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Cal Poly has long been considered one of the best public universities in the nation. The university’s unique “learn by doing” approach to education is so oft-repeated it has become cliché.

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

— Ryan Becker, editor in chief

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

- Open House Events and Schedule [see page 5]
- Crime in San Luis Obispo [see page 7]
- Missing people in SLO [see page 7]
  - Kristin Smart, Rachel Newhouse and Aundria Crawford — Find out details about their cases.
- Cal Poly fee increases [see page 9]
  - The new Poly Plan calls for $135 to supplement learning.
- Construction on campus [see page 11]
  - Buildings are blazing on the parking structure, Sports Complex and Advanced Technology Lab.
- Cal Poly expands Athletics [see page 17]
  - Sports are improving at the Division I level.
- Schedule of Sports Events [see page 17]
- Housing problems [see page 15]
  - Enrollment increases are pushing rent prices up.
- Cal Poly updates Master Plan [see page 11]
- What’s in SLO? [see page 19]
  - San Luis Obispo features variety of shops.
- Growth in the County [see page 21]
  - Cities are expanding in all directions.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>HEALTH SERVICES</strong></th>
<th><strong>PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MTRF 8-4:30 W 9-4:30</td>
<td>Individual &amp; Couple Counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psy. Services M-F 8-5</td>
<td>Crisis Intervention</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Education &amp; Outreach</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Group Counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Consultation</td>
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<td>Groups (Anxiety and Stress Management, Relationships, Healthy Eating, Women’s Issues, Assertiveness Training)</td>
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</tbody>
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Average crime rate remains low in San Luis Obispo

Reported sexual assaults and rapes are increasing

By Alexis Garberff

San Luis Obispo’s crime rate is below average compared to other California college cities despite reported public worry about three missing women.

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

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

San Luis Obispo had a crime rate index of 52 in 1997. Santa Barbara and Monterey had rates of 69, while Chico had an index of 66. The crime rates are relative to average of the 500 cities in the HomeCrime database, based on homicides, robberies, rapes, aggravated assaults and motor vehicle thefts.

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

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

Police said statistics for 1999 have not been compiled.

Crime in college

Topham also noted that students are more often the victims.

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

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(541-BUSS)

SLO TRANSIT
Poly balances student fees, state funds

By Ryan Miller

Mustang Daily

In 1993, living expenses for a Cal Poly student's academic year totaled $215. Payment covered room, board, laundry service, books and supplies, such as chemicals, wood, iron and drawing materials.

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

Mechanical engineering sophomore Kevin Hastings spent $360 on books his first quarter at Cal Poly — $145 more than an entire single second. Q m ie May, we don't want another alternative consultation, "

Eventually, a vote will be held to determine whether students support a fee increase. Luker said.

"We're sitting on our hands, in a way," Luker said. "We postponed the vote until we find out what's going on with the state."

Private donations are an alternative to state and student money.

"The main purpose of the advancement office is to identify academic needs that can be supported by private funds," said Vice President for University Advancement William Fokk. He added that private support has increased over 90 percent during the past four years.

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

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

The profits from student-sold livestick and butter also went to the school, but even that didn't completely meet the school's financial needs. Ultimately, students at Cal Poly in 1919 did the same thing as students of 1999.

"They would go to the state every year and appeal for funding," Taylor said.

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

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

Tracy Summers, a local substitute teacher and Cal Poly alumni, faced those massive fee increases during her graduate education in 1990. When she began in 1989, she paid $331 in tuition per quarter.

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

Summers, a physical education and kinesiology graduate, remembered one of the biggest issues that developed during the recession was Cal Poly's move to Division 1 sports. Administrators hoped the move would increase the flow of private sector donations.

"They were basically going to cut our athletic program or have a fee increase to move to Division 1," Summers said. "I felt that sports is really important, so I supported it, but response was mixed."

The Instructionally Related Activities referendum proposed that students fund the move, starting at $13 per quarter in 1992 and rising to $45 in 1995.

The Poly Plan Steering Committee did not know what percent of the current proposed fee increases would go to sports, or any other area. According to John Muller, student director for the College of Engineering, Poly Plan funding distribution will not be finalized until the state determines its budget.

"We postponed the vote until we find out what's going on with the state."

— Amy Luker

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Constructing a higher quality of education

By Burt McNaughton
Mustang Daily

Cal Poly’s history of construction goes hand in hand with its “Learn by Doing” philosophy. The current construction of the parking garage, the new engineering building, and the Sports Complex are driven by Cal Poly’s academic mission.

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

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

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

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

Some students and staff aren’t as optimistic when it comes to construction around campus. Students often feel that constructions put a burden on their pocketbooks or affects the surrounding environment.

During the mid-1980s, students were faced by an unusual question — whether or not they wanted to help finance new recreation facilities. Cal Poly had used student funds in the past, but not since the financing of the University Union in 1986.

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

Former Associate Students Inc. (ASI) Community Relations officer Mark Reischel didn’t believe the student body should be taxed so heavily for a facility they may not even be able to use.

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

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

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

One of the current projects constructed with state funding in the new Sports Complex. Cal Poly committed 40 acres of land for the project, which cannot receive any state funding because it’s not part of the academic mission.

“Half of the complex will be paid for by the students, while the other half will be paid for through donations,” Kitamura said.

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

“I was one of the main people who opposed the site of the Sports Complex,” said Phil Ashley, support technician for biological sciences. “Not the core part needed by our students, but I opposed the location of the stadium. It’s too close to the Sheepard and Smith reservoirs.”

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

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

Concerns about Cal Poly’s construction and its surrounding environment have been around since the 1940s and ’50s. Buildings had to blend into the landscape so as not to cause an eyesore. That’s one reason that building 32, the science building, is so spread out. It’s all one story, although it looks like three different levels.

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

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

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

Another orange-fenced project was the campus utilities-upgrade project called Utilidor, which spanned from 1995 to 1998.

Utilidor caused parking to wane, sidewalks to disappear and gave a new definition to the term “alternative route.”

see BUILDING, page 27

Partners envision student facility

By Andy Castagnola
Mustang Daily

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

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

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

“The natural focus is on what services students want to have available to them,” Amador said.

Vice President for Student Affairs Juan Gonzalez shares Amador’s dream for a multifunctional center.

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

Gonzalez called it an information marketplace, a place for booking up laptops and eating pizza.

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

Current projects are the Sports Complex and the Advanced Technology Lab, but others are looking over the northwest corner.

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

see NEW, page 27
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Sports steps up to Div. I, Big West challenges

By Adam Russo
Mustang Daily

Cal Poly athletics has come a long way from the beginning of the century when the number of athletes on school teams could be counted on two hands.

In the 99 years of Cal Poly's existence, athletics has always been a consistent part of the Mustang experience. The evolution of the school's sports program has been a gradual climb from the depths of intercollegiate sports to Division I status Cal Poly enjoys today.

In 1915, when the baseball team featured 12 players and one coach, and the game of softball had yet to make an appearance in intercollegiate sports, the idea of building a multi-million dollar Sports Complex on campus would have been considered insane. Today, the reality is that with more than 470 student-athletes, Cal Poly is enjoying the largest growth in the school's athletic history.

Of all the changes that have allowed Cal Poly's athletic program to advance at the rate it has, the 1991 student vote to help fund the athletic department was a watershed moment in the school's history.

The vote, which drew a turnout of more than 10,000 students, forever changed the face of Cal Poly athletics.

"It was a decision that was greater than whether we go to Division I or not, because of the state budget situation," Cal Poly Athletic Director John McCutcheon said. "It was either maintain a broad-based program and move to Division I, or without the vote we would have relied on varsity athletics to help fund the athletic department."

Through all the changes, the Mustangs have still kept an emphasis on the student-athlete concept.

"The athletic department puts a good deal of emphasis today on supporting the needs of the student-athletes," Baker said. "We have a very effective academic advising program, and that's important." The Mustangs have still kept an emphasis on the student-athlete concept.

"The athletic department puts a good deal of emphasis today on supporting the needs of the student-athletes," Baker said. "We have a very effective academic advising program, and that's important."
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Too many students, too little housing

By Cathy Lee

San Luis Obispo is outlined in Cal Poly's Master Plan. San Luis Obispo city councilman Jim Marx is on the Master Plan committee for housing, which is currently looking at ways to build affordable on-campus housing. I'm hoping that the on-campus housing for students will be available at a lower than market rate," he said.

Seniors think they'll have priority over freshmen, but the plan is not set in stone yet.

In Los Osos, the same type of apartment rents for $650 a month with water and garbage included. Linda George, property manager of First Street Lofts in Los Osos, said the rent will continue to increase each year.

San Luis Obispo also raised its rent for next year by 5 percent to $415 to $445, according to office manager Lori Mathews.

For a private room at Stenner Glen in San Luis Obispo, the rent will increase from $534 to $554 next school year, a 2 percent increase.

There is very little construction in San Luis Obispo, according to office manager Lori Mathews for next year, which is scheduled to be completed.

In Los Osos, the same type of apartment rents for $650 a month with water and garbage included. Linda George, property manager of First Street Lofts in Los Osos, said the rent will continue to increase each year.

Despite lower rent outside San Luis Obispo, many students prefer to live on campus because it's more convenient to get to class.

For students who choose to live off campus, Allen said his department sends a packet to students with different options for apartments. Students can also check http://www.housing.calpoly.edu for information.

Fitting in:

More than 2,200 students squeeze into dorm rooms on Cal Poly campus.

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

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

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

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

"The city's general plan calls for the city annexing, or bringing into the city, all of the land all the way out toward the airport, which is a vast amount of land," Petersen said. "That is the area that is designated for the city's new growth area."
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Cal Poly braces for enrollment jump with new Master Plan

By Bryce Alderton
Mustang Daily

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For this scenario, Cal Poly could design a new campus plan that incorporates more teaching spaces, housing and other facilities. The campus could add one million square feet of new space.

The second scenario is an expanded academic calendar to accommodate more students while increasing summer enrollment. The deans' committee believes this scenario would result in the least enrollment growth.

The third scenario, more on-campus academic year enrollment, increases the number of admitted students on campus. More students may mean more afternoon, evening and weekend classes. Also, higher enrollment may force construction of additional classrooms, labs and faculty offices.

Robert Kitanuma, director of Facilities Planning, said, "People love open space to sit down, throw a Frisbee, take a nap between classes. There are few grassy areas left, so we may need to build structures vertically instead of horizontally."

If the campus enrolled 20,000 full-time students, the deans committee said the campus may need 20 to 32 percent more academic space.

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

It proposes to keep academic enrollment the same while increasing summer enrollment. The deans' committee believes this scenario would result in the least enrollment growth.

There are 11 task forces debating these scenarios.

The task forces tackle different but overlapping areas, including environment and technology, housing, neighborhood relations, land use, natural resources and economics. For example, the task force on environment and technology will probably cover areas such as air quality and noise pollution. The task force on economics will probably consider how much it will cost to build dormitories, classrooms, libraries and parking lots.

"There is no glaring priority as to what needs to be addressed first," said Deb Ryan, project information coordinator for Facilities Planning. "All these overlap in some ways. If you increase enrollment, then that means an increase in circulation. More buses will be needed and more exhaust will be added to the environment."

Ryan added, "I don't think we need to grow in numbers but rather grow in technology."

Preserving Cal Poly's natural resources and surrounding environment is a main concern for task force members.

Cal Poly owns land at the campus core and around San Luis Reservoir and Bartlett Lake. This land was given to Cal Poly in 1963.

Kumamoto believes the school needs to be careful to balance "environmental resources with our increasing student load."

"Environmental resources are the most important item coming out of this thing. Huge issues are air pollution, water conservation and energy conservation. All these things overlap into the community and that's why it's so important that the task forces are formed. The community gets to speak," Kumamoto said.

The Master Plan also calls for an environmental impact report for the lands that the task forces approve for development.

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City maintains SLO growth despite downtown changes

By Jessica Hagans and Andrea Parker
Mustang Daily

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

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

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

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

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

“[There is] feeling that this is a rapidly growing area, though the city of San Luis Obispo’s growth is not that great,” said Jeff Jorgeisen, San Luis Obispo city attorney.

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

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

“Growth pressure that the city experiences are directly related to enrollment growth at the university,” he said.

San Luis Obispo Vice Mayor Dave Romero agreed with Jorgeisen.

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

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

Justine Nelson of Cal Poly Institutional Planning and Analysis said this fall’s enrollment was 16,286, whereas it remained roughly 15,000 students throughout the 1970s.

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

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

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

The downtown area has become more urban in the last 150 years, changing from the original mission and agricultural community.

New businesses have sprung up after World War II, bringing with them paved roads and street lamps. In the last 10 to 20 years, the town’s changes in commerce have signified the rebirth of the community, Holley said.

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

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

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

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

Even before Jorgeisen moved here, downtown’s shops were changing.

In the 1970s, Woolworth’s used to be there. The Network now houses several shops. Ross stands where J.C. Penney’s used to be. The Mission Plaza was built in the 1960s. The five-year-old Downtown Centre is the latest development downtown, according to Holley.

Jorgeisen said the newer kinks and style of shops is what downtown needs.

“With certain exceptions, the old mom and pop places can’t make it in today’s economic climate,” he said.

Even with new shopping centers establishing businesses outside the central area, downtown’s charm continues to draw customers.

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

Cold winds are the bane in line keeping downtown hopping.

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

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

Many software companies, such as SegaSoft and Oldworld Inhabitants, are attracted to San Luis Obispo’s quality of life and distance from Silicon Valley’s competition, according to Jorgeisen.

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

In addition, those businesses bring sales tax revenue to see DOWNTOWN, page 27
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Big businesses, big projects taking root in SLO County

By Nikki Wilson and Danielle Samaniego

Mustang Daily

San Luis Obispo County is growing in every direction, but not without considerable debate.

To the west, Grover Bay and Los Osos are home to many Cal Poly students who want to escape the high rent costs of San Luis Obispo. To the north, Atascadero and Paso Robles attract some of the area’s biggest annual events. And to the south, Pismo Beach, Arroyo Grande and the country’s neighbor, Santa Maria, are welcoming big businesses.

Los Osos

Low rental rates bring many Cal Poly students to Los Osos. The town, however, is facing a major growth problem due to its lack of a sewer system. The problem was acknowledged back in the 1970s when the city’s population grew from approximately 1,900 to almost 11,000 people, a 32 percent increase in only 10 years.

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

Montana De Oro State Park in Los Osos is a popular place for tourists to visit. The park includes a bike, walk, picnic, surf and camp.

Morro Bay

The Seven Sisters chain of inactive volcanoes lines the stretch of Highway 1 connecting San Luis Obispo and Morro Bay. Many Cal Poly students find work at restaurants, shops or hotels in town and along the Embarcadero.

Morro Bay attracts tourists to see Morro Rock and the Morro Bay Embarcadero. It is a short distance from Lover’s Point.

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

Atascadero

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

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

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

Paso Robles

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

Construction is from the overcrowding of schools to the war and torn on city streets.

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

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

Paso Robles is best known as the site of the Mid-State Fair, held in late July. The fair is a huge event, attracting publicists and visitors from all over California. This year’s highlights include country singers Tim McGraw and Reba McEntire, and pop vocalists Britney Spears and ‘N Sync. Other activities include quilt judging, contests and a rodeo.

Free main stages spread out in southern San Luis Obispo County, Avila Beach and the Five Cities, now technically only four cities.

Santa Maria

A city in Santa Barbara County, Santa Maria is a vital neighbor. With a population of 70,000, it is best known for its mall access, because it has the only large shopping center within a short distance of San Luis Obispo County. It also offers the variety of several major chain stores, including Target, Costco, Home Depot and Circuit City.

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

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

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

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

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

Arroyo Grande

Arroyo Grande officially claimed its sweetheart over the Five Cities area when Walmart opened its door on January 27.

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

According to The Tribune, the city, with a population of 13,500, is currently updating its General Plan land-use issues, asking local citizens where they would like to see growth.

Grover Beach

Grover City took on a new personality when it made the change to Grover Beach. About 12,500 people live in the seaside town, including 90% of Cal Poly students and faculty.

“We’re kind of a bedroom community for students and faculty of Cal Poly,” Mayor Peter Keith said.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Pismo Beach

Pismo Beach recently merged with Shell Beach, causing the Five Cities to become four. The newly combined city — population 8,300 — is best known for its wide stretch of beach and for its clams. Every third week in October, the city hosts a clam festival.

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

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

Pismo Beach — a new development in the county’s northern cities and a great course — is in the works. Construction should begin in November, and completion is slated for May 2000.

Avila Beach

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

Both the town and Unocal are working together to remove petroleum products, including gasoline, diesel and crude oil from the soil and water that lies beneath the beach itself. The proposed completion date is May 2000.
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MISSING
continued from page 7
was featured on "America's Most Wanted. " "Unsolved Mysteries, ” "Geraldo, ” "Lauer" and in a recent issue of People magazine.

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

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

Billboards advertising a $50,000 reward for information were posted along Highway 101 at the north and south entrances to San Luis Obispo.

Two years passed, the billboards came down and Cal Poly students let the case fade from memory.

Then on Nov. 12, 1998, Rachel Newhouse, a 20-year-old Cal Poly nutrition junior, was reported missing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Audria Crawford, a 20-year-old Cuesta College student, was reported missing March 12, 1999.

However, Crawford's case differs from previous cases. Police believe she was not drinking and that she was abducted from her home.

Crawford's mother, Carol Berbert, had police drive by Crawford house to check on her. When Berbert still didn't hear from her daughter after police left her a note, she reported Crawford missing.

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

Police investigated Crawford's Branch Street apartment and concluded that she was abducted by force.

Two years passed, the disappearance faded from memory. Newhouse's case was aired on "America's Most Wanted" shortly after she disappeared.

According to Berrett, Cal Poly has specific procedures when students are reported missing.

"It's a very personal matter, the person may want to start looking right away. We check classes and make phone calls," said Juan Gonzalez, vice president of Student Affairs at Cal Poly, is helping coordinate awareness and safety talks on campus.

"Since these disappearances, we have focused our energy on two areas first, by assisting with the investigation mounted by our local and national law enforcement agencies, and second, by educating our students about ways that they can minimize their safety and minimize their risks, " Gonzalez said.

Gonzalez wants to assure parents and students that safety is a priority.

"We have put safety on the forefront of our duties and at the core of our mission. We are honest about the missing students and what we are doing in response," said Gonzalez.

Crime
continued from page 7
validates Gonzalez's prediction.

Charamik is still planning to attend Cal Poly in the fall as a recreation administration major.

"I have always wanted to go to Cal Poly," Charamik said. "The three disappearances did not have an effect on my choice of university. I am not afraid to go there, but I will be more cautious while I am there.

Preventing the next crime
The San Luis Obispo Police Department, as well as campus police, have worked diligently to educate students on personal and campus safety.

According to Topham, members of the police department, including himself — conduct forums and news conferences at Cal Poly in order to inform students.

"We have had several public forums at Cal Poly," Topham said. "Even before students see us, we have had forums on what to do if you are missing, how to dress properly, and the like.

"Our event is a way of educating all students on campus," Perkins said. "I don't believe that rape rates are increasing, but people are learning how to report it. We have brochures at the Women's Center, and other forums. We hope that this will prevent unfortunate incidents like the missing girls.

Date-rape victim Katie Koerner will be speaking on April 28 as part of the event's education program. Take Back the Night will also have a silent march through Farmers Market on April 28.

Take Back the Night is also responsible for painting red handprints on campus sidewalks to represent assaults in those areas.

In addition to providing educational programs, campus police have installed more lighting on campus as well as emergency blue lights. Police chose locations for emergency lights based on a student survey that identified remote parts of campus. The lights have a call box that allows authorities if a student has an emergency, a siren and a flashing blue light.

Psychology junior and Community Service Officer Sarina Meredith said the police, along with other agencies, has done an effective job of educating students.

"I am a CSO, so I work with campus police, but I am still a female student on this campus," Meredith said. "I know what is going on, and I have all the information. Cal Poly is trying its best to educate the students on campus, and I don't know of any other university that has made such an effort.

Meredith said even though she is well-informed, she does not have a false sense of security, she believes no matter what town students live in, they need to take safety precautions.

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— Bart Topham
San Luis Obispo Police Captain

"Students" set themselves up by not using good judgment.

Dawn Kalmar/Mustang Daily

MISSING
continued from page 7
"Our role is to educate and prepare our students to be citizens of the world, to educate the whole being. By doing this we recognize that working toward their own personal safety is a value we want our students to learn, and we want them to adapt this as a lifelong practice," the FBI, sheriff's department, police department and university officials continue to search for leads in all three cases. Anyone with information should call the anonymous tip line at 781-4544.
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MASTER PLAN

continued from page 19

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

Cal Poly will hire a consultant from the university for the environmental review.

Kitamura said, "Hiring someone from your own community is a wise idea. We are lucky that he is a part of the university because he knows what is going on and what the concentration should center on. It helps keep costs down too," Kitamura said.

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

The last time Cal Poly approved a Master Plan in 1963, administrators set a capacity of 17,000 full-time students, approved the $1.5 million administration building, and discussed plans for renovating the parking lots behind the red brick and North Mountain domes.

There have been 15 changes made to the original 1963 plan. In 1965, the plan was updated when the state began requiring CSUs to admit one-third of the state's high school graduates. A major change occurred in 1972 with the addition of one bachelor of science and six master of science programs. The most recent change, which added possible building sites, occurred in February 1998.

A change in 1972 had the greatest impact because it increased enrollment capacity to 15,000 full-time students.

Kitamura noted differences between the current Master Plan and the 1963 version.

"Back then there were no environmental regulations so the school built buildings upon circulation and activities. They didn't concentrate into the larger community and how it will influence San Luis Obispo," Kitamura said.

The updated plan revolves around its environmental impact, and community members have active roles in the Master Plan through task forces.

NEW

continued from page 11

Market.

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

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

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

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

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

Davis said:

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

DOWNTOWN

continued from page 21

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

"Though they are not as romantic as software companies, car dealerships are the No. 1 providers of sales tax revenue," Jones said.

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

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

Stephen Peterson, a Cal Poly city and regional planning graduate student, hopes this growth comes soon.

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

It's important that students be there," Davis said.

"They're the center of what we're trying to do." Davis said he plans on conducting student surveys and Gonzalez added that students will likely have a referendum on at Cal Poly. There's a lot happening downtown area and Mission Plaza.

DOWN TOWN

PEACEFUL PATH: San Luis creek flows through the downtown area and Mission Plaza.

Dawn Kaman/Mustang Daily

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PAVED PARADISE: Construction is underway on the parking structure located behind the Performing Arts Center.

Steve Schumann/Mustang Daily

BUILDING

continued from page 11

"People griped and complained about the Utilidor project because it disrupted sidewalks and parking. It was difficult to deal with," said Delmae Duangs, soil science professor.

"If you keep building a better physical plant that can provide a better service to the next generation of students, then it's worth the inconvenience." The engineering department began expanding its facilities to better accommodate its students in the ever-changing world of engineering.

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

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

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

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

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