The drinking habits of a college town

Mikaela Akuna

Go out any Friday or Saturday night in San Luis Obispo and you'll see its presence. Beer bottles strewn across lawns and gutters. Police officers handing out tickets to loud partygoers. People stumbling across Higuera Street from one bar to the next. Alcohol is everywhere in San Luis Obispo, a town that's home to two colleges.

It seems many students drink as a social activity. Attending parties with drinking is not only shown, but celebrated in many movies and television shows. Movies like "Animal House" and songs like Asher Roth's "I Love College" reinforce the notion that drinking and partying are key aspects of a college student's experience.

Many Cal Poly students who drink agree that it's just a way of life; partying on Higuera Street and downtown every weekend, and going downtown once you turn 21 can be central events in students' social lives.

Statistically, the beginning of each academic year is the highest point of partying in San Luis Obispo. According to Captain Dan Blanke of the San Luis Obispo Police Department, the San Luis Obispo Police Department beefs up staff to accommodate partygoers from the Thursday and Friday of Welcome Weekend into the first few weeks of the quarter. This includes more overtime shifts as well as working with University Police to help patrol the northern end of town next to campus.

The number of parties and noise complaints tend to drop off further into each quarter, especially over academic holidays like winter and summer break when students typically go home. The beginning of the winter and spring quarters and holidays like Halloween and St. Patrick's Day can also be busy, but the first month of school has the most alcohol and noise violations of the year.

Blanke added that the police department hasn't yet had to enforce the Social Host Ordinance that was placed on the ballot at the insistence of local senator and state director of finance. The measure was passed with 73 percent in San Luis Obispo and 80 percent of the voters in San Luis Obispo said in a statement, "The people were telling us: Don't bring this problem to our doorstep," said Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg in a statement. "We are going to cut . . . We're not staying away from that."

Proposition 1F passed with 73 percent statewide and received a resounding yes from 80 percent of the voters in San Luis Obispo County. 1F prevents elected officials including the governor from receiving pay raises in years when the state ends the fiscal year in a deficit. The responsibility of determining whether the year will end in deficit or not is given to the state director of finance. The measure was placed on the ballot at the insistence of local senator Abel Maldonado (R-Santa Maria), who voted yes on the February state budget-balancing deal conditional on a measure such as 1F being on the special election ballot.

Proposition 1A failed, with 65.8 percent of voters statewide and 64.9 percent in San Luis Obispo. The number of parties and noise complaints tend to drop off further into each quarter, especially over academic holidays like winter and summer break when students typically go home. The beginning of the winter and spring quarters and holidays like Halloween and St. Patrick's Day can also be busy, but the first month of school has the most alcohol and noise violations of the year.

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Calif., SLO voters reject all but one proposition

Zach Lantz

California voters sent a firm message to lawmakers on Tuesday, rejecting five of the six propositions on California's special election ballot.

Proposition 1E, which limits salary increases for elected state officials, was the only measure to pass.

"We have heard from the voters, and I respect the will of the people who are frustrated with the dysfunction in our budget system," California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger said in a statement.

Propositions 1A-1F were shot down with each proposition getting on average only one third of the necessary of 50 percent needed to pass.

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The NCAAs have restrictions for athletic alcohol consumption.

IN SPORTS, 16

TOMORROW: Partly cloudy High 71/Low 49
Alcohol
continued from page 1

Alcohol abuse at their home. Any host of a party where three or more minors are present, and at least one minor is drinking alcohol, will be charged with committing a misdemeanor and could face jail time and a $300 fine. According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the average American starts drinking on a regular basis at 15.5 years old. Binge drinking is defined as the consumption of five or more alcoholic beverages in a single setting.

The Cal Poly Health Center received a grant six years ago that has helped fund research aimed at locating local spots where students do the most binge drinking and partying. Each fall quarter, they send out surveys to between 1,000 and 2,000 students to answer questions about their drinking habits. The survey has shown that most students do the majority of "dangerous drinking" at apartment parties near campus and during Greek-sponsored parties. It also shows that undergraduates tend to binge drink and report vomiting and hangovers more than those who are over 21.

Dr. Marty Bragg, the Director of Health and Counseling at the Cal Poly Health Center, said the center has been working closely with San Luis Obispo Police Department, the California Highway Patrol, Sierra Vista Regional Medical Center and other public health and safety organizations. Now that they have a better idea of where people are partying excessively, the grant group plans on targeting trouble areas and educating hosts on how to have a safer party in the future.

Beginning in the fall, the group plans on creating informative material to educate party hosts on how to control and monitor drinking at their parties.

The most important thing is that people are comfortable getting practices to stop the selling of alcohol to minors, and even party parroting. "It will be very public," Bragg said. "We're not trying to run a sting operation or anything like that. We just want to help students be safe." When asked what the police department is doing, Blanke said that there has been a large influx of people walking around with open containers or party cups in public. However, officers are encouraged to be nice to students who are walking around from party to party at night. Some can even be seen walking around among the students conversing with others can be seen a block away writing a citation.

"We want to show them that we're not just a bunch of jerks," he said. "We're not going to kid ourselves and think that students don't party. We want you to have fun but we also can't just tolerate public alcohol poisoning. Although the police said that they would like the information to help prevent sexual assault, they decided that it is better to reassure students that they can go to the hospital when they need medical help, regardless of age.

"We're not condoning under-aged alcohol abuse," Blanke said. "But the most important thing is that people are comfortable getting medical help, regardless of age.

Not everyone at Cal Poly engages in heavy drinking, or even drinks at all. Students like business administration junior Jessie Becker and biology sophomore Natalie Folsom said drinking isn't cool in their eyes. "I'm still not going to go out and get plastered," Folsom said. "It just doesn't appeal to me." Becker said. "I can have fun not drinking and not have to worry about the consequences of it the next day."

In regards to peer pressure, Becker and Folsom agree that Cal Poly students are fairly open to the idea of not drinking. "There isn't really a lot of social pressure. Everyone thinks it's cool that I don't drink," Folsom said. The infamous 21st birthday celebration often involves bar-hopping, but Folsom said she hasn't put much thought into it. "Drinking doesn't appeal to me too much now," she said. "I don't really think that will change just because I'm 21."

However, Becker thinks that one's 21st birthday might be worth celebrating appropriately. "I think it would be kind of cool to go to a sports bar and watch a game and maybe have a beer," she said. "But I'm still not going to go out and get plastered."

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Obispo County voting no. Proposition 1A would have increased the size of the state’s rainy day fund, which would have allocated revenue from good fiscal years into the fund, to be used for future economic downturns.

"The California State University and other public services avoided a severe setback for the state’s future prospects when voters rejected Proposition 1A," the California Faculty Association said in a statement Wednesday.

Proposition 1B received no votes from 62.3 percent of voters statewide and 63.9 percent of voters in San Luis Obispo county. The proposition voted on passage of 1A, and if both passed would have given $9.3 billion to K-12 schools and community colleges through the state’s Budget Stabilization Fund (BSF). The proposition was voted down despite not having any official campaigns opposing it.

Proposition 1C failed with rejection from 64.6 percent of voters statewide and 67.4 percent of voters saying no in San Luis Obispo County. If 1C had passed it would have "modernized" the state loan system and would have allowed the state to borrow $5 billion from future projected lottery profits through the sales of bonds, with that money going into the state’s general fund. Opponents believed that projections for the future lottery revenues were overlyoptimistic and that 1C could have allowed the state to borrow money to be spent on unspecified reasons.

Proposition 1D sought to enhance funding for children’s services originating from 1998’s Proposition 10, which created the California Children and Families Program (now known as the First 5 Program) for promoting, supporting and improving health and early development of children during their first 5 years of age. 1D would have provided $600 million to fund children’s programs funded by revenues from state excise taxes on cigarettes. Voters statewide voted the proposition down by 66.4 percent and 69.4 percent of voters in San Luis Obispo County followed suit.

Proposition 1E would have basically been to mental health services what 1D would have been to children’s services, and was similarly rejected by voters with 66.4 percent voting no statewide and 67.1 voting no in the county.

In addition to Schweitzerengel, the propositions were championed by both democratic and republican state House and Senate leaders, as well as several large California labor unions and the California Chamber of Commerce.

Lawmakers will meet today to discuss their remaining options for reworking the state budget, which The Los Angeles Times recently reported is in jeopardy of going bankrupt by July.

In an effort to balance the budget, lawmakers may have to resort to deep cuts in public education and state jobs, and may even have to sell off state property. California will also consider the release and deportation of 99,000 illegal immigrants currently in state prisons, the Los Angeles Times reported. Twenty three thousand inmates could be transferred from state to county facilities as well.

- Meliza von Rombough contributed to this report.
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Alcohol-free entertainment

Bored on a Friday night? Can’t find anything to do? Looking for a reason to get out of the house without draining your bank account at the bars or the liquor store? San Luis Obispo is chock-full of things to do at a price much more affordable than a night out drinking. From on campus to around the city, there are tons of ways to find something to make the evening more exciting without getting trashed.

Mikaela Akuna MUSTANG DAILY

Rocking out for free

The most well-known, affordable entertainment you can find is right on campus every Thursday during UU Hour. Concerts in the Plaza is put on by Associated Students Inc. and features touring bands each week as well as local favorites. This quarter bands like Elevaters and locals Still Time played in the University Union Plaza. ASI is always accepting recommendations from students for bands they’d like to bring to campus.

If it’s not Thursday, head over to Backstage Pizza on campus around noon. There are a lot of different acts that come at various times, so you have a good chance of finding a performance.

Some SLO classics

What if a movie sounds great, but sitting inside on a nice warm Central California night doesn’t? Sunset Drive-In is a local classic. The best part is that you get two movies for the price of your ticket (usually $6). Just hop in the bed of a truck or roll the windows down and viola!

Farmers’ Market always has free music and entertainment. Also downtown is bike night, which is the first Thursday of every month after Farmers’ Market. It is the epitome of college fun and ridiculousness.

If you don’t mind paying a little for some live acts, various San Luis Obispo venues host concerts and other performances. Just for starters, check out what Downtown Brew, Linnaea’s Life, Boo Boo Records, The Graduate and The Clubhouse have to offer.

Dance the night away

Swing, samba or salsa your way into the evening — depending on what gets you grooving. Cal Poly abounds with dance opportunities, with lessons offered by various clubs throughout the week.


Salsa lessons, taught by members, are held every Friday night at Haring. Go to www.cpsalsa.com for more information.

Not to be outdone, the Country Line Dance Club steps into the scene on Thursdays, offering lessons at The Graduate at 8 p.m. before the club opens up for line dancing night. Visit the club’s Web site at www.cpcldc.com.

When you feel artsy

The Steynberg Gallery is another wonderful place to check out different sounds as well as some extraordinary artwork. A family-run gallery, it’s an ever-changing, ever-stirring place according to English senior Will Vigliotti, who has worked at the gallery for three years. “The Steynberg Gallery is run by a family and you can definitely feel that here. The owner, Peter, is like everybody’s dad — but a much cooler version,” Vigliotti said. “There’s always something new or strange going on, even if it’s some weirdo from off the street who’s just doing stuff inside or something we have lined up.”

The Steynberg has different things going on all the time, from poetry...
options abound in SLO

readings to new exhibits to various off-beat musical shows. "The gallery is rooted in the community and it's that cyclical community relationship that keeps the place going and forever moving," Vigliotti said.

Many of the performances held at the gallery are put on by the concert promotional group "Pocket Productions," run by Cal Poly alumni Graham Calhoun and Michele Treado. The group brings new and interesting bands, many of which are indie-famous, to the gallery all the time, with tickets that average $8.

Just smile and nod

"It's a good laugh your looking for, Cal Poly's resident improv team, Smile and Nod, performs every Saturday night at 7 p.m. with a short-form show and then again at 9 p.m. with their long-form style. Smile and Nod shows are a great way to start off your weekend right with a night of pure comedy. Both shows are only $5, and it is money well spent. Not only are they hilarious, but the team attends an improvisation comedy festival every other year, and your donations help the team pave their way to the extravaganza in Socal. Be sure to make reservations online, because tickets sell out fast."

Take yourself out to the ball game

"Sports fans Anyone can catch a Mustangs game or even attend a game for local summer college team The Blues, for about $8. "I love watching baseball," statistics senior Audrey Bigelow said. "The Blue make it fun with things like the 'beer batter' and all of neat stuff they do in between innings for kids." Visit the Cal Poly Athletics Web site at www.gopoly.com to see what's coming up.

Don't lose your groove

"Poetry aficionados don't have to lose their groove — at least not on the first Wednesday of each month. Another Type of Groove is slam poetry, or spoken word poetry and features both students and famous slammers from around the country. "Anyone that has the guts to speak their poetry is allowed at ATOG" animal science junior Saed Hato said. "The best part is even if you expect it from the featured poet, most people really blow you out of the water." Another Type of Groove is held in Chumash Auditorium from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month. Visit the Student Life and Leadership Web site at www.studentlife.calpoly.edu for the poet lineup each month.

When the great outdoors beckon

"If you prefer to be outdoors, there are more than enough recreational things to do around the city. Bishop Peak and Madonna Mountain are two of the most popular local hiking spots. Both are equipped with easier trails for someone who isn't quite as experienced as well as more difficult trails for some resident daredevils."

The beaches in this area are an obvious attraction and water sports of all kinds can be done on most beaches around the area. Those without their own gear can rent surfboards, skimboards and even wet suits in Pismo Beach and they are generally pretty low cost. There is always something going on in San Luis Obispo. The trick is knowing where to look. Stop sometime and look at the bulletin board around campus; it's a great place to start.
WORD ON THE STREET

"Are you for or against a possible tax on beer to help provide health insurance for all?"

"I'm against it because then I'd become dehydrated."

Nicole Cattaneo, history freshman

"It seems so unrelated that I probably would not be for it."

Hannah Payken, biology senior

"I don't really drink so I wouldn't have a problem with it."

Andrew de Jesus, psychology senior

COMPILED AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY ZACH LANTZ
Bartering resurges: A hopeful economic indicator

Fortunately, a system of trade exists which does not require the use of artificial currencies. Bartering is the true, original form of trade.

A free market form was one of the founding principles of the United States. A cornerstone of conservatism is that the government should rarely interfere in markets, acknowledging that the public is capable of making decisions that benefit society through the wonders of trade. Yet over time, governments around the world have entrenched themselves deeper into the affairs of business and trade, promising that they can fix the very economic problems they helped create. Proponents call for more state control over the economy, viewing completely contrary to free-market principal—so important to classical conservative movements. Governments exercise this control principal—through business regulations and a centralized monetary system.

In response, many businesses throughout the world have turned to bartering to return to the traditional way of doing business that existed long before the creation of governments. As the global recession continues to deepen, world credit markets have largely frozen up, unwilling to make loans despite large injections of cash into the money supply by the world's central banks. On top of this, many businesses doubt about the value of currencies, which are determined by the political and volatility caused by central banks may mean a exchange of dollars may soon not be as equitable as planned.

Fortunately, bartering is a system of trade which does not require the use of artificial currencies, exists. Bartering is the true, original form of trade. Commodities are exchanged for one another, which are determined by the participating parties. Commodities can take the form of anything seen to be useful or inherent value, ranging from basic necessities to precious metals. Exchanges of services also be very beneficial to both parties through bartering. Farmers exchanging crops or livestock with other farmers who grow different crops probably was the first of the world's bartering systems. Both parties benefit, and no government is needed to make barter transactions.

Founding father Thomas Jefferson once said: "A wise and frugal Government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement." It is becoming clearer that the U.S. government is not wise but fragile, and if recent history is any indicator, this government also seems incapable of making wise spending decisions. Instead, governments are involving the exact opposite of what Jefferson advised, assuming they know how to best regulate business.

Bartering can offer a way out of this regulatory boodle.
Credit card bill
a chance to reevaluate the American Dream

For too long, our country has placed an emphasis on the "American Dream," which we have defined as living a prosperous life — whether through hard work or by credit. We've placed an emphasis on material possessions and defined as living a prosperous life — whether it be a home, car, boat, or a college education. Americans bought homes they simply cannot afford and had to foreclose. However, the Senate has recognized an additional issue related to American finances that they addressed in the recent credit bill. MSNBC reported that Sen. Richard Shelby (R-Ala.) said of the credit card bill, "Card issuers raise rates for unclear reasons, use billing methods that consumers do not understand, and assign fees without warning."

In a statement upon passing the bill, Sen. Reid (D-Nev.) mentioned Shelley Lyon, a woman who contacted him regarding the importance of this bill and the unfairness of credit card company practices. "Like many honest and hardworking Americans, Shelby played by the rules," he said. "She was responsible. Then, one day, out of the blue, her credit card company nearly doubled her rate. Shelley understandably wanted out of her contract but the company said no. The Senate credit card bill had overwhelming bipartisan support, and passed 90-5 on Tuesday. The reason this bill passed with such support could be a direct result of the involvement of the American public in the political process. MSNBC also reported that although there were dissenting voices in the Senate, "their voices were drowned out by lawmakers who said that affords all of us, citizens, the security barrier is part concrete wall, and mostly chain linked fence that Israel erected to keep itself safe from terrorist attacks. The barrier has nothing to do with race since it was only built after the wave of wave of suicide bombings in Israel in the wake of the second intifada. The security barrier has in fact almost eliminated terrorism from the West Bank coming into Israel. And, therefore, Israel is a free and democratic country that affords all of its citizens full civil, political, and religious rights to not just the Jewish majority but also the 20 percent Arab minorities. SJPME never takes the time to mention that most of the people in the Middle East have limited political and civil rights. By making the majority of your events about criticizing Israel, and encouraging divestment from Israel, SJPME is implying that Israel is the major cause of instability and injustice in the Middle East, which we all know is not true. Until SJPME stops attacking United and Israel, we will have very little legitimacy. Zachary Goldstein mechanical engineering senior

A shout out for the libertarian column
I just wanted to throw it out there how fantastic Jerry Markel's columns "War on drugs puts the fight in other-wise peaceful exchange of goods" is. Thanks! Keep up the good work Mustang Daily!

Morgan Perry agricultural business freshman

SJPME lacks objectivity in presentation of Middle Eastern issues
Students for Justice for Peace in the Middle East claims to be neutral on Middle Eastern issues and yet focuses most of its energy on denouncing and delegitimizing Israel. I can understand complaints about Israeli policies and actions towards the Palestinians but calling it apartheid is wrong, inflammatory and eliminates any chance of a meaningful discussion. Apartheid in South Africa was systematic racial discrimination against South Africa's Black populations. The Israeli security barrier is part concrete wall, and mostly chain linked fence that Israel erected to keep itself safe from terrorist attacks. The barrier has nothing to do with race since it was only built after the wave of wave of suicide bombings in Israel in the wake of the second intifada. The security barrier has in fact almost eliminated terrorism from the West Bank coming into Israel. And, therefore, Israel is a free and democratic country that affords all of its citizens full civil, political, and religious rights to not just the Jewish majority but also the 20 percent Arab minorities. SJPME never takes the time to mention that most of the people in the Middle East have limited political and civil rights. By making the majority of your events about criticizing Israel, and encouraging divestment from Israel, SJPME is implying that Israel is the major cause of instability and injustice in the Middle East, which we all know is not true. Until SJPME stops attacking United and Israel, we will have very little legitimacy. Zachary Goldstein mechanical engineering senior

An open challenge to ASI
Dear Associated Students Inc.,

Even though I was only a measly volunteer with Poly House this past weekend I felt like I did more for the community of San Luis Obispo than even before in my four years here. I challenge you to provide opportunities to all students on projects similar to what Poly House does. Student Community Services is a start but certainly not adequate. The joy we were able to bring to a family in the area was something that I would like to see happen again and again. I ask that you focus less on providing one-time events and promoting your events with the creation of expensive promotional materials (full-color posters and T-shirts) and put this money to use so that the community of San Luis Obispo and surrounding towns can see a much more instructive and caring presence of the Cal Poly community.

I would like to thank everyone that allowed me to help with their class project. If I could, I would do something like that every weekend. However, I feel that the possibilities are either not available or not advertised. So please ASI do more to allow Cal Poly students to get involved with the community we live in so that we can give back to a community that sees us as the noisy, partying individuals we are all capable of being.

David Hansen biochemistry senior

Previous letter mistaken on Powerwheels situation
Mark Paulick, I hope that the rest of the biomedical engineering department isn't as dumb as you are.

1) Three of the four officers were SLOPDP (ever notice UPD doesn't have a motorcycle unit)?
2) If he fully armed you mean they were carrying their sidearms, yes. If you mean SWAT team loadout, no. Who the heck wouldn't they have their duty sidearms?
3) UPD already has officers on bikes. But when your sorry butt needs them to get there faster than those bikes can take them, can't you get there using the car that is, what they are there for?
4) You don't like a law, go to the city council and do something about it instead of whining that the police have to enforce it like a little baby.

Mark Paulick, give me a break.

William Blakely supply chain management freshman

article

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Brian Mahoney
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Vince McMahon claims he's being thrown out. His opponent insists McMahon is the double-crosser.

It'd make a good story line for a wrestling feud — but it won't take place in Denver.

World Wrestling Entertainment is moving its Monday night show to Los Angeles because of a conflict with the Pepsi Center in Denver, which had booked two events for the same night.

The Nuggets are scheduled to host the Lakers on Monday in Game 4 of the Western Conference finals, but WWE had previously secured the arena for an episode of Monday Night Raw.

WWE chairman criticized Kroenke Sports, which owns the Nuggets and Pepsi Center, for not being more helpful when the conflict arose over the weekend.

"They bumped us right out of the building, hardly an apology," McMahon said Wednesday. "They didn't do anything for us at all, and the media was talking about someone has to write a check. They didn't want to write anything and they wanted to give us a Sunday night. And the name of the show is Monday Night Raw."

McMahon said the conflict has provided some great press for WWE. "It's all good for us, the fans. To have Raw be shown live on its own is unbelievable," he said Wednesday.

"That was Tuesday. We find out by a press announcement today by Vince, who I believe is the master of propaganda, that he's moving the event to the Staples Center. He didn't even contact us to tell us he hadn't accepted the deal we negotiated the night before, so we're quite shocked, frankly," McMahon said Wednesday.

"WWE executive vice president Shane McMahon, at a press conference at Staples Center, said the K snee offer came too late. "They tried to be amicable but we're really at such a loss of words because we were expecting a capacity crowd. (We) Had sold 11,000 as of last week," he said. "We've been on sale since August to everyone knew we were coming. We built everything around it. That's what we do. We promote and build the event."

Vince McMahon said Staples Center called and offered use of its building and that his organization will return to Denver for an event at the GMC. "We negotiated in good faith with Vince and believed we had a deal in principal as of Tuesday," Kroenke Sports executive vice president Paul Andrews said. "In fact, it was so clear to us that we did not ask Vince to do a joint press release. He said, 'Paul, I have no problem with a joint press release.' Then, he asked us if he could get five tickets to the Denver Nuggets' game on Monday night so he could apologize to Mr. Kroenke in person.

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The finality of the situation provided an unexpected benefit for McMahon's company. The conflict has provided some great press for WWE. "It's all good for us, the fans. To have Raw be shown live on its own is unbelievable," he said Wednesday.

"That was Tuesday. We find out by a press announcement today by Vince, who I believe is the master of propaganda, that he's moving the event to the Staples Center. He didn't even contact us to tell us he hadn't accepted the deal we negotiated the night before, so we're quite shocked, frankly," McMahon said Wednesday.

"WWE executive vice president Shane McMahon, at a press conference at Staples Center, said the Kroenke offer came too late. "They tried to be amicable but we're really at such a loss of words because we were expecting a capacity crowd. (We) Had sold 11,000 as of last week," he said. "We've been on sale since August to everyone knew we were coming. We built everything around it. That's what we do. We promote and build the event."

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practice field to win — plain and simple.

But there's another reason for why Cal Poly must take advantage of the position they’ve managed to put themselves in. A long run in the 2009 college baseball postseason would put the Mustangs on the map for the first time, especially in terms of recruiting. It just so happens that the Mustangs have never found themselves in the running for a championship in Omaha.

Sometimes, it only takes one big season to change that forever.

So if Cal Poly can manage to throw something together in June, the snowball effect could start. It’s possible that all we need is that one big season. And this looks like good of a season as any to get things rolling.

Tyler Jenkins is a political science sophomore and a Mustang Daily sports columnist.

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THIS WEEK IN MUSTANG ATHLETICS

BASEBALL

VS. UC RIVERSIDE

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 6:00PM
SATURDAY, MAY 23, 6:00PM
SUNDAY, MAY 24, 1:00PM*

BAGGETT STADIUM

*Jersey Day and Senior Day -
All youth, 13 and under, receive free admission by wearing a jersey to the game and the Mustang Senior class will be honored prior to the game!

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www.police.calpoly.edu

Questions? email parking@calpoly.edu
Visa | Mastercard | Discover | American Express

Ryan Lee
Los Altos, CA

Kyle Smith
Visalia, CA

WE ARE THE MUSTANGS
Cal Poly's Jarred Houston, center, said that coaches don't condone drinking but leave the players to police their own behavior.

Athletes and alcohol: A no-no?

Mikaela Akuna

College athletes are assumed to be the best of the best. In some ways they act as role models and are expected to prioritize their studies as an example — including the alcohol aspect of the college experience.

The NCAA has its own set of regulations on alcohol consumption as far as the athletes are concerned, but what do the coaches and the athletes think?

Track and Field might be one of the most time intensive and physically demanding sports when it comes to maintaining a certain weight and fitness. Natalie Roy, a theater sophomore and track team member, said that the team is very clear on what the NCAA and Cal Poly Athletics rules are and are even given packets that have everything outlined for student-athletes.

On the NCAA's Web site, there is a resource manual that not only outlines the rules but also has information about how alcohol affects the body, mind, and overall performance.

"The coaches obviously expect us to take care of our bodies, but it's really an honor system," Roy said. "Everything on the team takes their position seriously and are really responsible.

Also a member of the track team, sophomore Wide receiver for the Cal Poly football team, Jarred Houston explained some of the rules and consequences of unsafe alcohol use for the football team.

During away games, the football team has a team curfew with lights out in the hotel by 9 p.m. The coaches ask that the team not go out when they're traveling. Team members are suspended from sports if they get into legal trouble related to alcohol. A DUI would result in suspension for the season and the player is required to finish all the proper classes. The team is also held to a two strike and you're out rule of thumb.

As a whole, the football team is taught to watch out for each other, and keep each other in line. Houston said that if a team member does make a mistake, everyone learns from it and it motivates everyone to work harder and make up for it. Although there are smaller groups of friends within the team, they're still a pretty tight nit team according to Houston.

"It's kind of an unwritten rule, and not that the coaches are condoning drinking," Houston said, "but when we go out, they always tell us to 'fly with a wingman.' They want to make sure we always have someone looking out for us."

"We have team parties or just hang out and throw the ball around on the weekends," he said, "and even though we're such a big team we like to look out for each other. If someone is in trouble or messing up we're right there and stay connected that way."

The common consensus is that all Cal Poly sports teams are held to high expectations to not only look out for themselves, but one another as well. This sense of unity is what helps keep everyone in line.

"As much publicity and media attention as athletics gets," Houston said, "We still do a really good job of looking out for each other and keeping each other in line.

Dufresne, Thomas earn track and field honors

MATT FOUNTAIN MUSTANG DAILY FILE PHOTO

The Big West Conference announced Cal Poly senior Juhanne Dufresne and freshman Derek Thomas as Athletes of the Year on Wednesday.

Dufresne was recognized as the Women's Field Athlete of the Year while Thomas was named Men's Freshman of the Year.

Dufresne was the lone double-winner as the conference final last weekend after victories in the shot put and discus at various meets during the season and is ranked No. 18 in the shot put and No. 65 in the discus in the latest national rankings. She will enter as the No. 2 seed in the shot put at the NCAA Western Regional in Eugene, Ore. on May 29 and will also be the No. 17 seed in the discus.

Dufresne joins Tanahara Jackson (1999) and Beijing Olympic gold medalist Stephanie Brown (2003) as the only Mustangs to win the award.

Thomas became the second Mustang in program history to win Freshman of the Year, following current teammate Joe Gait in 2006. He won a Big West Conference title in the 1,500 finishing in 3:46.19.

Thomas posted a personal-best 3:43.92 at the Mt. SAC Relays on April 17, the No. 35 time in the nation. Over the course of his rookie campaign, he has victories in the 1,500 at the Mustang All-Comers and the Big West Championships and won the 800 at both the Cal Poly-Pomona State Dual and the Cal Poly Invitational.

Thomas will join Dufresne and 14 other Mustangs at the NCAA West Regional on May 29.

Raising the stakes

Tyler Lauch

Sports Talk

A few weeks ago I did a column about the new and recent success of Cal Poly's baseball team. At about that time, they were ranked around No. 46 in the RPI rankings that determine a team's placement in the postseason regionals and eventually a trip to Omaha and the College World Series.

Since then, the Mustangs have had themselves a decent run. They went 1-3 in a pivotal series against Big West Conference rival, No. 5 UC Riverside. The Mustangs did have a short series win in a series at Long Beach State, and 1-1 against USC and Santa Clara. After the hardfought past few weeks, Cal Poly sits with a record of 36-17.

This puts the Mustangs at No. 46 in the RPI rankings as of May 20. As I said in my earlier column, the top 64 teams earn invites to the regionals to fight for one of the eight spots in Omaha. With only a three-game series left against UC Riverside this weekend, it looks safe to say that Cal Poly should be in the mix of things come June, unless something goes really wrong.

Should the Mustangs make it to the postseason after their weekend series against Riverside, they really need to leave their mark on the field. This postseason could make or break Cal Poly's name in the college baseball world. There are a few reasons for the mandatory success facing the Mustangs in June.

The first thing is the obvious one, so I won't touch it that much. Clearly, Cal Poly wants to do well in the regionals because that's the reason they play the game. You put all in all the time in the cages and the see Baseball, page 15