Mustang Daily readers' poll brings in variety of results

Editor's note

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

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

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

In this issue we showcase the results to our readers as a guide to

Best burger
1. Firestone
2. Bishop Hamburger
3. Fresh Habit

Best burger joint
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2. Firestone
3. Fresh Habit

Best Mexican food
1. Pepe Delgado's
2. Linnaea's Cafe
3. Uptown Expresso

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Best cup of coffee
1. Starbucks
2. Linnaea's Cafe
3. Uptown Expresso

Best coffee shop
1. Linnaea's Cafe
2. Starbucks
3. Uptown Expresso

Best pizza place
1. Woodstock's
2. Palindrome's and Round Table
3. Upper Crust

Best Italian food
1. Rosa's
2. Palindrome's and Round Table
3. Upper Crust

NEWS

SERVICE WITH A SMILE

Linnaea's coffee shop offers a unique atmosphere in San Luis Obispo.

Steve Schueneman/Mustang Daily

Best margarita
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A Pepe's home recipe margarita is a regular margarita with a secret twist, said server Luis Contreras. In addition to midori, strawberry, peach and regular flavors, there is the Cadilla margarita — a regular margarita with top-shelf tequila on the rocks and Grand Marnier on top. The Cadillac is $7.30. Blended fruit margaritas are $3.30 and on the rocks cost $4. With the best Mexican food and chips and salsa on the side, you can't go wrong.

2. Izzy's
3. Hudson's

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

2. Palromdres and Round Table
3. Upper Crust

MARGARITA TREAT: Pepe Delgado's is a cozy Mexican place located just off campus. With the best happy hour, best margarita and best Mexican food, Pepe's offers the best of all worlds.

Dawn Kalmar/Mustang Daily

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PEPE DELGADOS MEXICAN RESTAURANT & CANTINA

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juice boots and a variety of freshly squeezed juices. Jamba Juice it uses the freshest fruits and ingredients in all it's drinks. The most popular smoothie is Strawberry Wild, and Vita is the most popular boot. Orange and wheatgrass juices are the most popular. They also offer smoothies with pizzas as the most popular flavor. With two locations in town, Jamba Juice open seven days a week for a week three times a day.

2. Blazing Blenders

3. Lucy's

Best late-night dining place

1. Taco Bell

With the most inexpensive menu around, Taco Bell is a good bet after you spend all your cash at the bar downtown. It offers 20 items under $1. The full menu includes 45 items. Hard tacos are the most popular items. They also offer drinks, cigars in tostitos and juco. Taco Bell has three San Luis Obispo locations — Madonna Plaza, Santa Rosa Street and the Margarida Center. All locations are open seven days a week. Santa Rosa Street stays open until at least 3 a.m., most days.

2. Denny's

3. Fat Cats

Best bagel

1. Bagel Cafe

Bagel Cafe, located in the Foothill Plaza shopping center, offers 22 bagel varieties daily. The most popular bagel is the Everything. Bagel Cafe also offers 25 different sandwiches and breakfast bagels. The most popular is the Regular with plain cream cheese, tomato and lemon pepper. The Bacon Egg, another bagel sandwich, tops bacon and cheese on top of a bagel of your choice. Bagel Cafe also features espresso and juices. Bagel Cafe is open from 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day.

2. Bagel Basement

3. Boston Bagel

Best smoothie

1. Jamba Juice

Known as Juice Club to the veteran blended drink sippers, Jamba Juice still serves up one of the best smoothies around. They offer 20 flavors, as

Newspaper

News

Friday, March 5, 1999

Best ice cream shop

1. Coldstone Creamery

Customers can watch their custom ice cream creations being mixed in a frozen marble slab, a method unique to Coldstone Creamery. Toppings are chopped and blended into generous scoops of ice cream instead of sprinkled on top. The mixes include a wide variety of candies, fruits, nuts and other goodies, like hot fudge or brownies. One favorite customer creation: coffee ice cream with Heath bar and caramel. The first run in is included in the price, and additional is $1.50. Caps and umbrellas are sold inside for several times a day, at the same price.

2. Ben and Jerry's

3. Baskin Robbins

Best frozen yogurt shop

1. 1.80's

Frozen yogurt is completely self-service at Ball's. A variety of toppings, including Oreo cookies, gummy bears, and mango and strawberry bars can be added in any amount and combination. There is also several flavors of yogurt from which to choose. Both the yogurt and toppings cost 22 cents per ounce. Customers create their own yogurt masterpieces and weigh them at the counter. Ball's is located downtown on Higuera Street near the Osos Street public parking lot and also on football next to Hollywood Video.

2. Country Culture

3. Froogles

Self serve sweetness: Ball's is a yogurt lover's wonderland.

Best place to eat on campus

1. Campus Market

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

2. Backstage Pizza

3. The Avenue

Best donut shop

1. Campus Donuts

Campus Donuts, on the corner of Foothill and Santa Rosa behind Texaco, offers more than 45 donuts every day. The most popular blends of coffee and apple frames, but there are also the Polka Polka Bar, a donut with peanut butter inside. It also offers muffins, breads, bagels, cookies, coffee and espresso, milk and juices. It has a student deal — one donut and coffee for $1. For the perfect snack, it remains open seven days a week from 4 a.m. to 4 p.m.

2. San Luis Obispo Donuts

3. Sunshine Donuts

Best place for a steak

McClintocks

McClintocks has four different locations in San Luis Obispo County. Two of the restaurants are in San Luis Obispo, and the other one is up over the Courna Street in Paso Robles. The saloon/dinner house serves Grade A, Harris Ranch raised beef, and the busboys for customers glasses of water while blindness.

McClintocks offers, ranch-style side dishes, like ranch beans and pinto beans to accompany your choice cut of beef. They also serve up tasty beef kabobs with french bread and corn on the cob at Thursday night Farmers Market.

2. This Old House

3. AJ Spurs

Meaty feast: McClintocks serves up its choice steaks at four locations.

Best local bar

1. Ball's

This tavern boasts having the crappiest-tasting shooter on the Central Coast — a Ball's Sweat. The combination of weak vodka, 151 rum and Tabasco sauce is almost a must for college students celebrating their 21st birthdays in San Luis Obispo. The bartender warns not to have more than one, though. Ball's also boasts of being the only bar on the Central Coast to serve Pyramid alcoholic beverages. In addition, it sells domestic beers and cider, but the tavern on Chorro Street doesn't open a happy hour.

2. Frog and Peach

3. SLO Brew

Best happy hour

1. Pepe Delgados

Happy hour at Pepe Delgados happens every Tuesday through Saturdays. For two hours, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., the Mexican restaurant on Monterey Street serves margaritas for $1.25 and 60 ounce pitchers of beer for $6.25. You can't order any food during happy hour, but you can indulge in all the free chips and salsa your mouth can handle. Watch out though, because the salsa is hot.

2. Torrita Flats and the Library

3. Izzy's

Play with food:

Coldstone Creamery makes desserts works of art.

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The following question has surfaced in Cal Poly Plan forums and discussions, as well as in letters to the editor of the Mustang Daily and editorials.

What about student involvement in determining and monitoring Cal Poly Plan investments?

Over 90% of any new revenues (after the mandatory financial aid set-aside) from Cal Poly Plan fees will be distributed to the six academic colleges and UCTE. All of the colleges and UCTE are involving students in the discussion of how additional funds are to be used in order to assure that student priorities are addressed. The colleges and UCTE are sponsoring forums, informal discussions, and surveys. They want to hear what students have to say. To monitor investments, oversight committees will be established in each college and UCTE. This will give students more say in how their money is spent, next year and in the future.

Questions can be directed to the Cal Poly Plan email "instsddy@calpoly.edu" and the ASI email "polyplan@asi.calpoly.edu"

All Cal Poly Plan information can be accessed through the home page of the University's web site (www.calpoly.edu) by clicking on "Cal Poly Plan."
Make a list, and always check it at least once, or twice

Okay, so I’m not perfect, but at least I know I’m not the only one. Sure, I have forgotten to go to class. There have even been times when I have forgotten what class I was to attend. I have forgotten there was a final, to take the final, to buy the book, to buy a scanner, who the instructor is. But I have never forgotten to register for class.

I have three roommates. One is cute, the other is always naked, and Pete, well Pete is just forgetful. How exactly does one forget to register for classes? Probably the same way one forgets to return library books or pay off those pesky parking tickets (“Put it on my tab!”).

Granted, these days it seems easier to register for a gun than for Cal Poly classes (and the waiting period isn’t as long either). But it isn’t that hard.

Peter — whose name has been changed so his friends will not beat him up — has what I guess you could call a selective memory. He may have forgotten to register for class, but he did remember to go to class. In fact, it was the very same class.

Picture this if you can: You walk into your professor’s office to discuss grades or the standing or something and he informs you that you have no standing in the class whatsoever.

He even tried for the midterms.

Of course, he is not going to receive any credit for the class. Chalk it up to experience, I guess.

Maybe someday, he could write a book “Memoirs of a Premature Alzheimer’s Victim.” Pete could use the valuable information in his notes (that he may now tepar one-hung) and turn the lecture — granted he could find his way to make reservations at hotels, airports, and car rental agencies nationwide. But hey, on that kind of salary, I think he could think he is an assistant.

Perhaps we can learn something from Peter Larsen — whose last name, I understand, is there just for a touch of realism. I asked him last night, as he busily cleaned out his binder full of non-credit notes, and he looked me straight in the eye, ladies and gentlemen and said:

“Press 5 and the pound sign.” (For those of you unfamiliar with this option, it commands CAPTURE to list the classes you are registered for.)

Oh no, he will not forget again.

At this point in the quarter, the best we can do is remember where we live. But next quarter, if you see some freshman (or a crop science senior named Peter Christopher Larsen — again, a made-up name) walking around in an aimless dye with a puke-green schedule in hand, point him in the right direction. Or at least try. Walk him to class. Teach him to read. Whatever it takes.

Nate Pontious is a “pretentious” journalism major who really does love his anonymous roommate.

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**Allowing a felon to be President**

**Editor:**

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

The definition “high crimes and misdemeanors” seems to have confused a lot of people. Specifically, the word “high” seems to imply that a crime of greater severity is impeachable, but lesser crimes are not. This, however, is not the case.

Any student who has passed History 204 (history of American ideals and institutions) should realize that “high” refers simply to the position (the presidency is a fairly high office), not the type of crime. Hence, any crime the president commits is a high crime. Even if you don’t believe this definition, you must agree that a felony is more serious than a misdemeanor, and therefore fits the definition of “high crimes and misdemeanors.”

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

About 80 percent of Republicans in the Senate voted for removal from office on both articles of impeachment, while zero percent of Democrats did. Although I haven’t yet taken statistics, I would venture to say that 80 percent is a lot closer to 52 percent than zero percent. Now who represents the people? The Republican Party, of course.

People often mention the $40 million “scandal” on the Starr Report in their debates on this issue.

Personally, I don’t believe $40 million is worth what it takes to uphold the Constitution. There are 280 million people in the United States, so this little “incident” cost us each $7.

In a country where we spend that much on a more ticket, we should be no less than exctatic to watch it be used in such a worthy manner as upholding the foundation of our democracy.

Barbara Boxer, Democratic senator from California, recently said on a television interview that it’s “punishment enough for Bill Clinton that his name will forever be followed by the word ‘impeached’ in the history books.” I take great offense to this statement.

It’s like saying, “Since we all know O.J. killed Nicole, it’s okay that he didn’t go to jail.” This is absurd. I am also disturbed, because I would hope that a senator would be educated enough to realize that impeachment and removal from office are not punishments for wrong-doing — they are simply tools used to save our great system of government from corruption.

However, considering the level of corruption displayed by the Democratic senators in voting against conviction because of a poll, I’d expect this much ignorance from Hillary’s sister-in-law.

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

In allowing a felon to hold the highest office of the land, we’ve effectively raped democracy in the history of the world. If we’ve learned anything from Hillary’s sister-in-law, I’d expect this much ignorance from Hillary’s sister-in-law.

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I get tired of watching people take things for granted. Many Cal Poly students don't appreciate that they enjoy a standard of living and health which is unknown by the majority of the world's citizens. While many people in third-world countries struggle to find enough food to survive and clean water to drink, some students comply with campus dining-mandates, dumping their bad taste of water. I bet a starving family would gladly eat the potting soil used in campus dining establishments, and a person getting sick from dirty water would gladly take a sip from a San Luis Obispo drinking fountain. While they hold an Agnusina bottle in hand and toss away lunch leftovers, I wonder whether people to consider just how lucky they are to never worry about starvation or dehydration.

I think a lot of people also take their health for granted, in their well-being for granted. Ask an old, feeble or paralyzed person if they would mind walking a few blocks or a mile on a warm, sunny day—if they were healthy enough to do so. I bet most would love to be given the opportunity and would enjoy it. Ask the average Cal Poly student if she or he minds walking a few blocks or a mile to work, or class, and many would probably say they would prefer to drive or take the bus because it is such a pain to walk. I wonder if it occurs to some students that they view a nuisance is probably something someoneborn, but could only dream of doing.

Finally, many people don't even realize what a privilege it is to have the resources and time to attend universities. I've heard people complain about how stressful their 12 units are, and gripe about how mom and dad decided to reduce the allowance they are still receiving. I find this ridiculous. I bet a teenage mother working two jobs to support her children is surprised when her $12 units be more than easier than her current situation. I bet students working to put themselves through school would recently listen to someone complaining, who was fortunate enough to receive any monetary support from his or her parents. I realize some people might think that there is no reason to feel grateful, and would enjoy it. Ask the average Cal Poly student if she or he minds walking a few blocks or a mile to work, or class, and many would probably say they would prefer to drive or take the bus because it is such a pain to walk. I wonder if it occurs to some students that they view a nuisance is probably something someone born, but could only dream of doing.

Letters to the Editor

No fun for Mustang Daily

Editor:

Will somebody give me a hand to save Spanish Mustang Jennings? I've been a Cal Poly student for over four years now and am a regular reader of Mustang Daily.

As a reader of only four years (opposed to Chuck's 10), I have come to realize certain things about our beloved school paper.

First and foremost, the Daily serves as a learning tool for our journalistic students. As a learning tool, students are able to explore working with a wide variety of people and reporting on a variety of events and issues, however ridiculous or serious they may be.

Secondly, the Daily serves to update the students and faculty on the university and developments within our student body and administration. Whether the article focuses on Black History Month or Drink the Clown locked in the Iron Sheik's deathly Camel Clutch, it's still news.

Now let's get to the real reason of Chuck's walkoff. Cal Poly is supposed to be "an intellectual environment," the "CSI flagship" as he puts it. For that article, and those like it, is nothing to damage the integrity of this institution. The real reason he's angry, you ask? I think I know.

Don't you like to have fun, do you? Even more, I think you don't like to look like a fool. But this, compounded by the fact that students do this stupid stuff and still manage to graduate, will ultimately be the future leaders of our country. When we will grow up!

Admit it. Mindless run-for-fun make no sense to you and drives you nuts! I can just imagine your weather bulletin (or whatever this is) — exactly what I am talking about.

The limit, I don't even really care for Pro Wrestling. Maybe all that "good money to witness trash" would have been better spent on our local economy, downtown at the Library or McCarthy. The fact of the matter is, it is a fund-raiser (not really for a group on campus. I don't remember hearing you raise hell about our water polo team's "awful" mediocre display or slapstick comedy! Everyone who attended had a good time, and no one complained that the Mustangs didn't hold a "good" game. The game was enough the top rope — well, that deserves coverage. Do you know how hard those are to pull off? In closing, I would just like to say to Mr. Jennings, lighten up. Cal Poly will still be the California State University Flagship tomorrow. He, maybe next time we can get those roller derby teams from The Nashville Network to come put on a show for us.

Justin Timothy Moffett is a forestry and natural resource senior.

Is diversity just a dream? Editor:

What does diversity really mean? Is it a far-off, fantasy goal that no one will ever really do? Do most students care about Cal Poly becoming diverse, or not? Are we all just selfishly going through college blindfolded, only caring about our own education? If that is true, then we are forgetting that diversity is education. Is it possible to be productive individual of this society and respect people of all colors? It will make you a better person.

Christina Alvarez is the president of Meza and a business junior.

Cal Poly Plan problems Editor:

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

Higher cost doesn't mean a better product quality

Editor:

Why do so many of you think that by paying more we'll get a better education? It is not fair to say you have been given a private school, like University of Southern California, and paid twice as much. Al Danton says in his article, "Student Group Raises Concerns," Feb. 3, that if you want everything Cal Poly has to offer "Fini, pay for it." That is ridiculous. That is like saying that if I order a Backstage Pizza for nine bucks, it's going to taste better than a Woodstock pizza that only costs eight bucks. No way! I don't think so. Cost doesn't equal quality, it's going to take more than just pay more to fix the problems at Cal Poly.

Barnaby Hughes is an architecture sophomore.

Letter policy

Columns, cartoons and letters reflect the views of their authors and do not necessarily reflect those of Mustang Daily. Cal Poly encourages comments on editorial policy and university affairs. Letters should be typewritten, double-spaced, signed and include your major, class standing and a phone number. Letters received by e-mail and letters containing around 300 words or less will be given preference over others. Letters containing more than 600 words will be given last preference and may not be printed at all. Editors reserve the right to correct submitted pieces for grammar without changing the meaning.

Letters can be mailed, delivered or e-mailed to opinion@mustangdaily.calpoly.edu.
Best local wine
1. Corbett Canyon
This inexpensive and popular wine has been produced in Arroyo Grande since 1982. Delbra Vandenberg, administrative assistant, said that Corbett Canyon's appeal is its quality and price range. The wine is sold internationally and the most popular variety is Chardonnay. Corbett Canyon has five coastal classic varieties priced at $4 to $5, with 40 different wines available. The winery is currently a collection of students and trivia fans. The winery was voted the best market in the city by Cal Poly students. Both varieties feature a bakery, butcher and deli. Coupons are tailored to what you buy and are printed on the back of the receipt each time you buy groceries. You can also save money if you have a Lucky/Sav-on Rewards card, just swipe the card every time you shop and save.
News

Friday, March 5, 1999

Best Sports Team

1. Men's Basketball
While Cal Poly's men's basketball team was a preseason favorite in the western division, their first game ever loss to UC Irvine kept them from qualifying for the Big West tournament. Despite two losing streaks, which helped the team fall to fifth in their division holding a record of 11-16, 6-10 in the Big West, Cal Poly's student body still recognizes them as our best sports team.

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

Best Sorority

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

2. Sigma Kappa
3. Alpha Phi

Best Fraternity

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

2. Sigma Kappa
3. Alpha Phi

Best place to check email

1. Home
2. Library

Best building

1. Business building 03, room 213
2. Grand Avenue
3. Library

Best classroom

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

Best professor

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

Best Class

1. Bowling

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

Best campus club

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

Best parking lot on campus

1. none
2. Grand Avenue
3. Library

Best daily newspaper

1. Mustang Daily

Best professor

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

Best Class

1. Bowling

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

ABOVE: Music professor Craig Russell, Cal Poly's best professor, is known for his antics in his classes like cutting off his tie. Steve Schueneman/ Mustang Daily

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Some organic food not worth the extra cost

By Rachel Roberthaw
Mustang Daily

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


"It's healthy and humane," Lowe said. "Most people have a political philosophy on the whole thing."

According to crop science professor John Phillips, in order for foods to be considered organic, farmers must produce food without the use of toxic pesticides and fertilizers. This means the fertilizers may be substituted with manure or compost.

Phillips estimates that less than five percent of growers in San Luis Obispo County grow organically. Phillips doesn't have a big concern with conventionally produced food being unsafe.

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

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

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

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

There are documented problems of harm to farmers who are regularly exposed to large doses. Even though organic growers don't use toxic pesticides or synthetic fertilizers, this doesn't necessarily mean that organic foods are free of these.

Although they are not added to the soil in production, the wind, rain and groundwater can transfer pesticides from miles away.

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

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

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

Art and design senior Jamie Fend used to eat more organic food when she lived at home.

"It's just better for the environment," said "When I was in high school I used to eat organic food, because my parents would buy it. It just got too expensive."

Some local businesses that sell or serve organic food include Foods For the Family, New Frontiers Natural Foods, Linn's Cafe, Questa Co-Op Natural Foods and Blending Blender Juice Bar.

And, of course, there's the weekly Farmers Market. Many students who buy fruits and vegetables there assume the food is organically grown. Unless growers have a certificate identifying them as organic farmers, they may not be following organic-farming standards.

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

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

Best Park
1. Cuesta Park

Cuesta Park is the home of many WOW events. It offers a playground, BBQ area, and softball field, and is used by a variety of organizations in San Luis Obispo. Another park attraction is that there is a creek running through it and benches people can sit on to watch the water and relax. To get there, go down Grand Avenue, turn left, and follow the road until you reach Cuesta Park.

2. Santa Rosa Park
3. Laguna Lake

Best place to watch the sunset
1. Montaña de Oro

From the hills or the cliffs, you can watch the horizon until the last sunbeam vanishes.

2. Morro Bay
3. Cuesta Ridge

Best place to walk your dog or iguana
1. Lagoa Lake

Walking paths throughout the park make it the perfect place to take a leisurely stroll or run with your favorite pet. The park also features a lake with docks for your dog to chase. Just don't forget to bring your pooper scooper.

2. Cal Poly

HM neighbor's or frat house lawns
**Best place to workout**
1. Rec Center
Bottom line: It's free! What else can you ask for when looking for a place to pump it up?

“It's free and convenient. It's expected at certain times, that's the only bad thing about it,” said Jamie Quroba, agricultural science senior.

Many students frequent the Rec Center in the mornings and afternoons, before or after classes. It's also an excellent place to burn off steam during the stresses of finals and midterms. This gym provides all the amenities of a campus gym, with the out-of-expense fees.

2. SLO Kickboxing
3. Cory Everson's

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

2. Aida's
3. Leon's

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

2. Blockbuster video
3. Studio Video

**Best TV station**
1. KCOY
Located at 736 Higuera St. Central Coast Surf sells a variety of snowboarding, skateboarding and surfboarding equipment. For surfboarders, the store sells longboards, shortboards and fun-shaped boards. Central Coast Surf sells many brands of snowboards including Rusty, Burton, Jeronides and Lab Technologies. Scott Robinson, a forestry and natural resources management major, said because of Finmer's Market, Thursday night is the busiest time of the week for Central Coast Surf.

2. Moondoggies
3. Wavelengthes

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

2. Jester's Dead
3. Heli-Hotwheelz

**Best radio station**
1. KCFR 91.3
With a phone number matching it's call letters, Cal Poly's own KCFR 91.3 seems to please the most listeners. When it comes to variety, no other station comes close, offering a selection that includes classical, jazz, country, punk, reggae, ska, electronic, oldies and even hours dedicated to the 80's and the Beatles. Cal Poly student Jbfhgo across the airwaves 24 hours a day adding news updates for the campus. The station also features the only sports talk show in San Luis Obispo.

2. KZOZ 93.3
3. KSLY 96.1

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

2. Pismo Beach
3. Montana de Oro

**Best surf shop**
1. CCS
Located at 1765 Higuera St. Central Coast Surf sells a variety of snowboarding, skateboarding and surfboarding equipment. As for surfboards, the store sells longboards, shortboards and fun-shaped boards. Central Coast Surf sells many brands of snowboards including Rasty, Burton, Jeronides and Lab Technologies. Scott Robinson, a forestry and natural resources management major, said because of Finnmers Market, Thursday night is the busiest time of the week for Central Coast Surf.

2. Moondoggies
3. Wavelengthes

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

2. Montana de Oro
3. Cuesta Grade

**Best beach**
1. Pismo Beach
Pismo Beach, about 12 miles south of SLO, hosts one of the longest and widest stretches of beach in California. Pismo Beach offers a wide variety of beach activities. You can kayak along the cliffs, surf, tide pools, fish, go horseback riding, watch the sunset and rent bikes or all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). There are dunes in addition to the beach, and camp and picnic sites are available.

Pismo also hosts a variety of events throughout the year, including a custom car show, the Clam festival, 4th of July fireworks, Western days, and two Disneyland family festivals.

2. Avila Beach pre-oil
3. Montana de Oro

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

2. Bishop's Peak
3. Poly Canyon

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

2. Montana de Oro
3. Cuesta Grade

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Best place to Eat on Campus

1. Cal Poly
2. Montana de Oro
3. Cuesta Grade
Mustang Daily

NEW BATS continued from page 12

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

Price too, has witnessed a change.

"Butts hit this year are a lot higher than they were in a year ago's season is non," Price said. "For the kids that are physical, it won't change as much as for the smaller guys. Not many little guys will be hitting double-digit home runs any more." According to Mustang right fielder Matt Brish, he doesn't see much of a difference between the old and new bats.

"They're pretty close to what they were in the past," Brish said. "I think it's just real all the hope in the media. But speed is down a little, but that's about all. If you look at the overall, we're going to be a home run. The weight is the biggest difference — performance is about the same. You make a little pick, but that's it." One of the biggest topics of discussion stemming from the new standards is the speed with which the bats were implemented.

"We'd had our brooms, we'd have had a year to phase it in," McCutchen said. "If we could have done it less disruptively, it would have been better.'

According to Baseball America, conferences agreed to sanction bats meeting a two-thirds compression standard, as long as they were insured by manufacturers against hits from banned Ball materials. The two main bat manufacturers used by college baseball — Easton and Louisville Slugger — were not pre- pared for the new standards. By Jan. 15, the Pacific 10 and Louisville Slugger still had not reached an agreement. This caused a number of teams to use wood bats in early non-conference games.

According to Baseball America, this was the first time since 1973 Division I had used wood in a regular season game.

The difference in hitting in what bats were evident in the scores of college baseball around the country. In Arizona's season opener against St. Mary's, the Wildcats used aluminum, while the Gaels used wood. The Wildcats' coach David St. Mary's with a combined score of 35-8 in the three-game series. Also, Arizona State pitcher Will Waldrip, who faced wood bats against Utah and Hawaii-Hilo, threw shutouts in both games.

According to Mustang pitcher Jeremy Cunningham, he doesn't see any nitro­gen air pockets inside. That's not how baseball was meant to be played. It takes a special hitter to hit with wood. With aluminum, you have more of those cheap hits that flame to the outfield or the fence, that really have no business being hit that far."

Despite the more equal ground wood might offer, McCutchen doesn't see college baseball switching back to wood anytime soon.

"It's not as easy as that," McCutchen said. "There is not the quality of wood to supply the number of bats that would be needed. Even at the professional level, it's struggle to find enough quality wood. It's not a blanket solution."

According to McCutchen, the restoring of standards will be an ongoing process. "Research is always going to try and find new ways around the set parameters," he said. "Wood is wood, you know. It hasn't changed in the last 150 years. There is not the advancements of metal."

According to Baseball America, the NCAA announced the creation of an independent panel to study the new standards, as well as imposing a 90-mile-per-hour limit on batted-ball exit-speed velocity, effective for the 2000 season.

Associate commissioner for the Big West Rob Halvacs said, "Being in the office, we don't see the bats. We're not that close to the field. It appears that the move was positive in improving safety standards. It will have a positive effect on teams with good pitchers."

Price agreed the change will put pitchers on more equal ground.

"It will give pitchers a chance to run the ball back in again," Price said.

According to Cunningham, eventually there hasn't been a noticeable difference in pitching.

"Before we actually get the bats, we can't even think it might make a difference," Cunningham said. "But you can't change your approach because of bats."

There has been talk that pitchers might pitch inside more and try to jam hitters, but according to Blue Jays scouting director Tim Wilkes, there hasn't been much evidence of it.

"There wasn't an effort made to pitch inside that I thought there would be," Wilkes said in Baseball America. Cunningham agreed. "We're not throwing inside much. As a staff, we haven't talked about it at all."

A's Grieve picks up where left off

PHOENIX, Ariz. (AP) — As if to prove he deserved last season's American League Rookie of the Year title, Ben Grieve kicked off the Oakland A's Cactus League season with a grand slam.

"That's just being Ben," said A's rookie third baseman Eric Chavez, who some say could be Grieve's heir apparent for Rookie of the Year.

"Hopefully, we'll see a lot of that," Grieve's grand slam came off Hector Ramirez in a seven-run third inning as the A's beat the Milwaukee Brewers 7-5 in their exhibition opener Thursday.

"The first win is always the toughest. I don't care what league you're in," A's manager Art Howe said. "But it's nice to get on our first try and hold them there."

Tom Caspari drove in the A's, allowing one hit and striking out one in two innings. That 41-year-old knuckleballer was 11-6 last season with a 4.84 ERA. He 16 losses tied for the most in the AL, and were the most by an A's pitcher since Matt Keough lost 18 in 1982.

"I threw almost everything I had, and I felt good about it," said Caspari, a lefty who was charged with the win.

"I'm just taking it one at a time, keeping my eyes open," Baker said Thursday. "I'm generally pretty fair with stuff. I don't make any snap judgments."

The A's open their exhibition season on Friday against the Milwaukee Brewers in Maryvale. The team's first home game is against the Brewers at Scottsdale Stadium on Saturday. Baker said he hadn't yet figured out his lineup for Friday. He was hoping to give everyone in the starting lineup a couple of at-bats, maybe four or five innings.

"It's all sort of experimental, anyway," he said.

The Cactus League season is weird because teams want to win, but they want to evaluate all their players at the same time.

"The record is one thing," Baker said. "But I want to find out as much as I can before the season starts so I can put guys in a position to succeed rather than fail."

The comment from the manager on the other side of San Francisco Bay was much the same. One performance doesn't make a decision maker.

"The first time out is to get rid of your cobwebs," said Oakland Athletics manager Art Howe. "About halfway through the spring, that's when you start beating down the base..."
## Sports

### Cal Poly Basketball Statistics

#### Men's Basketball

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#### Women's Basketball

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#### BIG WEST STANDINGS

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#### RENTAL HOUSING

- **Width 1-30, Height 0-5**: Mustang Daily
- **Width 1-30, Height 0-5**: Mustang Daily
SPORTS

New bats bring back old style ball

By Trisha Thorn
Mustang Daily

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

On Jan. 15, the NCAA executive committee finally addressed this issue. They approved standards to reduce the barrel diameter from 2 1/4 inches to 2 5/8 inches, and change the weight-to-length differential from five to three units. The changes will affect Division I, II, and III.

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

The new regulations have caused two key changes.

First, the smaller barrel diameter allows less of a sweet spot, making it easier for batters to get swung off. The change in the weight-length ratio will result in slower bat speed, which in turn, affects how far the ball gets hit. According to Cal Poly head baseball coach Ritch Price, the changes will be good for college baseball. It will restore the integrity of the game,” Price said.

According to McCutcheon, while it is a bit early to make a judgment on any effect the new standards, see NEW BATS, page 10

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

Poly hopes to tune up this weekend in preparation for Big West play

By Jayme Fulford
Mustang Daily

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

The team has a four-game series against the Temple University Owls, who, with a 0-3 record, have only played a few games. The series will mark the beginning of several West Coast games for the Owls.

It will also conclude the Mustangs’ nine-game homestand. Their record at home is 5-2.

Big West teams battle for one NCAA spot

By Adam Russo
Mustang Daily

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

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

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

So why would a team from the Big West want to put itself through such drama when winning the national title is all but impossible?"Upsets, that’s why.”

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

Rockies give Walker mile-high contract

Associated Press

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

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

The agreement came less than two weeks after Walker sat in front of his locker and openly wondered if 1999 would be his last season in Colorado. “I’m going to relax, finally,” Walker said before the Rockies’ spring opener against the Arizona Diamondbacks. “I’ve been shaking for the last three days, not only about six years and all the money that’s involved, but just the fact that it’s over and we can just talk about what it is. I’m so relieved it’s over.”

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

He also deal, with a $12.5 million average annual value, ties him with Boston pitcher Pedro Martinez and New York Yankees outfielder Bernie Williams, behind only Los Angeles (pitcher Kevin Brown ($35 million), Anaheim first baseman Mo Vaughn ($12.3 million), Arizona pitcher Randy Johnson ($12.1 million) and New York Mets catcher Mike Piazza and Baltimore outfielder Albert Belle ($12 million each).

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

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

“He looks terrible,” Rockies owner Jerry McMorris said. “We still have to play the games, but he sure proves the eyeball test.”

Big West in Mott Gym at 7 p.m.

Steve Schueneman/Mustang Daily

Baseball

12 Friday, March 5, 1999

SPORTS