes, hats, beanies, sweatshirts and action-sports videos, are plentiful year-round.

"We've got a good selection and we try to stay on the cutting edge of any the technical gear; be it surfboards, snowboards or skateboards," Brubaker said. "We're not afraid to delve into the new stuff if we think it's viable."

Students may find the hottest new board sporting gear at CCS's two locations: one at 736 Higuera St. in San Luis Obispo and the other at 148 W. Branch in Arroyo Grande or on the web at www.ccsurf.com.

—Anthony Circosta



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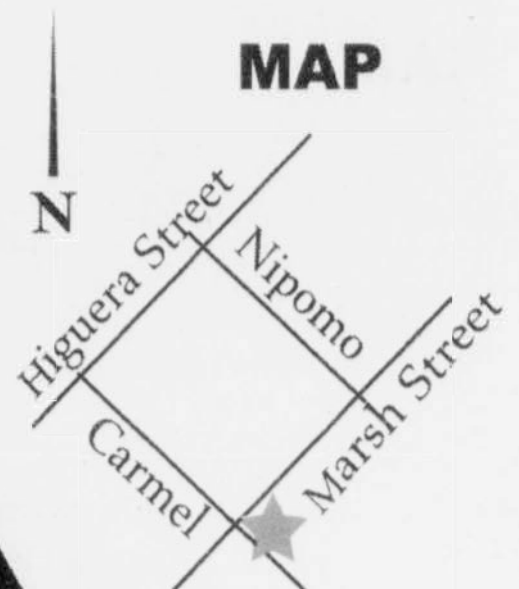
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New York Dolls

MUSTANG DAILY LIFESTYLE



GREG SMITH MUSTANG DAILY

Supercuts, located on Madonna Road, caters well to the student budget with its \$15 haircuts.

Best place for a haircut

Supercuts

We've all been there, whether it was to get the gum cut out of our hair when we were 5 or to get that classic "bowl" haircut in third grade. Supercuts does it all. With more than 2,070 locations in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico, it's no wonder Cal Poly students chose Supercuts as the No. 1 place to get their hair cut.

Most people have grown up with a Supercuts in their neighborhood, so when it comes to getting their hair cut in San Luis Obispo, students know Supercuts is always a safe bet. It's familiar, and people like to stick with what's reliable.

"You know what you're getting at Supercuts," business senior Robby Stout said. "They offer haircuts at a good value and you don't have to make an appointment, which fits with my busy schedule."

All haircuts are very affordable at \$15 apiece. While Supercuts is mainly popular with men, many women have found they offer a great alternative for a good cut or style at an affordable price.

Owner Sherry Landis said, "There are three things that make us unique: the high quality haircuts we produce, the excellent customer service, and the relaxed and friendly atmosphere we provide. My employees are absolutely terrific people and we love working with the

public and making the town look better with our great haircuts."

Supercuts is located at 253 Madonna Rd. in the Madonna Plaza, suite 130 in San Luis Obispo.

— Megan Korbel



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Albertsons

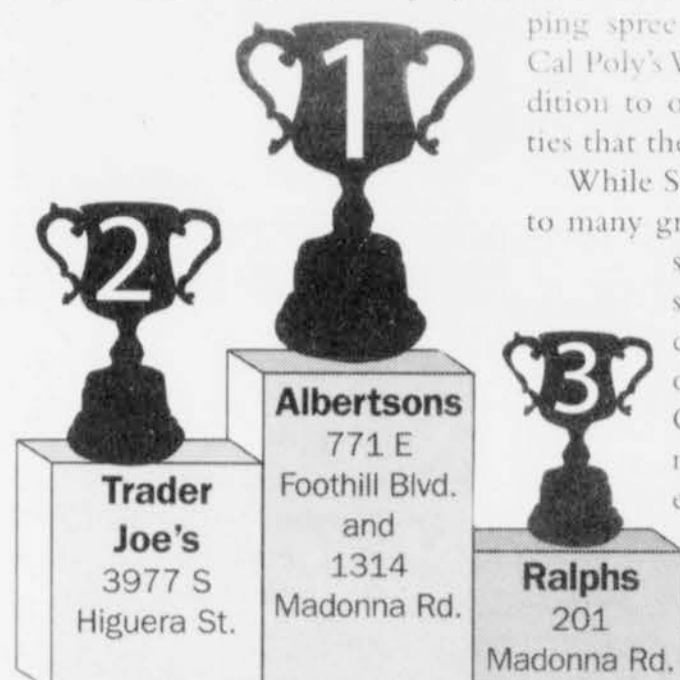
Albertsons sits in the heart of the student residential community, wedged between Mustang Village, Valencia Apartments, Stenner Glen and a wide range of other student housing options. In fact, the population of students is so high that industrial engineering senior Jeremy Grodkiewicz describes Albertsons as "a great place to meet women," as well as fulfill his grocery needs.

The store offers the deals that target what students are looking for, from a wide range of alcohol specials to the 10-for-\$10 deals. Students can lock down boxes of macaroni and cheese to provide for month-long cheap binge fests. In addition, it has a spread of party platters, plenty of cakes, and mountains of snacks making the store a perfect stop for preparing for club gatherings. Plus, a Starbucks inside provides for the latte-fueled life that many students lead.

Most notably, it gives back to the school. The store provides jobs to a large amount of student employees. Albertsons is also home to a shopping spree that raises money for Cal Poly's Week of Welcome in addition to other fundraising activities that they take part in.

While San Luis Obispo is home to many grocery stores, this award showcases that Albertsons is the student's grocery store. It's keyed in on providing what the Cal Poly population needs and puts in the extra work to keep the school going.

— Graham Culbertson



GREG SMITH MUSTANG DAILY

Though it may be a national grocery store, Albertsons has strong roots in San Luis Obispo, providing jobs and raising money for Cal Poly events.

Be our GUEST!

The Mustang Daily is always accepting **guest commentaries.**

Send your commentaries* of about 500 words (and on an original topic) with your year and major to mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

* Editors reserve the right to edit commentaries for spelling, grammar, style, length and profanity.

Best organic produce



RYAN POLEI MUSTANG DAILY

Even for those with a tight budget, Trader Joe's provides a healthy selection of snacks and meals.

Trader Joe's

At some point over the last few years, organic stopped being a buzzword. As a result, Trader Joe's isn't necessarily just Cal Poly's best organic store, but also serves as the main grocery store for many students.

At Trader Joe's, students can pick up fruit, vegetables, snacks, dairy and meats. Art and design senior Christine Adams describes their selection as "healthy and smart versions of what's offered at other grocery stores." In addition, the store offers a large selection of wine including many cheap, but quality options.

Beyond just being one of San Luis Obispo's few organic-focused grocery stores, Trader Joe's is also fairly affordable, a key factor when prices can drive students away from organic foods. Snacks, food and drinks can easily be bought on tight club budgets to allow for healthy meetings. Plus, few students can say "no" to the store's "free" food with taste testing of new products and potential meals.

Trader Joe's is the front-runner of bringing organic past its buzz hipster origins and as such the store quickly can be seen as the leader of the market. Trader Joe's makes organic accessible and affordable, two factors that are key for Cal Poly students journeying out on a collective

— Graham Culbertson



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Best student supplies

El Corral Bookstore

"Centrally located and convenient" is why Nicole Graham, a wine and viticulture student, voted El Corral Bookstore No. 1. She said she buys all of her supplies there, whether it's scantrons or Cal Poly binders, which can be purchased only at El Corral. Due to the bookstore's central location, she stops by in between classes.

"They are always bringing in new and interesting items," she said as she picked up a nearby chicken-shaped magnet.



BEN ROZAK MUSTANG DAILY

With a full stock of computers and Cal Poly gear, El Corral Bookstore is a convenient stop for supplies.

Kelsey Gagnani, a student manager and agriculture senior, believes the students chose El Corral over other stores because of the wide selection of merchandise, from computers and software to notebooks and clothing.

"We meet a wide variety of interests due to our diversity of items," she said.

She said the students like to have the Poly name on their items because, in her words, "Poly Rocks."

"You can't beat the prices on computers and software," said Preston Sirois, the computer department manager.

After thorough research, he said the prices are substantially lower than other stores. For example, the Adobe Suite was on "super sale" and was dramatically lower in price than at other stores.

El Corral is unbeatable in location, prices, variety and Cal Poly merchandise. Students agree and appreciate the bookstore for what it offers. If you haven't visited yet, put this place on your priority list; it's a must.

—Alicia Carey



Best study spot

Kennedy Library

Studying is like doing the dishes; we all know we should, but we often fail to follow through. Instead, we tend to get sidetracked by what's on TV or Facebook. However, fear not, for students have found refuge from distraction at the Kennedy Library, voted the "Best Study Spot" of 2008.

Offering five floors of silent study space, computer labs and enclosed rooms for group work, the library is the perfect place to crack open those textbooks and start cramming. Open Sunday through Thursday until 2 a.m. with extended hours during exam times, the library is the ideal place to complete the 25 to 35 study hours suggested by the university.

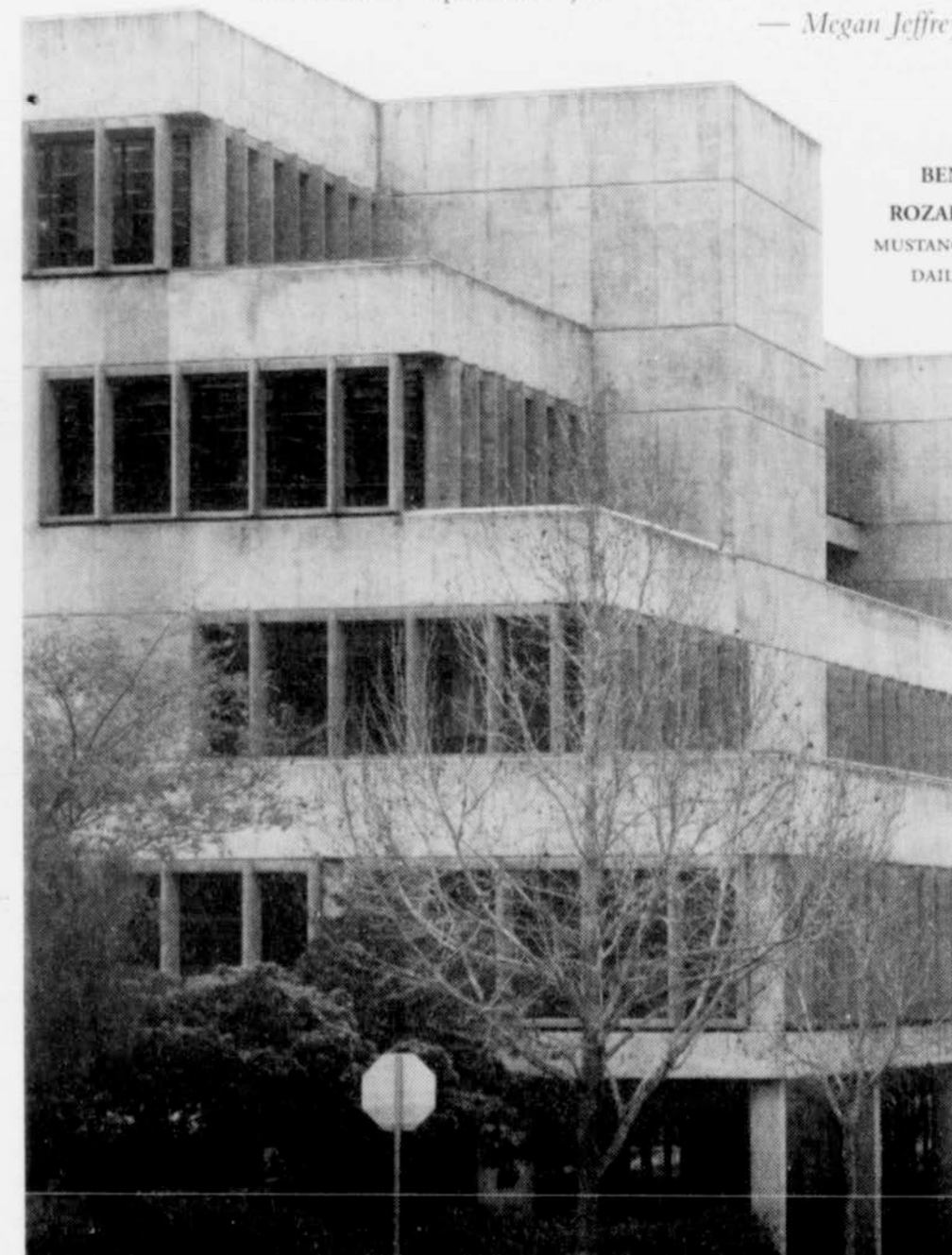
"I go to the library to study because it's quiet and I can go hide in a cubicle where I won't be distracted," said Tracy Davies, a computer science junior.

In addition to the books found in the Main Collection, Reference Room and Special Collections, the library also houses Pony Prints, which serves as an on-campus print shop and bindery, and the student Reading Room, which is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Worried you might be overwhelmed by the wealth of resources? The library also boasts a knowledgeable and friendly staff, happy to answer all your questions.

"The library is a great place to study because that's what it's made for," said Nicole Martin, student librarian. "It's not like the UU where people go and hang out and be social. If anyone's being noisy at the library, you can tell them to hush up and they will."

Want to know how to make the "Best Study Spot" even better? Future plans for the library include an increase in available computer terminals* and the construction of a new coffee shop on the second floor, scheduled to open next year.

—Megan Jeffrey



BEN ROZAK MUSTANG DAILY

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Downtown San Luis Obispo

Best boutique



KALI BILLS MUSTANG DAILY

Despite the abundance of boutiques downtown, Lucky LuLu's is the top choice for Poly.

Lucky LuLu's

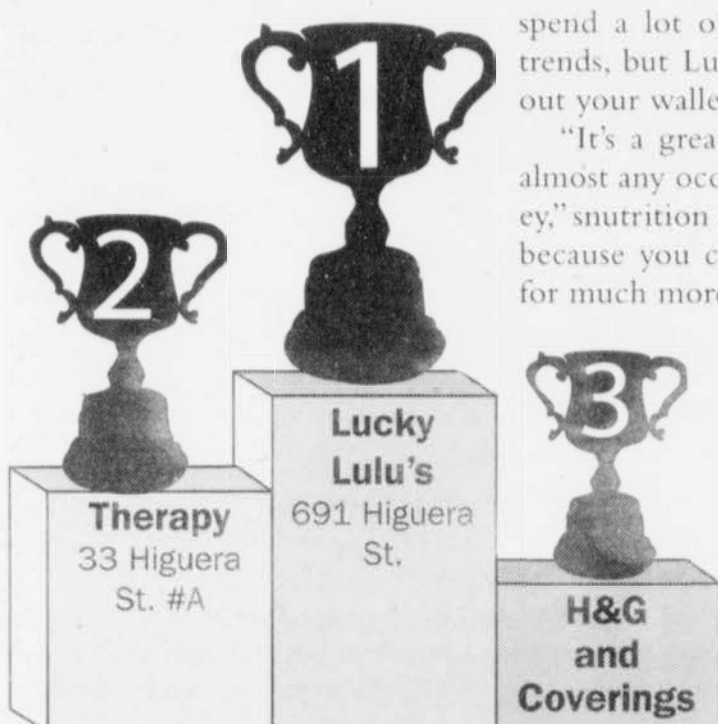
Located at 691 Higuera St. in downtown San Luis Obispo, Lucky LuLu's features affordable and stylish women's apparel. It's easy to spend a lot of money to keep up with the latest trends, but Lucky LuLu's has it all without drying out your wallet.

"It's a great boutique to get an outfit from for almost any occasion without spending a lot of money," nutrition senior Ginger Cochran said. "It's great because you can get the same styles there that sell for much more in other stores."

Cochran also noted that the store offers a variety of colors to choose from, even if the colors aren't in season.

"San Luis Obispo County is practically springtime year round, so it is easy to find outfits to suit the random weather conditions every week," she said.

— Kristen Cass



Best women's/men's fashion



KALI BILLS MUSTANG DAILY

For whatever the occasion, EXPRESS caters to both men and women in various fashions.

EXPRESS

At 887 Higuera St., EXPRESS offers clothes designed to have lasting style and great fit. It specializes in professional, weekend and party wear for men and women.

"EXPRESS is a good store to shop in if you don't know what is in style because you can just buy a few pieces of clothes from there and you're good to go," journalism junior DeAnna Reed said. One of Reed's favorite things about EXPRESS is their sales — particularly the semi-annual ones.

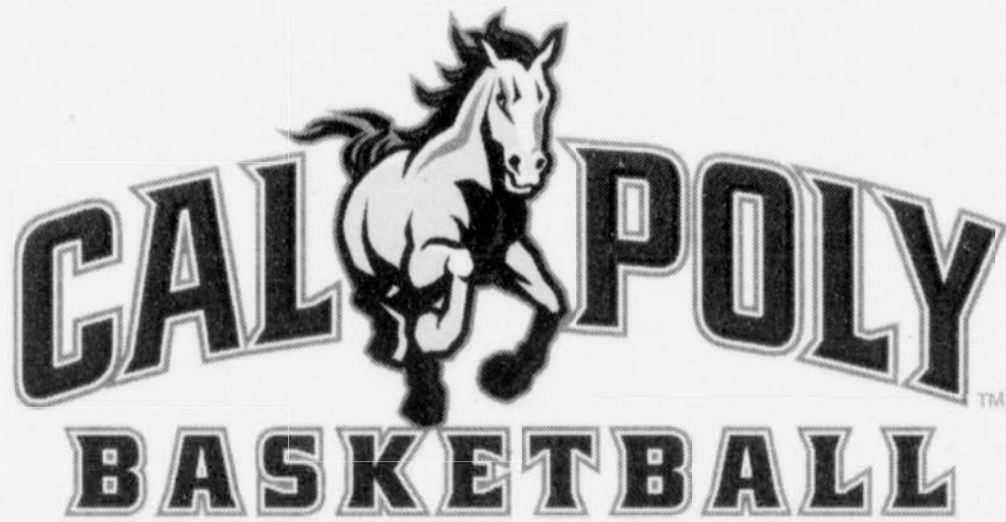
"All the bins everywhere don't look too pretty on the sales floor, but you can find some really cute clothes for as cheap as \$9.99," she said.

EXPRESS is known for its line of professional wear, such as the stylish, form-fitting and feminine suits that compliment the female body. For men, the store offers a variety of fitted dress shirts. These shirts are ideal for the office, under a suit, or for a night out of the town.

— Kristen Cass



THIS WEEK IN MUSTANG ATHLETICS



MEN'S HOOPS VS. PACIFIC**

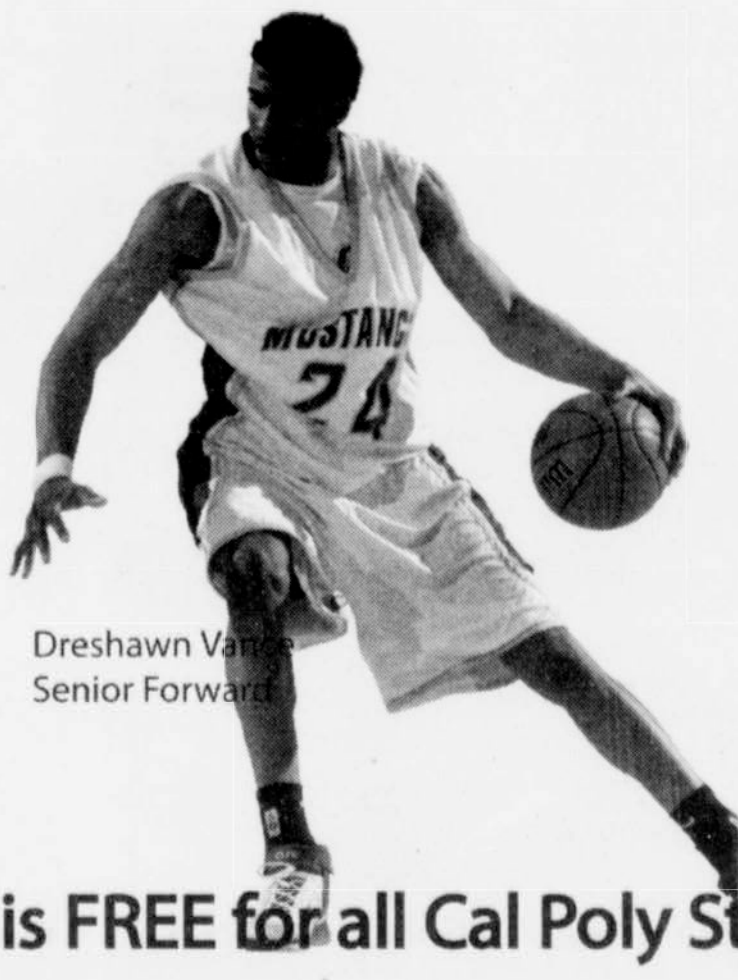
SATURDAY - 7:30 P.M.

SENIOR NIGHT

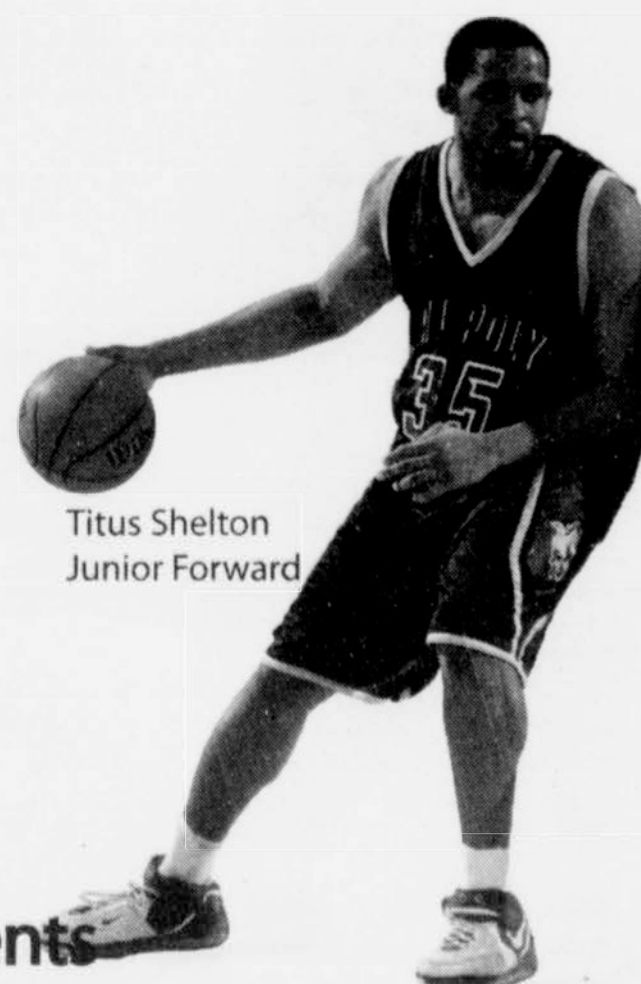
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COURTESY OF SMART STUDENTS - SMART CHOICES



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Junior Guard



Dreshawn Vance
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Titus Shelton
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Admission is FREE for all Cal Poly Students

Best bike shop

Foothill Cyclery

Foothill Cyclery owner Josh Cohen knows customers by name as they enter the store.

The specialized and friendly customer service is what has kept the Foothill Cyclery in business for the past 17 years. In the bike-friendly community of San Luis Obispo, the Foothill Cyclery is the favorite among locals.

"We're the smallest store by 1,200 square feet, but we're actually nice to people," Cohen said of what sets his store apart from other bike shops.

The bike shop helps a wide variety of customers, including college students, by offering student discounts and financing.

The experts at Foothill Cyclery offer specialized services such as bike fitting to each rider's measurements, custom bikes, repairs, and special orders.

Customers Dorothy Edminster, 71, and Albert Hirschmann, 77, specially ordered a rare Pashley bike from England. Cohen contacted the manufacturers and found the only distributor in the United States to order the bike from.

"Josh has put in so much effort to get it for us. They're here to solve our problems whenever we have one," Edminster said.

Even the professionals go here for service,

such as bike racer Rebecca Much.

"I've only been in town for a couple of months and it's good to walk into a bike shop and have everyone friendly and responsive. A lot of bike shops are snobby because they have expensive equipment and this is an elitist sport, but this shop has all of that without the snobbery," Much said.

The Foothill Cyclery carries all the top lines including Trek, the choice for seven-time Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong. They are conveniently open seven days a week from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

—Grace Abel



After 17 years of business, Foothill Cyclery may not be the largest bike shop in town, but it certainly has experience.

BEN ROZAK
MUSTANG DAILY



NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

On the corner of Madonna Road and Higuera Street, Jiffy Lube is a "quick and easy" service for students.

Best place for car repairs

Jiffy Lube

Jiffy Lube's mission statement claims, "We're committed to you with fast, quality preventative maintenance service to help preserve the health of your vehicle." Poly students agree that they are receiving high-quality maintenance for the health of their vehicles.

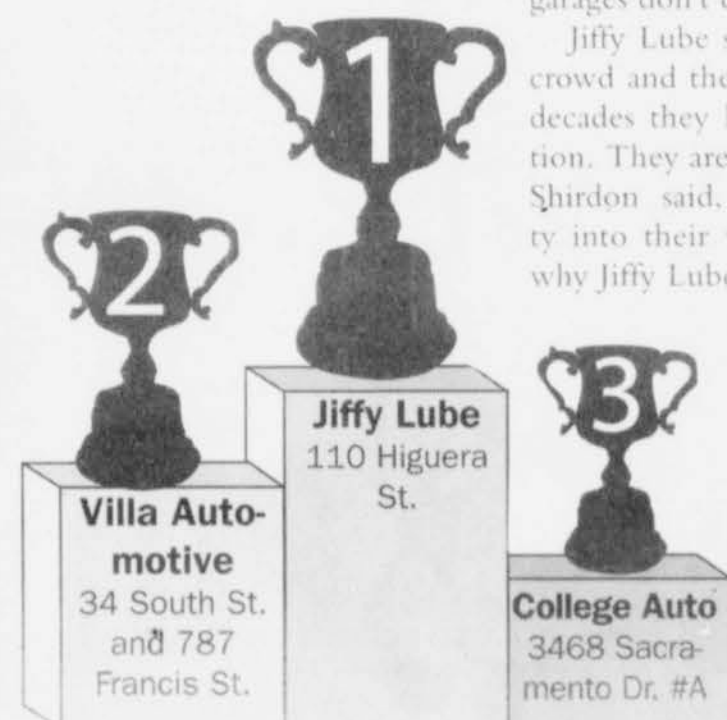
Cal Poly students are usually crunched for time and need fast and quality car care. Recent Poly grad Greta Shirdon, assistant manager at Jiffy Lube, said the students employed at Jiffy Lube tell other students about its quality services, and "word of mouth" is the reason so many students frequent the location.

Shirdon also said that the fact that it's "quick and easy" and requires no appointment is another reason Poly students voted Jiffy Lube No. 1 in the area for car maintenance. There are no long waiting times and you don't need to drop your car off or wait around for a few hours. The wait time is usually no more than an hour, according to Shirdon.

Jiffy Lube offers many services from installing wiper blades to oil changes. Their 17-point oil change is their best seller. They inspect all fluids, replace filters, change the oil and vacuum the car, which most car garages don't do.

Jiffy Lube stands out above the crowd and they have for the three decades they have been in operation. They are credible, honest and Shirdon said, "they put integrity into their work." You can see why Jiffy Lube is clearly the No. 1 choice for Cal Poly students.

—Alicia Carey



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BEN ROZAK MUSTANG DAILY

Sierra Madre is home to about 300 students on the edge of campus off of Grand Avenue.

Best student housing

Sierra Madre

If you're a freshman looking for a great housing opportunity, look no further than right here on campus at the Sierra Madre Hall, where students are sure to be impressed by outstanding front desk service, compassionate resident advisors and an abundance of really cool people.

Commonly referred to as the "freshman connection," the Sierra Madre Hall is a great place for incoming students to make new friends. The residence hall hosts students from nearly every major offered on campus.

"It's fun to meet people who aren't necessarily doing the same things as you are," said Laina Reginelli, a graphic communication freshman and Sierra Madre resident. "We have a lot of really cool activities that go on and everyone is really friendly."

The RAs at Sierra Madre are truly unique as they regularly engage in philanthropic activities. Right now, Sierra Madre has a plan in the works to help underprivileged people of the world.

"We are doing a concert to raise money and buy a water buffalo for needy people in Thailand," Reginelli said. "That's kind of cool. I don't think anyone else is doing that."

Sierra Madre is comprised of six three-story towers that each contain 50 modestly sized rooms. Connecting the towers is the central community building where students will find a helpful service desk and the recreational area that has games, musical instruments, and even a large color television.

Sierra Madre is located on the Cal Poly Campus at 1 Grand Ave., Bldg. 113.

— Anthony Circosta



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Best local, non-SLO restaurant/Best place to be spoiled by your parents

F. McLintocks Saloon and Dining House

Let's face it, when mom and dad come into town, it means at least one thing: good food and good restaurants all weekend. And McLintock's was not only voted Cal Poly's No. 1 place to take parents, but also the "Best local, non-SLO restaurant."

Unique to the Central Coast and famous for its hearty, ranch-style cooking, it's no wonder poor college students chose McLintocks as the No. 1 place to spend mom and dad's money.

After all, when is the next time they're going to have a delicious steak dinner?

The menu includes all types of barbecue, from prime rib and pork chops to steak, scampi and ribs.

It also offer burgers, sandwiches and salads and you

cannot forget their classic steak appetizer plate, turkey nuts and grilled cheese.

"I love hearing from a customer, 'We just drove three hours just to come here and get a steak,'" said General Manager Clint Altheid. "That's rewarding."

F. McLintocks has been going strong for 35 years in Shell Beach.

The building that houses the restaurant has been around since the days of gold mining and was once used for some not-so-savory activity.

"It was a bar, a brothel, a place for miners to come to get away," Altheid said.

And they still know how to mix their drinks. Serving all types of alcohol from beers and cocktails to the western classics — Annie Oakley, Roy Rogers and of course whiskey — there is plenty of time to get rowdy with mom and dad. The outgoing servers only add to the fun.

Bartender Shawna Lane said, "I think what's really different about McLintock's is that the servers are just extremely loud and outgoing."

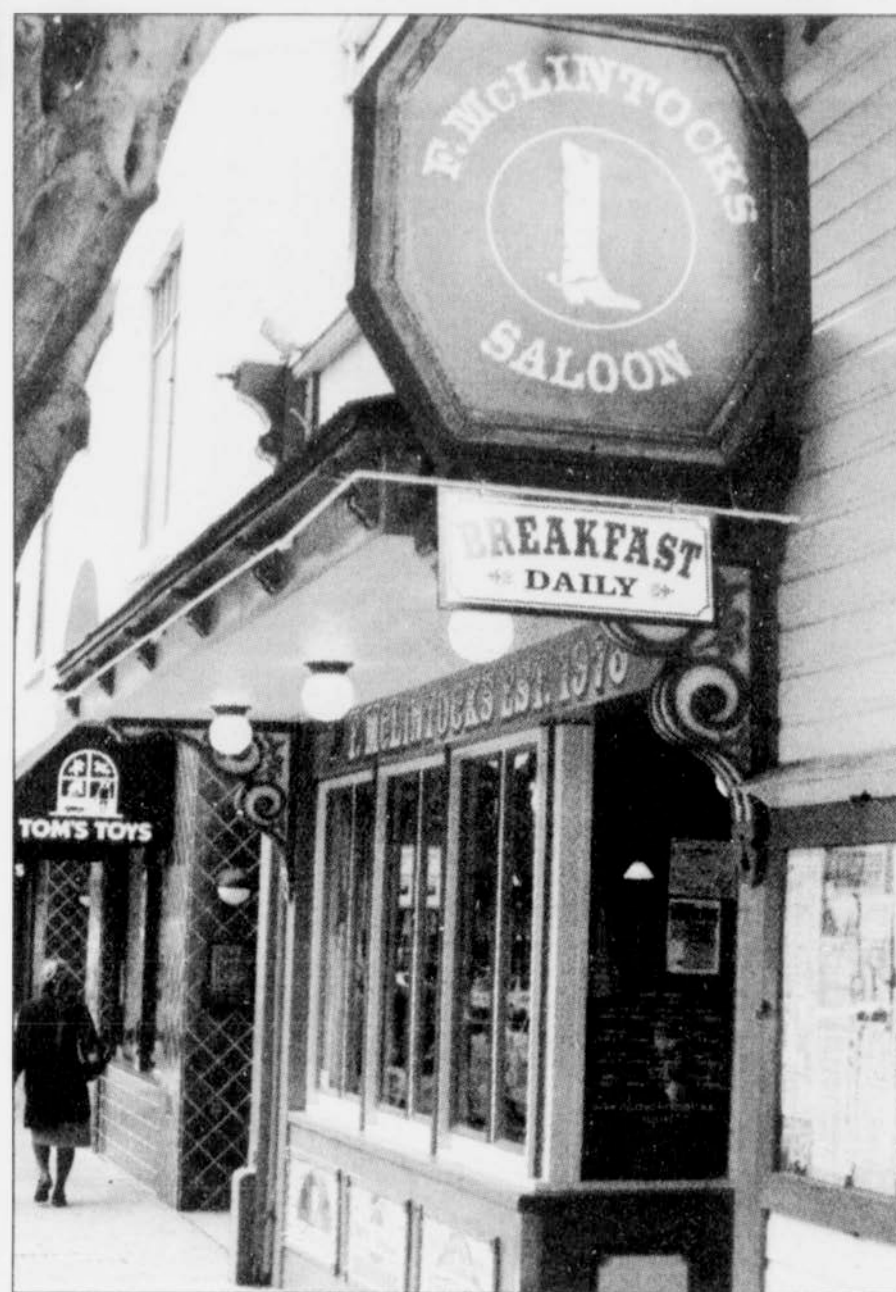
Students love our famous 'head pours.' It has been a tradition as long as McLintock's has been around.

A busboy stands blindfolded over a customer who holds a glass on his head, and the busboy attempts to pour the water in the glass.

Sometimes they make it, sometimes they don't. But it's always a fun time over here."

So the next time mom and dad come into town, take them to McLintock's for that meal you've been dreaming of at 750 Mattie Rd. in Pismo Beach.

— Amanda Clardy and Megan Korbel



NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

F. McLintocks Saloon and Dining House located in Pismo Beach serves burgers, sandwiches, steaks, salads and more.



Best Cocktails



GREG SMITH MUSTANG DAILY

Downtown Brew

Downtown Brewing Co. has the best of both worlds.

Mostly known for their award-winning microbrews, Downtown Brew (or DTB as the locals like to call it) also has a rotating list of original shots and cocktails mostly created by their staff.

With fun names like the Free Paris Hilton Shot — a sweet pink concoction created by assistant manager Rick Ramsey — \$3 is a stress-free donation to having a good time. Other tribute drinks include the famous Jimmy Juice, dedicated to a co-worker and patron of DTB

who passed away.

"The drinks are the best bang for the buck. They are the stiffest drinks in town," said Jerome Strange, the bar's former manager.

The prices are also tailored for a student budget, with well drinks from \$4.50 and premium drinks from \$5 to \$8. Happy hour specials are \$2 for well drinks and beer from Monday through Friday, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

From watching a sports game on TV to watching the Downtown Beirut League

every Wednesday night during the school year, there is an event almost every night at DTB. The game Beirut is unique to San Luis Obispo, and DTB has become infamous for its house rules. The variation of table tennis uses the same balls being thrown into beer cups.

"If you're craving beer, sports and burgers, this is a good spot. The food definitely goes with the atmosphere of the bar," DTB server and Cal Poly alumna Samantha Schott said.

The food menu is casual and has nightly specials. "The chicken tortilla soup is amazing. I order it every time," Cuesta College student Aaron Acosta said. "It's also a really welcoming place and the bartenders are friendly."

— Grace Abel



Best Coffee House

Starbucks

"Nothing cures a hangover like a mocha from Starbucks," business junior Mike Gordon said.

When students are stressed out from school, work or the need to cure a hangover, Starbucks is a popular choice with the Cal Poly students. Starbucks was voted "Best Coffee House" by readers of the Mustang Daily for the 2007-08 school year.

Joe Miller, a third-year student at Cuesta College and Starbucks employee, credits the consistent quality of the Starbucks product for its success with the Cal Poly student body.

"Starbucks is very consistent," Miller said. "You can go to one any-

where in the state and the menu and product will be exactly the same."

Recently, Starbucks has taken a more health-conscious approach to their menu, such as the "Skinny Latte," a 90-calorie beverage currently being offered.

The lattes are made with non-fat milk and sugar-free syrup, and flavors range from the standard vanilla and chocolate latte to the cinnamon dolce latte. Last June, Starbucks changed their milk from 4 percent milk (whole milk) to the lower in fat 2 percent milk. Starbucks also offers the waist-friendly Tazo Teas and Ethos Water, and full nutritional statistics on its Web site, www.starbucks.com.

Starbucks is located at 17 Chorro St. among other locations.

— Anthony Tan



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MUSTANG DAILY

DINING

Best Meal Deal

McDonald's

Though college students are growing older, becoming more mature (maybe) and more independent from their families, they still have a fondness for Ronald McDonald.

That, and a meal that won't break the bank.

McDonald's was voted "Best Meal Deal" by Cal Poly students who enjoy fast food at a budget-friendly price.

Manager Chris Ujano believes affordability and location are the two biggest reasons for the success of McDonald's in San Luis Obispo.

McDonald's offers a \$1 Big Mac on Mondays and \$1 chicken McNuggets on Wednesdays, a benefit for college students operating within a tight budget.

On top of that, McDonald's

offers a consistent dollar menu every day that includes a variety of menu items from the double cheeseburger to a healthy side salad.

Not to mention a modest 42-ounce drink for 99 cents.

Ujano, the manager of the McDonald's located on Foothill, also credits the location of McDonald's as a key ingredient to its success.

Because of its proximity to the Cal Poly campus and its student housing, Ujano believes 40 percent of McDonald's customers are students.

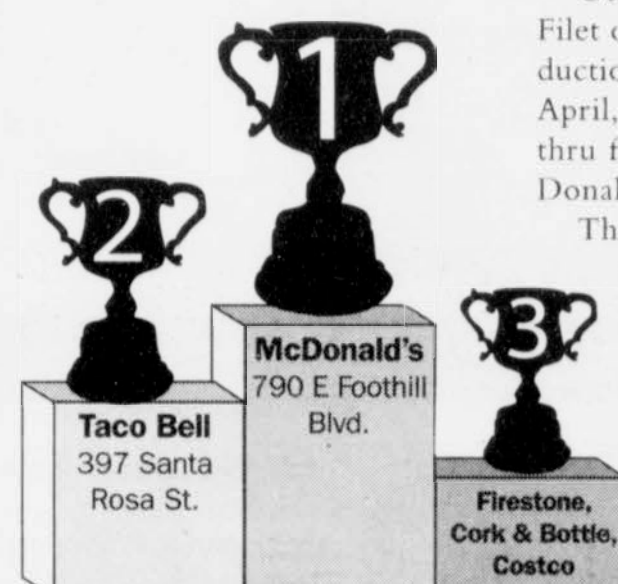
In the imminent future, McDonald's will introduce a new burger for Cal Poly students to wet their palate with — the "Southern Style Chicken Biscuit."

"It's a biscuit with a chicken patty in it," Ujano said. "It's a new item they're already serving in the South."

Other future plans include \$1 Filet of Fish on Fridays, the introduction of iced coffees starting in April, and the addition of a drive thru for the Foothill located McDonald's.

There are also plans for special student promotions making dining at McDonald's more affordable than ever.

The other McDonald's location in San Luis Obispo can be found at 275 Madonna Rd.



— Anthony Tan



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Best Ice Cream/Frozen Yogurt/Best Dessert

Bali's

Imagine strolling downtown on a balmy spring day after classes; a gentle breeze blows across your face, the birds are chirping, your stomach is growling and you know just where to go: Bali's Self-Serve, voted the "Best Dessert" and "Ice Cream/Frozen Yogurt" of 2008.

Offering an ever-changing selection of frozen yogurts and a variety of mouth-watering, stomach-pleasing toppings, Bali's is the ultimate sweet spot. If you're in the mood for something tangy, why not try the orange sherbet topped with sprinkles, raspberries and fresh strawberries? Or, if you're a fan of the classics, Bali's always has vanilla and chocolate "fro-gurt" available.

"I love Bali's because it's like a complete party in my mouth," biology junior Sophie Basecke said.

A local icon, Bali's has helped students and San Luis Obispo residents fulfill their childhood dreams for many years. After all, where else do you get the chance to fill a large Styrofoam cup with as much frozen yogurt and toppings as you want, and still have the bill be well within your price range at 30 cents per ounce?

"I like that you can add more toppings than yogurt," said music junior Michelle Schwartz, displaying her favorite Bali's combination: a dab of mango yogurt buried beneath an avalanche of rainbow-sprinkles, granola and strawberries.

Bali's not only serves to satisfy students' hunger for something sweet but is also a place where people can ex-

press their independence and creativity. With a wide variety of frozen yogurts and toppings, Bali's lets customers create combinations that are unique and tasty.

"I like that I can choose how I want to make it," said Kelly Scroggs, an aerospace engineering junior. "Because it's frozen yogurt, it doesn't have that overly-mashed-and-now-melting taste that Cold Stone's does."

Bali's has two convenient San Luis Obispo locations: downtown on Higuera Street, and in University Square on Foothill Boulevard. So come on down, where the price is always right and self-expression never tasted sweeter.

— Megan Jeffrey



Best Date

Novo Lounge

Does relaxing on a patio with a soju cocktail and a table full of tapas sound like the perfect dinner date? Then hurry over to Novo Restaurant and Lounge, the restaurant that served 300 dinners on Valentine's Day alone.

The romantic holiday isn't even the busiest time of the year for the restaurant — Cal Poly's graduation weekend is.

Ninety percent of the restaurant's wait-staff are Cal Poly or Cuesta students, and students also account for roughly 20 percent of the customers.

"I really think it is our relaxed environment, including our relaxed service staff that makes Novo so popular," owner Robin Covey said. "And of course, the patios."

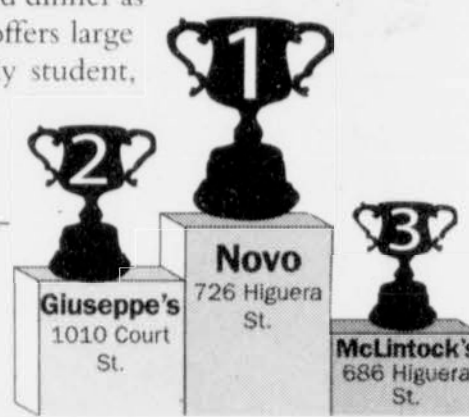
On Friday and Saturday nights beginning in April, Novo will launch "After Dark," which will feature music and dancing.

Although the restaurant does not serve hard alcohol, Novo has one of the most extensive beer and wine lists in the county.

In addition to daily lunch and dinner as well as Sunday brunch, Novo offers large party events including Cal Poly student, staff and recruiting events.

Two soju cocktails (a native Korean drink) and tapas (an appetizer-style dish made for sharing) — \$50. The most romantic patio in town — priceless.

— Megan Range



Best Late Night Meal



GREG SMITH MUSTANG DAILY

Taco Bell

Countless Cal Poly students have stood in line at the Taco Bell on Santa Rosa for more than an hour for a taco or nachos at 2 a.m.

Even though there are only a handful of late-night food options in San Luis Obispo, John Avera, Taco Bell restaurant general manager, said that students are attracted to the fun atmosphere.

"Cal Poly students are great, and because of that, most of our employees want to work the night

shifts," Avera said.

Low prices, convenience and friendly service also add to the appeal of the restaurant.

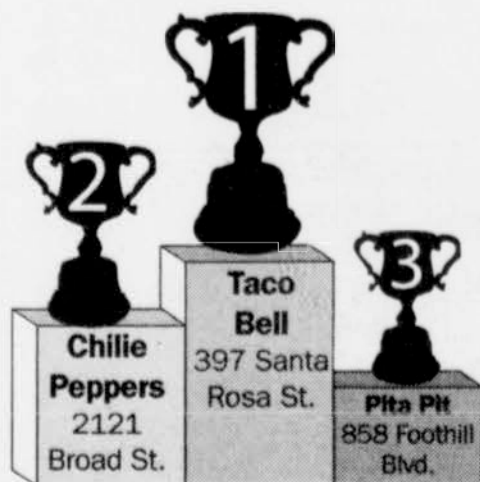
"It is way cheaper, faster and easier than ordering a pizza," agribusiness alum Paul Munoz said. "And while you are there, you can meet people — maybe even pick up on someone."

It is estimated that more than one-third of the restaurant's business comes from college students, and the most popular item is the Cheesy Gordita Crunch, Avera said.

While the lunch rush is as busy and grosses roughly the same amount of sales per hour as the late-night rush, the "fourth meal" spans over a longer period — four to five hours a night, especially on weekends.

Taco Bell is open until 3 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and stays open an extra hour on Friday and Saturday nights.

— Megan Range



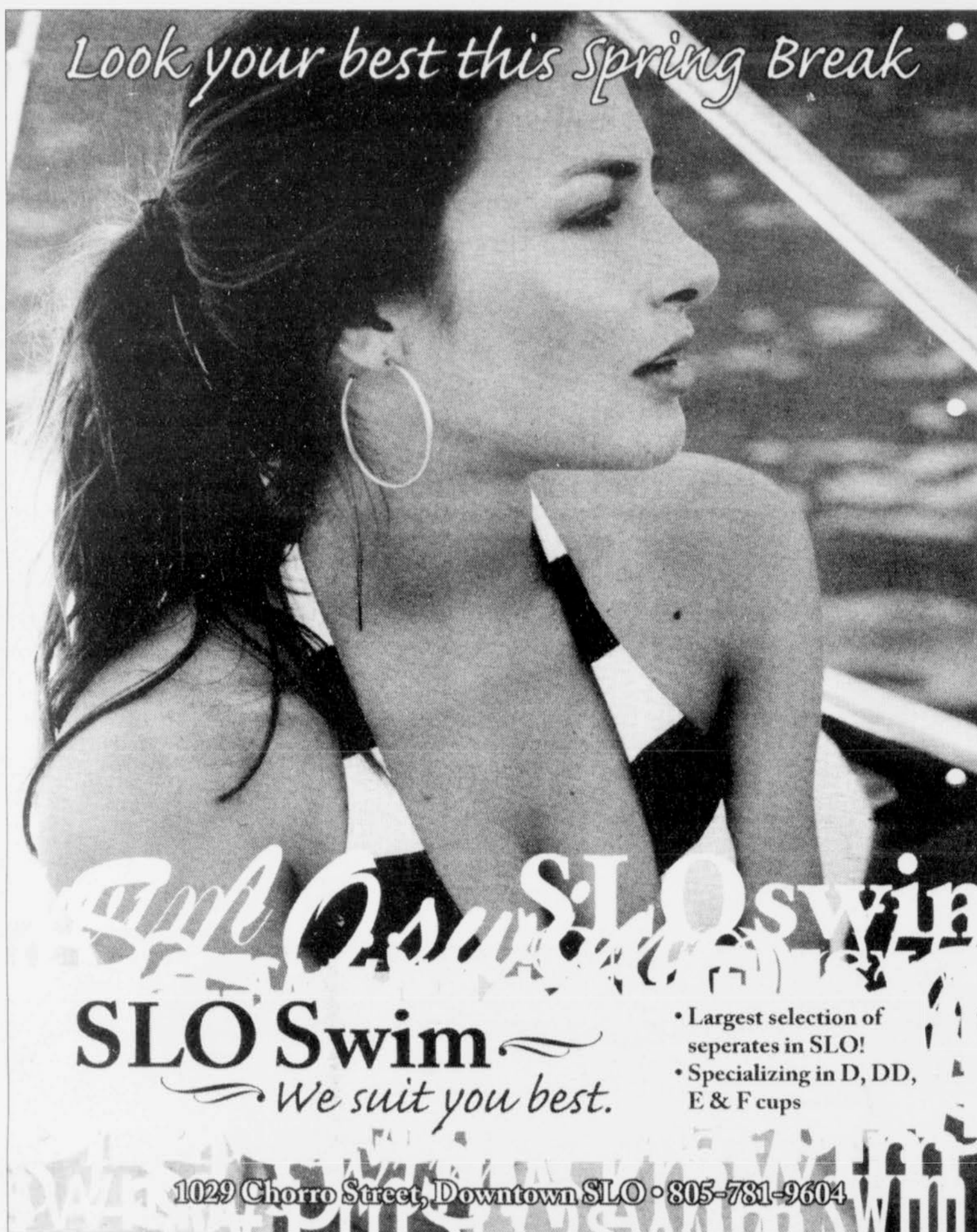
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MUSTANG DAILY DINING

Best Margarita

Vallarta's

Vallarta's, located at 1761 Monterey St. in San Luis Obispo, is the place to go for affordable Mexican food and 60-ounce margaritas. Vallarta's offers a friendly and sociable atmosphere with a variety of margarita flavors to choose from.

"My friends and I always have a good night when we start the night off with a 60-ounce margarita at Vallarta's before heading downtown for a night of fun," recreation senior Carli Rose said.

Some Cal Poly students have said they go to Vallarta's for their



friends' birthday dinners because one of the perks the restaurant offers is a free 60-ounce margarita for people celebrating a birthday over the age of 21.

— Kristen Cass



RYAN POLEI MUSTANG DAILY

Vallarta's is known for its affordable Mexican food and 60-ounce margaritas, which are offered for free on birthdays.

Best Italian

Palazzo Giuseppe

When you've got a little money in your pocket, take it to Palazzo Giuseppe for some classic Italian food.

Known for its unique martini list, the house specialty is the Raspberry Lemon Drop and with an added twist: dry ice.

If you're looking for something a little less tart, try the Woo Woo tini, a drink topped off with champagne.

For those with a less sweet palate, there is also an extensive wine and beer list.

Sampling these drinks is the perfect way to kill time if the wait is long, so enjoy.

When going for dinner, try the Caprese if you're in the mood for a salad.

For only \$10 and made with house-made mozzarella, ripe vine tomatoes, crisp basil and drizzled lightly with olive oil, this dish will leave you wanting more.

There are many types of pasta to choose from, one of which is the Orecchiette, which is prepared with "little ears" shaped pasta, porcini mushrooms, tomatoes, pine nuts, asparagus and Romano cheese for \$15.

The vast pizza menu is a treat in itself, like the Margherita Pizza prepared with simple ingredients for a delectable taste at \$12.

For dessert, try the Crème Brûlée; its caramelized sugary top and sweet custard filling is the perfect end to a dining experience.

"Ever since I became a Mustang in 1985 I've always wanted to be the best in SLO," said Joe DiFronzo, manager and owner of Palazzo Giuseppe at 1010 Court St.

Thank you for all your love, Mustangs, you are the best."



— Haleigh Williams

Best Mexican



RYAN POLEI MUSTANG DAILY

Located on Broad St., the family Mexican restaurant Chilie Peppers offers made-to-order food at a low price.

Chilie Peppers

It is a family affair for owner Noah Miño De Rivera at his two Chilie Peppers restaurants.

For more than 15 years, Miño De Rivera and his mother, brothers and cousins have prided themselves on serving Cal Poly students the freshest Mexican food in town.

"Fresh food is always good food," said Miño De Rivera, who makes the beans, rice and salsa fresh every day.

Miño De Rivera recognizes students are on a budget, which is why Chilie Peppers serves all made-to-order food without the extra costs. Consumers often misunderstand the cost at other Mexican restaurants once you factor in the charges for extra toppings and sauces and, of course, portion size.

"Anyone can cook steak, pork and chicken," Miño De Rivera said. "It is the sauce that makes a difference."

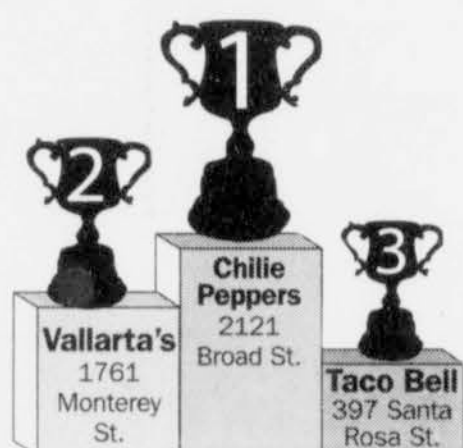
The most popular items on the menu are the international burritos —

chicken, beef, pork and even grilled vegetable burritos. Not only does the restaurant use fresh ingredients in all their foods, they always strive to use the healthiest ingredients possible.

While no Cal Poly students work at Chilie Peppers, they easily account for half of the restaurant's business, according to Miño De Rivera.

And to make eating fresh even more convenient to its consumers, Chilie Peppers is open until 3 a.m. Thursday through Saturday.

— Megan Range



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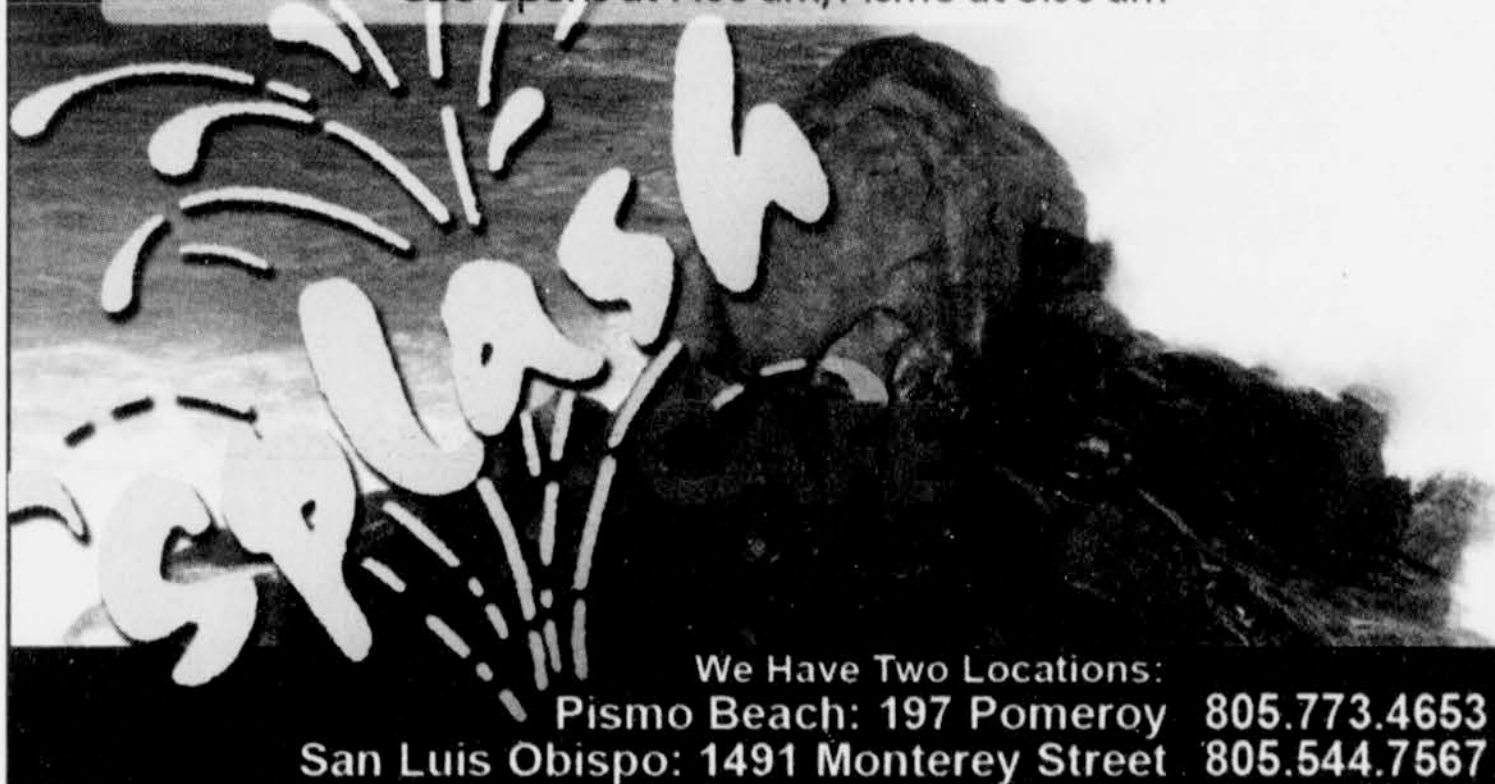
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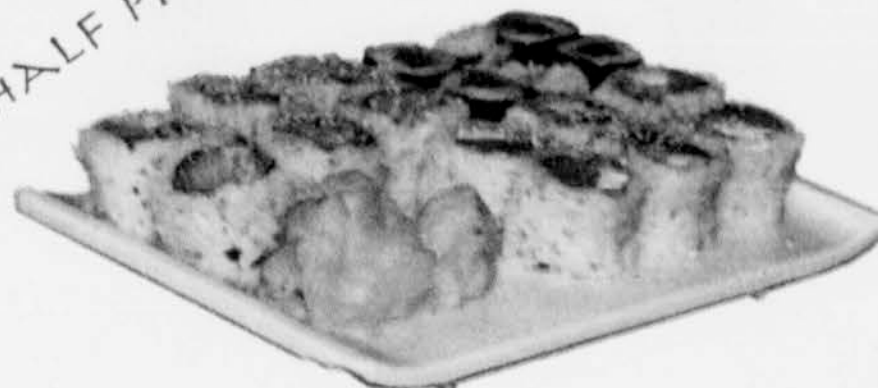
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MUSTANG DAILY

DINING

Best Sushi

Shin's Sushi Bar

With trendy, local sushi bars on the rise over the past few years, a tiny treasure nestled on the outskirts of downtown San Luis Obispo has Cal Poly students hooked.

Shin's Sushi Bar, located at 1023 Monterey St. near the Fremont Theater, has been a favorite stop for sushi lovers for the past six years.

Owner Steve Shin also runs Yamato Japanese Restaurant in Grover Beach and used to drive to Los Angeles at 4:30 every morning in search of the freshest fish.

Shin later realized the potential for expansion into San Luis Obispo, and the sister restaurant has been a hit ever since.

"Cal Poly students love Shin's because of the reasonable prices and great sushi, and there's nothing but college students having a good time," Shin's manager Jon Brogno said.



BRYAN BEILKE MUSTANG DAILY

Shin's Sushi Bar located on Monterey Street has been known for its fresh sushi.

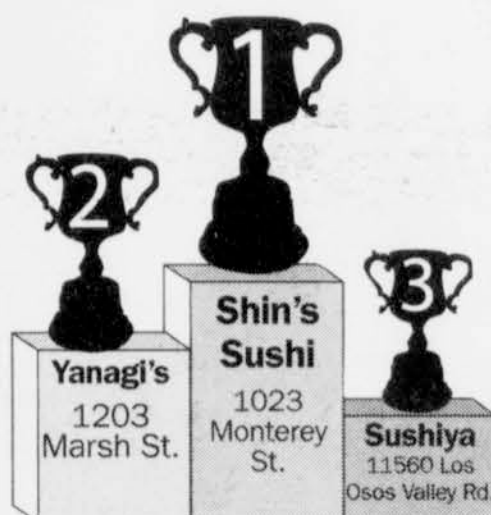
Brogno said the restaurant's most popular rolls include the Hot Grover Beach Night, the Ninja and the Bonsai.

These tasty creations are all reasonably priced, averaging about \$7.

In addition to the yummy food and fun atmosphere for customers, Brogno said Shin's is also a great place to work.

He said most of the employees are college students and the owners are fun, making for a relaxed work environment.

— Christina Natale



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Best Sandwich Place

Tie: Kona's Deli & Café Llc/High Street Market & Deli

Several sandwich shops compete for business in this small town, which makes it hard for students to pick their favorite.

The choice can be so tough that students couldn't name just one favorite deli in San Luis Obispo.

Kona's Deli & Café Llc and High Street Market and Deli share the top spot for Cal Poly students' favorite place to grab a sandwich.

Kona's may be hard to find, but the restaurant's dedicated customers say it's worth the hunt.

Hidden between Aida's University Book Exchange and Cabo San Luis at 977 Foothill Blvd., this friendly locale keeps customer satisfaction high.

"I love it because you get a huge sandwich for relatively cheap," business senior James Huang said.

"It costs about \$6.95 for a sandwich that you could eat for lunch and dinner."

Huang also likes Kona's for the "chill atmosphere."

He has been making regular stops at the deli ever since he dis-



covered it two years ago.

Cal Poly's other favorite sandwich shop is great for students on the go.

High Street Market and Deli, located at 350 High St. in San Luis Obispo, has been bustling with hungry sandwich lovers during the lunch rush for the past eight years.

The deli may be off the beaten path of downtown San Luis Obispo, but the market's daily special helps add to the deli's popularity.

Manager Julia McGurk explained that every day from 4:20 to 5:20 p.m., customers can make their own sandwich for only \$4.20, a special that keeps sandwich lovers coming back for more.

— Christina Natale

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Best Pizza

Woodstock's Pizza

Woodstock's Pizza, located on 1000 Higuera St., was voted "Best Pizza" by Cal Poly students for the third year in a row.

Using only the freshest of ingredients, Woodstock's Pizza provides a complete menu for any pizza lover. The pizzas are hand-tossed and freshly baked every day. Every pizza is made with a classic red sauce which uses only the freshest tomatoes found in Northern California and real whole milk mozzarella cheese.

For pizza lovers who crave meat and a lot of it on their pizza, there's "The Carnivore," a pizza consisting of pepperoni, Canadian bacon, sausage, lean ground beef, linguisa, and extra cheese. For the more health-conscious pizza eaters, "The Garden Delite" is a vegetarian pizza with broccoli, mushrooms, fresh tomatoes, artichokes, and half the cheese.

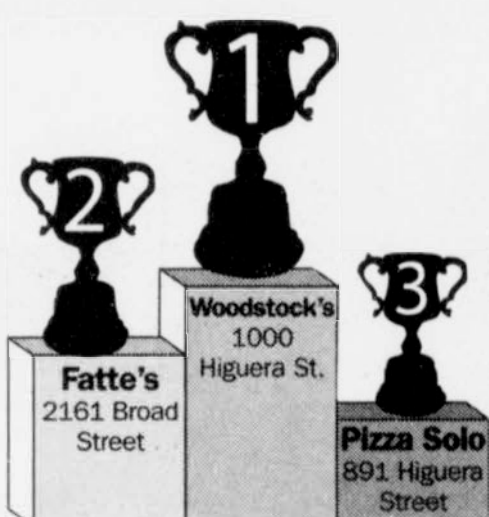
Woodstock's also offers a multicultural flavor to their pizzas, such as "The Mediterranean," "The Hawaiian" and "The Pesto Primavera." Customizable pizzas are also offered and customers who aren't in the mood for pizza can select from a delectable salad, appetizer and dessert selection.

"I like Woodstock's because of the variety," kinesiology senior Matt Leu said. "If I want pizza, I can get my pizza. If I just happen to want a peanut butter and chocolate pie, Woodstock's has that, too. It's wild."

Woodstock's Pizza offers special promotions and deals all the time to the college community. On Wednesdays from 8 to 11 p.m., pints are offered at \$2.50 with refills only costing \$1.

They also have an exclusive Cal Poly student special that gives 20 percent off an extra-large pizza.

— Anthony Tan



RYAN POLEI MUSTANG DAILY

Woodstock's on Higuera Street gears its promotions toward college students.

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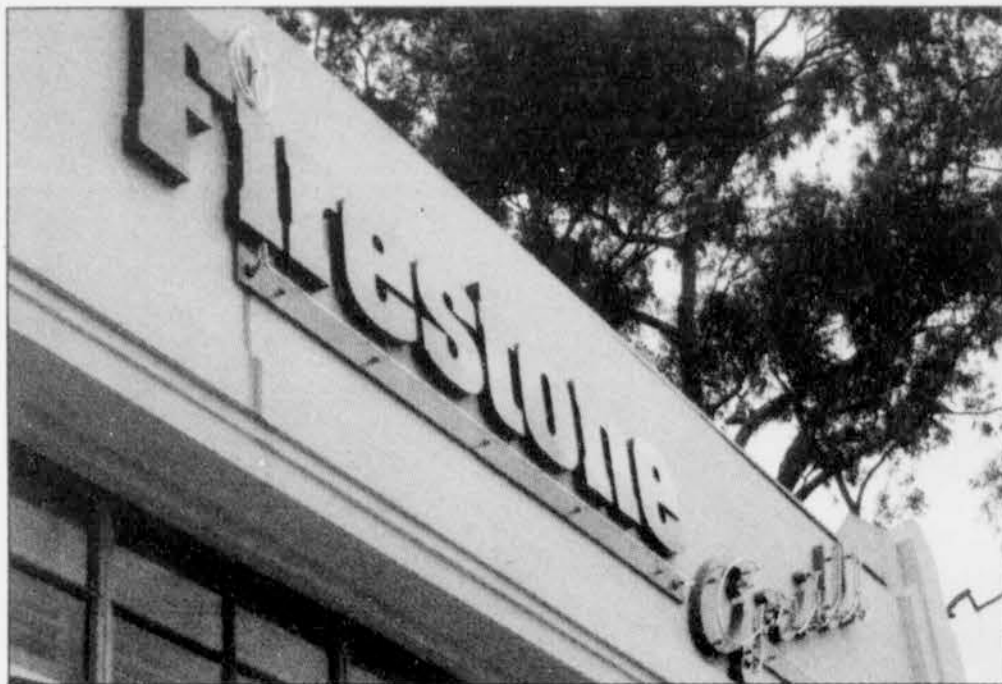
Firestone Grill

The hugely popular Firestone Grill is undoubtedly one of every Cal Poly student's first stops in San Luis Obispo. Known for its tasty tri-tip sandwiches, this sports bar and grill is always packed with students looking for good food and a good time.

Firestone General Manager Hal Billingsley said about 70 percent of his customers are college students.

"I'd say people like us because of the quality of the food, it's a fun atmosphere, that kind of thing. But what I hear the most from people is how much they like the sauce," Billingsley said. Their steak sandwich is their most popular item by far and often overshadows another delicious dish Firestone has mastered: the burger.

Former Cal Poly student Suren Kumaratne is a fan of the ABC burger, packed with avocado, bacon and cheddar cheese.



BRYAN BEILKE MUSTANG DAILY

Firestone Grill located on Higuera Street has offered steak sandwiches, burgers and a sports bar with big-screen TVs since 1995.

"I really like how they toast the buns. The meat is tasty, the bacon is yummy, and the whole thing is really juicy," Kumaratne said.

Sides here have an exceptional touch to them, with a basket of fries being seasoned with a special blend of spices and an option to make them cheesy-fries is the best kept secret in San Luis Obispo.

Also try the traditional onion rings that have a distinctive flavor as well. An extensive beer, wine and cocktail list is available for those who are 21 and over.

Though Firestone Grill has only been around since 1995, the building is much older. In fact, it used to be a tire shop, hence the

name "Firestone." Some of the memorabilia reflects the business' roots, but it mostly serves as a sports bar complete with big-screen TVs and alcoholic beverages. If people-watching is more your thing, take it outside to their new patio area and sit next to one of the three cozy outdoor fireplaces.

So when you've got that barbecue craving, head down to 1001 Higuera St. and satisfy yourself at Firestone Grill.

Following Firestone in the Best Hamburger category were In-N-Out (second) and The Shack (third).

Following Firestone in the Best BBQ category were Mo's (second) and McLintock's (third).

—Amanda Clardy, Christina Natale and Haleigh Williams



RESULTS FOR BEST OVERALL RESTAURANT

Best Vegetarian Plate

The Natural Cafe

Cal Poly vegetarians have spoken!

The Natural Cafe of downtown San Luis Obispo was voted "Best Vegetarian Plate" in town.

The Natural Cafe General Manager Jennifer Stucky said it has plenty to offer students with its "wide variety" and "laid-back atmosphere" — not to mention it is easy on the wallet.

"You don't have to pay \$20 and tip a waitress just to get something healthy," Stucky said.

From whole grain appetizers to soy-licious desserts, The Natural Cafe offers something in every dish for the meat-conscious connoisseur.

And don't leave your friends behind, even if they do eat meat.

"One of the great things (about The Natural Cafe) is that vegetarians can bring their non-vegetarian friends, too, and they can all find something good to eat," Stucky said.

For those who are non-vegetarian, there is variety as well, like the Gobbler Burger or the Grilled Chicken Pita.

Hang out in one of the many booths and enjoy the positive energy, as well as the restaurant's real silverware offered in addition to the disposable kind as a way of going green — you can do something for the planet, too.

Stop in while you're shopping downtown at 698 Higuera St. and visit their Web site, www.thenaturalcafe.com, for their full menu.



NICK CAMACHO MUSTANG DAILY

The Natural Cafe located on Higuera Street gives vegetarians a soy-licious menu for cheap.



—Amanda Clardy



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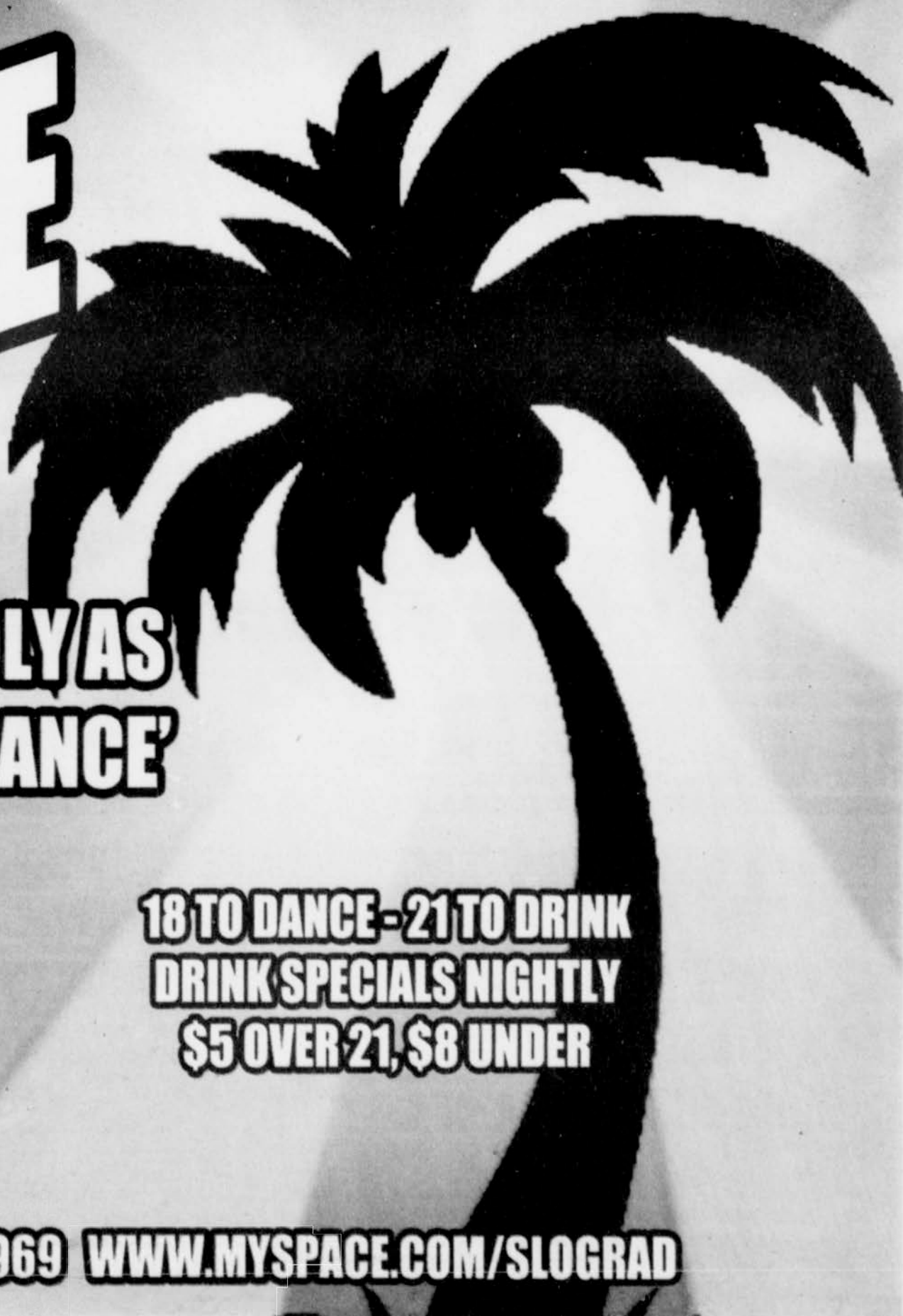
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MUSTANG DAILY

DINING

Best Thai

Thai Palace

This newly renovated gem is a lovely addition to San Luis Obispo's Thai scene. The glitzy outside welcomes anyone with an empty stomach to its warm atmosphere and the interior feels as authentic as the Thai food itself.

"I really like trying new things and I think this restaurant is a good addition to SLO restaurants," said business and finance senior Andrea Kruse.

This restaurant has a wide menu to select from, and the staff is very helpful on letting the customer know which items are the best. If you're not a well-seasoned Thai food expert, don't worry; just start basic and don't forget the staff is very eager to please you and won't steer anyone in the wrong direction.

For a salad try the Larb which may feel like an entrée in itself it's so good. With ground chicken, lime juices and a hint of mint with other spicy flavors, this semi-sweet dish is tasty. The entrees



GREG SMITH MUSTANG DAILY

range from traditional curry, seafood, chicken and steak dishes, noodles and rice dishes, there is something for everyone here.

"The noodle dishes are phenomenal," said Jeffrey Messerschmidt, a business and economics senior. "The flavors are really nicely mixed together, not too overpowering or anything."

Don't forget to ask about the specials, you wouldn't want to miss out on any new creations made here. The ingredients used are also extremely fresh and sometimes come from the local Farmers' Market, making the Thai Palace a contributor and supporter of San Luis Obispo County.

This restaurant is usually good to your wallet with dishes ranging from \$10 to 15 for dinner and \$6 to 10 for lunch.

—Haleigh Williams



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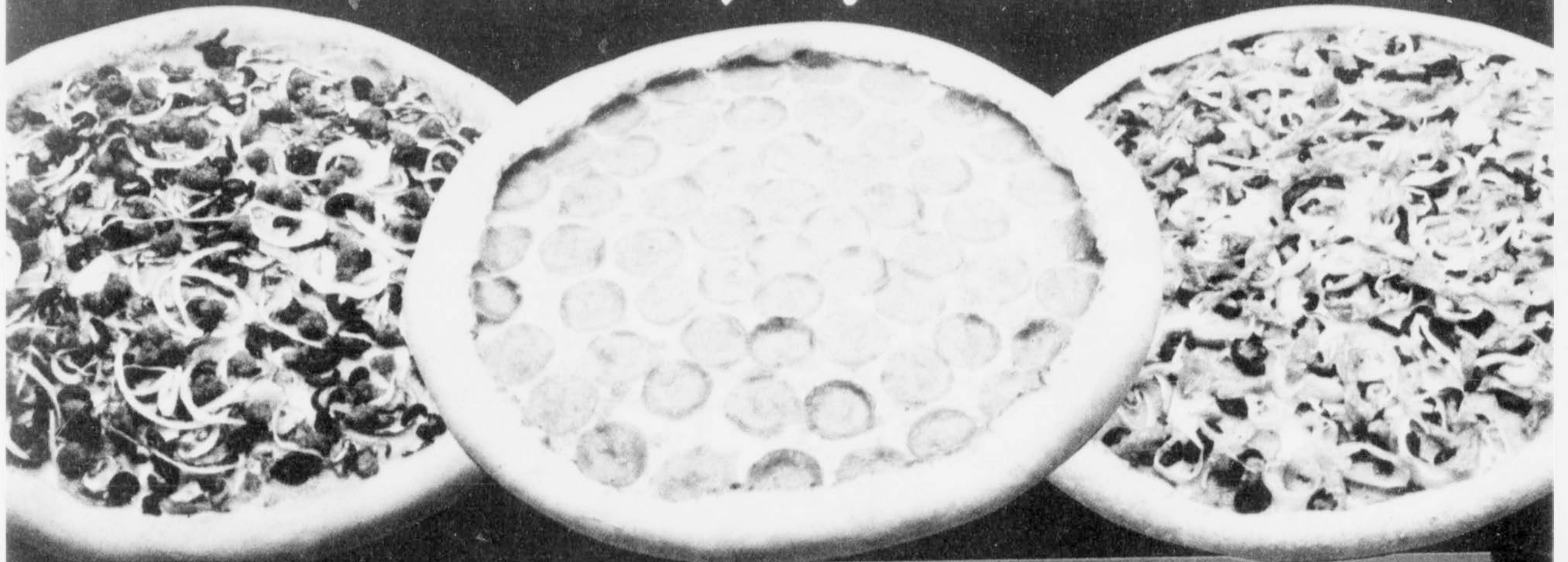
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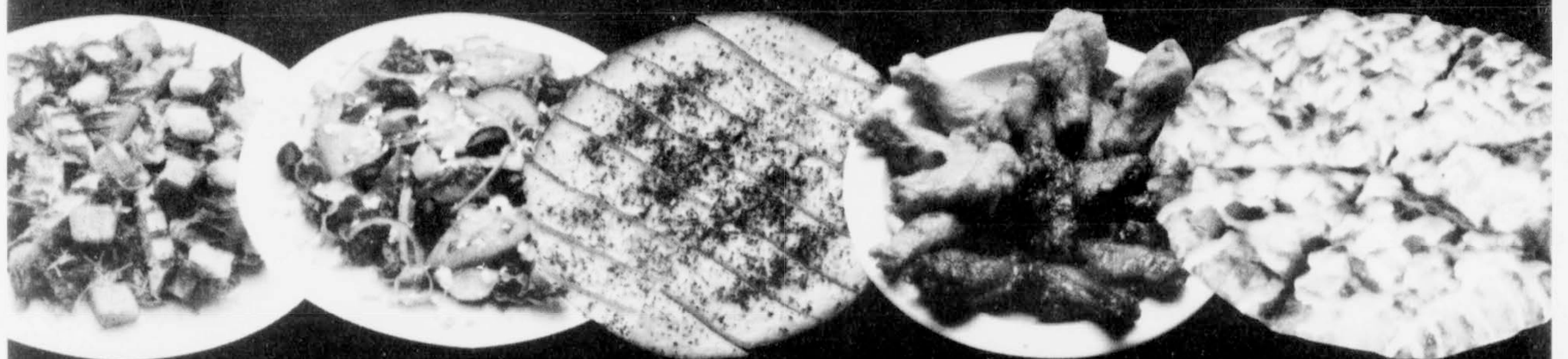
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