

MUSTANG DAILY

Volume LXXII, Number 97

Friday, February 20, 2009

www.mustangdaily.net

BEST FOR CAL POLY



CHECK OUT PAGE 8 TO SEE
ALL OF THIS YEAR'S WINNERS

2009

**THANKS FOR CHOOSING
DOWNTOWN BREW
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FAVORITE BAR**

DOWNTOWN BREWING CO
SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA

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MUSTANG DAILY

The voice of Cal Poly since 1916

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write a letter

Mustang Daily reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, profanities and length. Letters, commentaries and cartoons do not represent the views of the Mustang Daily. Please limit length to 250 words. Letters should include the writer's full name, phone number, major and class standing. Letters must come from a Cal Poly e-mail account. Do not send letters as an attachment. Please send the text in the body of the e-mail.

By e-mail:

mustangdailyopinions@gmail.com

By mail:

Letters to the Editor
Building 26, Room 226
Cal Poly, SLO, CA 93407

corrections

The Mustang Daily staff takes pride in publishing a daily newspaper for the Cal Poly campus and the neighboring community. We appreciate your readership and are thankful for your careful reading. Please send your correction suggestions to mustangdaily@gmail.com.



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The Mustang Daily is a "designated public forum." Student editors have full authority to make all content decisions without censorship or advance approval.

The Mustang Daily is a free newspaper; however, the removal of more than one copy of the paper per day is subject to a cost of 50 cents per issue.

Behind 'Best For'

There's no denying that San Luis Obispo is a college town. Cal Poly students make up nearly half of San Luis Obispo's 44,000-plus population and are a huge influence on the city's economy. From restaurants to retail stores, the Mustang Daily's annual "Best For" guide aims to recognize local businesses that best cater to students.

As we have for the past five years, the Mustang Daily collected surveys during fall and winter quarters asking students about local favorites. Hundreds of surveys are turned in each year and students have the freedom of voting for any business they want for each category. Public relations students, not Mustang Daily staff, contribute to this edition by writing all of the articles.

The winners are profiled here and can be found around town by looking for a Mustang Daily plaque in the shops themselves.

From dining to entertainment, from shopping to services, the "Best For" issue is the place to look for where Cal Poly students spend their money.

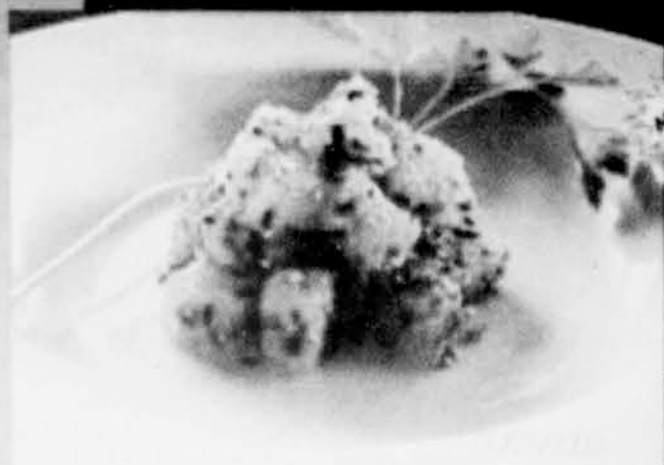
— Marlice van Romburgh, *editor in chief*



SHIN'S SUSHI BAR



#1
VOTED FOR THE BEST SUSHI
BAR IN SAN LUIS OBISPO
BY CAL POLY STUDENTS
2 YEARS IN A ROW!



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NEW!



NEW SHIN'S SAKE BAR!

NEW! EXPANDED BEER SELECTIONS ON TAP

STELLA ARTOIS
FIRESTONE D.B.A.
NEWCASTLE
SHOCK TOP

ALASKAN AMBER
SAMUEL ADAMS WHITE ALE
MIRROR POND
FAT TIRE

IN BOTTLE : ASAHI
HITE
SAPPORO
KIRIN ICHIBAN
KIRIN LIGHT
O'DOUL'S

Best Bike Shop

Art's Cyclery

San Luis Obispo is home to beautiful weather, lush hills and nearby beaches. This biker friendly community, with its abundant resources, is the destination of many out-of-town riders.

Since 1982, Art's Cyclery has been an avid biker's paradise. Carrying an array of mountain, recumbent, road and comfort bikes, Art's is home to top of the line brands such as Bionicon, Cervelo and Kuota.

With its wide range of biking accessories, Art's is home to items for the entire family. Carrying hydration supplements, bike racks, jogging strollers and baskets, Art's has everything to suit a biker's needs.

"One of the great things about our shop is that we carry items from the smallest children's bike, to the gnarliest mountain bike, and the fastest road bike. We have something for everyone," said Art's employee and Cal Poly student Jeff Bruchez.

Art's can repair your bike as well, and their fully trained service department is sure to get the job done right. With

a speedy turnaround rate, you'll be back to pedaling in a matter of no time.

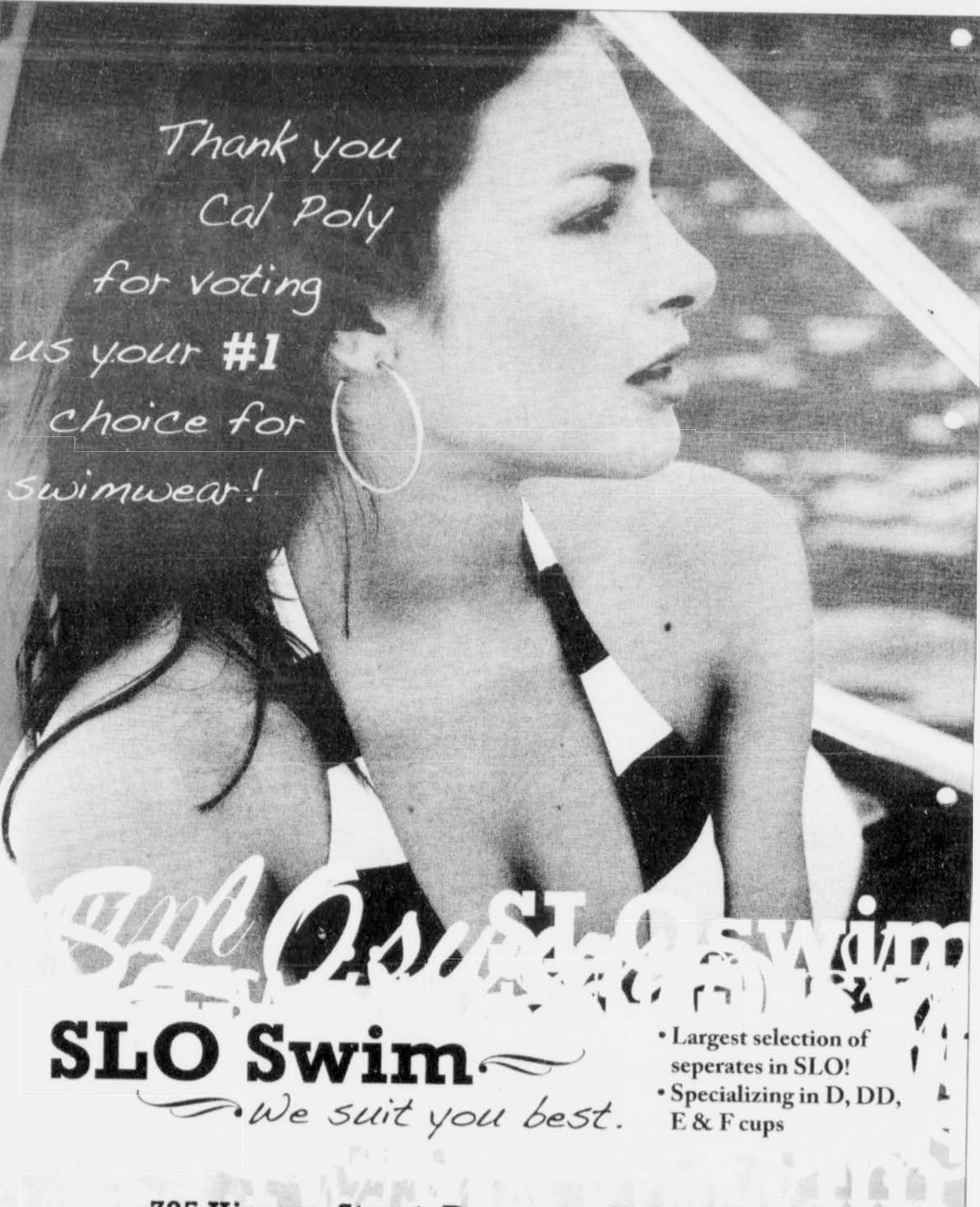
Art's knowledgeable and friendly staff is there to answer any questions customers may have. Arts is open every day from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., so stop by today and check out their student specials.

Art's is located at 2140 Santa Barbara Ave.

— Cassie Malgieri



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Best Manicure/Pedicure

Nails Poly

With the stress of midterms, finals, group and senior projects, and all of those long hours logged at the library, what better way to unwind than taking a visit to Nails Poly?

Located just a short walk from campus, at 862 Foothill Blvd., Nails Poly was voted best place for a manicure/pedicure.

Nails Poly is not just your average nail salon. Offering an array of treatments including waxing and facials, Nails Poly is the place for everyone to be pampered on a student-sized budget. Prices range with services, but with a year-round student special of 10 percent off each visit, Nails Poly

surely cannot be beat. Nails Poly also specializes in color acrylics and their \$32 manicure/pedicure deal is enough to keep customers coming back time and time again.

Nails Poly's blissful foot spa is the longing of both men (though some have yet to discover such bliss) and women alike.

"The staff at Nails Poly is always so friendly," said business student Elease Humes. "It's a must when school is stressing me out."

So break out that 2009 Crazy Coupon book, treat your feet and hop on over to Nails Poly.

— Cassie Malgieri



Best Eye Doctor

Cal Poly HealthCenter

Are your teacher's notes on the chalkboard hard to read? Unless it's his or her bad handwriting that's to blame, a visit to the Cal Poly Health Center may be in order, since the center has been voted the best place to go for eye care.

Conveniently located on campus, the Health Center is open Monday through Friday for all Cal Poly students. Offering outpatient

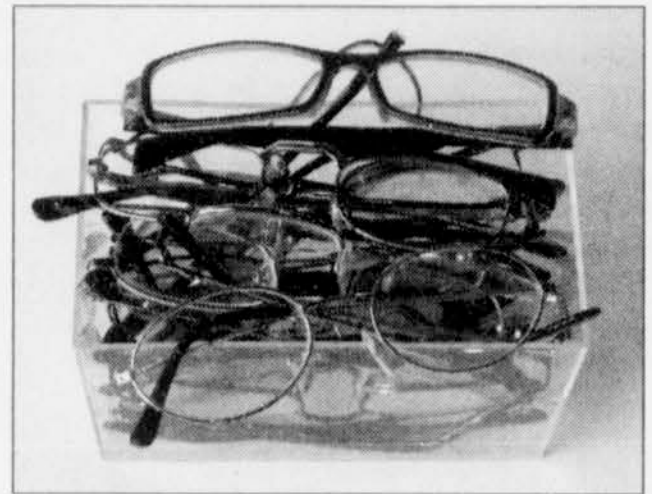
medical services for no charge, the Health Center will do eye exams for a small fee of \$25. All services and frames can be obtained with a student discount.

Dr. Derek Coombs is available on campus one day a week. However, if you can not make it to his office hours, or to schedule an appointment with him during summer, call his off-campus office at (805) 543-4777. The center is open

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Wednesdays 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You can call (805) 756-1211 to make an

appointment or come by the office in person. The Health Center is located next to the Rec Center in building 27.

— Allison Metchikoff



cal poly's University jazz bands present

An eclectic mix of jazz standards and modern compositions will be performed by the University Jazz Bands No. 1 and No. 2 and the Cal Poly Jazz Combos



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8 p.m. | sat. feb. 21, 2009 | performing arts center

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\$3 Draft Beers and \$6 Well Martinis in the Martini Bar

Palazzo Giuseppe's Tuesday Night Tea 9pm-11pm

\$5 Long Island, Long Beach, Tokyo or Italian Iced Tea

\$2 Wednesday 9pm-11pm

\$2 Slices of Pizza & \$2 Bud & Bud Lights

Tequila Thursday 10pm-12am

Buy One Get One 1/2 off Tequila and Well Margaritas

1010 Court Street • San Luis Obispo • California, 93401

Best Hair Salon

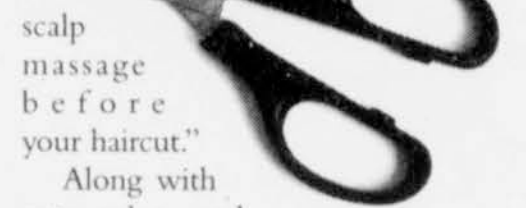
Salon Lux

Are you ready for an edgy, stylish new haircut? The professionals at Salon Lux are ready to provide and pamper.

They offer an assortment of services ranging from basic haircuts and color design to deep conditioning treatments and thermal straightening, all intended for a relaxing experience.

The salon's mission is to ensure each highly trained team member is dedicated to exceptional service and individual attention to each guest. With male and female customers, Salon Lux has a large number of clientele from Cal Poly and throughout San Luis Obispo.

"Everyone that works there are really friendly," says Cal Poly junior Lauren Bambino. She's been going to Lux for two years. "The prices are pretty reasonable. It's such a relaxing atmosphere and they give you a great



scalp massage before your haircut." Along with cut, color, and hair treatments, Salon Lux also offers many spa services including: manicures, pedicures, massages, waxing and tinting. Brides-to-be can also reserve their wedding day hairstyles and makeup application for her and her wedding party.

Depending on the style, haircuts range from \$35 to \$60. Salon Lux is a great place to relax in a luxurious friendly environment while getting a great haircut or spa service by trained professionals.

Salon Lux is located at 1040 Court St. in downtown San Luis Obispo.

engaging!



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Best Lawyer

Christopher Perello

Whether you are experiencing legal issues or looking to avoid them, there's no need to stray far from campus. Christopher Perello, also a business instructor at Cal Poly, has the answers to your legal inquiries.

With 22 years of experience as a lawyer, it's no wonder that Cal Poly students voted Perello the best lawyer in the area. Perello began his career more than 20 years ago at Barton, Petrini & Conron in Bakersfield after receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree from Cal Poly and his law degree from UC Davis. Perello began his career specializing in bankruptcy and business law before starting to work as a solo practitioner in the San Luis Obispo area.

Perello works as a private lawyer, helping residents with legal issues

concerning contracts and corporate law. He said he has recently been working primarily in writing business contracts and analyzing copyright infringements. And although Perello claims that he doesn't specify in criminal law or other common legal areas in which students seek for help, he has been happy to offer advice and help clarify their rights.

Perello feels that he was voted best lawyer in San Luis Obispo because "people know me and like me," which, he said, is what people look for in a lawyer.

Perello's charge changes depending on the client's needs. While he does work on retainer for some of his larger clients, he is willing to charge an hourly rate or charge by piece, depending on the needs of the client.

Best Veterinary

San Luis Obispo Veterinary

Pet lovers have been taking their pets to San Luis Obispo Veterinary for over 20 years. The practice on South Higuera is known for their great bed-side manner and compassion.

"We hope it's because we're a caring hospital and we work with everyone," said receptionist Lynn Taylor as to why the practice was selected as the best veterinary by Cal Poly students. "We try to treat everyone who comes in with kindness."

She said their patrons vary from senior citizens to high schoolers.

"We work with everyone, regardless of how much you can pay. We just want to help," she said. Taylor says that this is the first year they have merited the award, and are very honored by it.

The veterinary practice is in the planning stages for a new building. It's hoped that ground can be

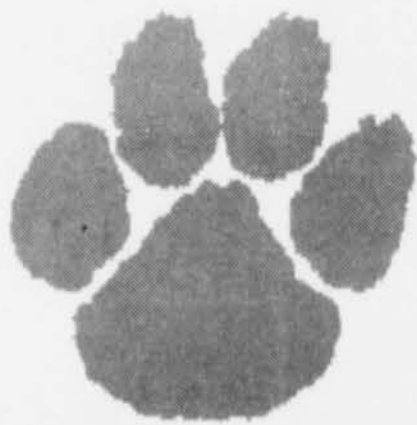
broken for the new facility by next summer.

Taylor says that the current building is, "really old, and has lots of problems. It will be nice to have a new building."

The new building will be located in the same spot as the current one so customers don't have to worry about changing locations.

San Luis Obispo Veterinary is located at 2963 South Higuera Street.

— Emma Seither



Best Movie Theater

The Fremont Theater

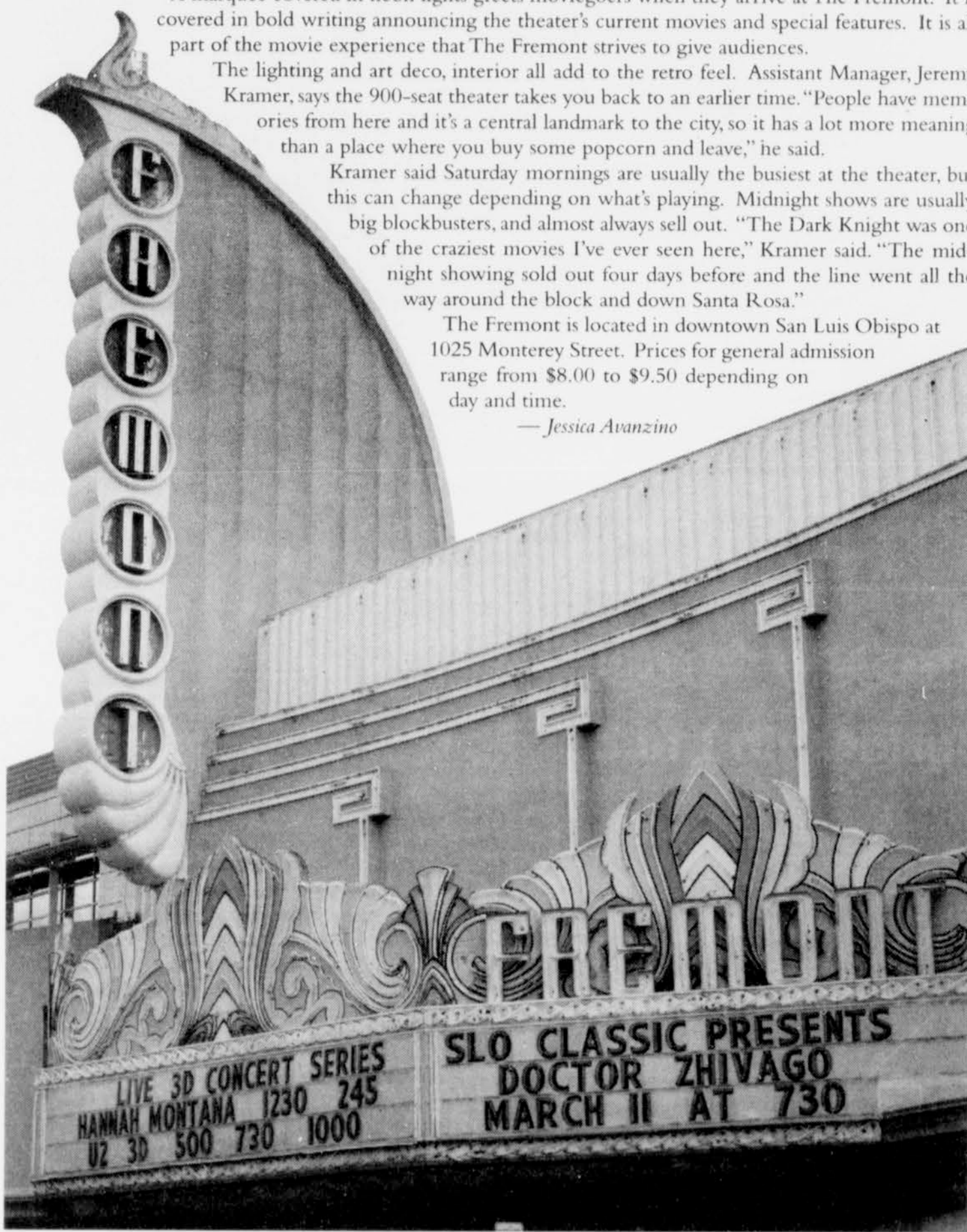
A marquee covered in neon lights greets moviegoers when they arrive at The Fremont. It is covered in bold writing announcing the theater's current movies and special features. It is all part of the movie experience that The Fremont strives to give audiences.

The lighting and art deco, interior all add to the retro feel. Assistant Manager, Jeremy Kramer, says the 900-seat theater takes you back to an earlier time. "People have memories from here and it's a central landmark to the city, so it has a lot more meaning than a place where you buy some popcorn and leave," he said.

Kramer said Saturday mornings are usually the busiest at the theater, but this can change depending on what's playing. Midnight shows are usually big blockbusters, and almost always sell out. "The Dark Knight was one of the craziest movies I've ever seen here," Kramer said. "The midnight showing sold out four days before and the line went all the way around the block and down Santa Rosa."

The Fremont is located in downtown San Luis Obispo at 1025 Monterey Street. Prices for general admission range from \$8.00 to \$9.50 depending on day and time.

— Jessica Avanzino



Best Outdoor Activity Rental

Poly Escapes

Heading into the great outdoors? Poly Escapes offers great deals on all the necessary outdoor equipment.

From kayaks to backpacks, Poly Escapes has it all for a much lower cost than other outdoor rental shops. Rent for one day, the weekend, or even a week. Poly Escapes is specifically designed to help Cal Poly students achieve their outdoor adventure goals.

Proud members of the Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education organization (AORE), Poly Escapes is dedicated to providing opportunities for professionals and students in the field of outdoor recreation and education. Poly Escapes offers a library of maps, books and brochures to plan any excursion and the educated staff will help to outfit you with everything you need.

While renting gear is a big part of what Poly Escapes does, planning outdoor trips for students is an even bigger part. Sign up for a trip and you will receive 50% off rental gear for that trip. They're also willing to plan private trips for you and your friends, clubs, or leadership councils. Whether it's biking, backpacking, surfing, climbing, or hiking, Poly Escapes is willing to tailor the trip to fit your group's needs.

So next time you feel like venturing into the wild, sign up for a Poly Escapes trip or rent some of their gear for cheap.

Poly Escapes is located in the University Union, room 207 across from the Craft Center on the Cal Poly campus.

—Diane Verhaeghe

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The Mustang I

BEST FOR

Best Overall Restaurant

1st: Firestone Grill
2nd: Novo
3rd: Big Sky Cafe
HM: California Pizza Kitchen

Best Pizza

1st: Woodstock's
2nd: Fatte's
3rd: Pizza Solo
HM: Nucci's

Best Hamburger

1st: Firestone Grill
2nd: The Shack
3rd: Sylvester's
HM: Frank's Famous Hotdogs

Best Sushi

1st: Shin's
2nd: Yanagi's
3rd: Sushiya
HM: Sumo Sushi

Best Chinese

1st: Panda Express
2nd: Golden Gong
3rd: Golden China
HM: Mandarin Gourmet

Best Thai

1st: Thai Palace
2nd: Thai Classic
3rd: Thai-Rrific, Royal Thai

Best Mexican

1st: Chile Peppers
2nd: El Neibor
3rd: Chino's
HM: Pepe Delgado's

Best Italian

1st: Palazzo Giuseppe
2nd: Mama's Meatball
3rd: Upper Crust
HM: Buona Tavola, Vieni Vai

Best Dessert

1st: Yogurt Creations
2nd: Bali's
3rd: Madonna Inn
HM: Cold Stone Creamery

Best Vegetarian Plate

1st: Natural Cafe
2nd: Big Sky Cafe
3rd: Pita Pit
HM: Firestone Grill, Mondeo

Best Place to Study

1st: Kennedy Library
2nd: University Union
3rd: Black Horse
HM: Linnaea's, Nautical Bean

Best BBQ

1st: Firestone Grill
2nd: Mo's Steakhouse
3rd: F. McLintocks
HM: JD Boone's

Best Sandwich Place

1st: High St. Market & Deli
2nd: Kona's Deli
3rd: Gus's Grocery
HM: Sandwich Factory

Best Breakfast Place

1st: Breakfast Buzz
2nd: Louisa's Place
3rd: Margie's
HM: Apple Farm, IHOP

Best Steakhouse

1st: F. McLintocks
2nd: Tahoe Joe's
3rd: Jocko's Steak House
HM: Madonna Inn Gold Rush Steak House

Best SLO County Restaurant

1st: Firestone Grill
2nd: F. McLintocks
3rd: Splash Café
HM: Novo

Best Late Night Meal

1st: Taco Bell
2nd: Chile Peppers
3rd: Pita Pit
HM: Denny's

Best Restaurant to Bring a Date

1st: Novo
2nd: Palazzo Giuseppe
3rd: California Pizza Kitchen
HM: Buona Tavola

Best Meal Deal

1st: Taco Bell
2nd: McDonald's
3rd: Fatte's, Subway

Best Place to Eat On Campus

1st: Campus Market
2nd: Avenue
3rd: Sandwich Factory, 19 Metro Station

Best Ice Cream/Frozen Yogurt

1st: Yogurt Creations
2nd: Bali's
3rd: Cold Stone Creamery
HM: Rite Aid, Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory

Best Coffee House

1st: Starbucks
2nd: Peet's
3rd: Black Horse
HM: Linnaea's

Best Place to be Spoiled by Your Parents

1st: F. McLintocks
2nd: Costco
3rd: Novo
HM: Firestone Grill

Best Happy Hour/Drink Deal

1st: The Cliffs Resort
2nd: Downtown Brew
3rd: The Shack
HM: Marti's

Best Cocktail

1st: Palazzo Giuseppe
2nd: Mother's Tavern, Downtown Brew, Koberl at Blue
3rd: Black Sheep

Best Margarita

1st: Vallarta's
2nd: Pepe Delgado's
3rd: The Cliffs Resort
HM: Downtown Brew

Best Beer Selection

1st: Spikes
2nd: Downtown Brew
3rd: BevMo!
HM: Frog & Peach, Firestone Grill

Best Local Wine

1st: Edna Valley Vineyard
2nd: Cal Poly Wine
3rd: Tolosa Winery
HM: J Lohr Winery

Best Tasting Room

1st: Taste
2nd: Shadow Canyon Cellars
3rd: SLO Brew, We Olive, Central Coast Wines, Monterey Wine Co.

Best Edna Valley Winery

1st: Edna Valley Winery
2nd: Tolosa Winery
3rd: Baileyana Winery
HM: Wolff Vineyards

Best Paso Winery

1st: Tobin James Cellars
2nd: Justin Vineyards & Winery
3rd: J Lohr Winery, Eberle Winery

Best SLO Bar

1st: Downtown Brew
2nd: Frog & Peach
3rd: Black Sheep
HM: Mother's Tavern

Best Dance Spot

1st: The Grad
2nd: Downtown Brew
3rd: The Library
HM: Mother's Tavern

Best Place to Karaoke

1st: Mother's Tavern
2nd: Sushiya
3rd: Quickly
HM: Shin's

Best Keg Deal

1st: BevMo!
2nd: Campus Bottle
3rd: Cork 'n' Bottle
HM: Sandy's Deli & Liquor

Best Party Supply/Craft Center

1st: Beverly's
2nd: Michaels
3rd: Let's Party
HM: Dollar Tree

Best Grocery Store

1st: Trader Joe's
2nd: Albertsons
3rd: Food 4 Less
HM: Vons

Best Organic Produce

1st: Trader Joe's
2nd: Farmer's Market
3rd: New Frontiers
HM: Cal Poly Organic Farm

Best Bookstore

1st: Barnes & Noble
2nd: Aida's
3rd: El Corral
HM: Borders

Best Place to Buy Student Supplies

1st: El Corral
2nd: Staples
3rd: Aida's
HM: Rite Aid

Best Place to Rent a Movie

1st: Hollywood Video
2nd: Blockbuster
3rd: Studio Video
HM: Crossroads Video

Best Movie Theater

1st: Fremont
2nd: Downtown Cinema
3rd: Palm Theater
HM: Sunset Drive In

Best Place to Buy Music

1st: Boo Boo Records
2nd: Best Buy
3rd: Cheap Thrills
HM: Borders, Barnes & Noble

Best Credit Union

1st: SESLOC
2nd: Golden 1 Credit Union
3rd: SLO Credit Union
HM: Coast Hills

Best Art Gallery

1st: University Art Gallery
2nd: Hands Gallery
3rd: Steynberg Gallery
HM: SLO Art Center

Best Cell Phone Service

1st: Verizon
2nd: AT&T
3rd: Sprint
HM: T-Mobile

Best Place to Buy Electronics

1st: Best Buy
2nd: Apple Store
3rd: Circuit City
HM: Costco

Best Flower Shop

1st: Poly Plant Shop
2nd: Open Air Flowers
3rd: April Flowers
HM: Albert's Florist

Best Place to Have Your Parents Stay

1st: Madonna Inn
2nd: Apple Farm
3rd: Embassy Suites
HM: The Cliffs, Holiday Inn Express

Best Student Housing

1st: Poly Canyon
2nd: Dorms
3rd: Cerro Vista
HM: Mustang Village

Best Property Management Company

1st: Cal West
2nd: Farrell Smyth
3rd: McNamara Realty
HM: REG Property Management

Best Place to Buy a Mattress

1st: Costco
2nd: Goodwill
3rd: Sears, Mattress & Bed Superstore

Best Storage Facility

1st: Derrel's Mini Storage
2nd: SLO Self Storage
3rd: SLO Mini Storage
HM: Mission Self Storage

Best Manicure/Pedicure

1st: Nails Poly
2nd: Cici Nails
3rd: Marigold Nails
HM: California Nails, The Nails Town

Daily Presents

CAL POLY

Best Hair Salon

1st: Salon Lux
2nd: Rock & Roll Hair
3rd: Supercuts
HM: Tigerlily

Best Barbershop

1st: University Barber Shop
2nd: Supercuts
3rd: Rock & Roll Hair
HM: Clippers

Best Tanning Salon

1st: Planet Beach
2nd: Tanners Cove
3rd: SLO Tanning, Eurotan

Best Gym

1st: Cal Poly Rec Center
2nd: Gold's Gym
3rd: Kennedy Club Fitness
HM: Club 24

Best Place to Get a Facial

1st: Bladerunner
2nd: Sycamore Mineral Springs
3rd: Salon Lux
HM: Faces A'La Mode

Best Massage Therapy

1st: Sycamore Mineral Springs
2nd: Bladerunner
3rd: Bliss Body Spa
HM: Salon Lux

Best Place to Pamper Yourself

1st: Sycamore Mineral Springs
2nd: Bladerunner
3rd: Salon Lux
HM: Bliss Body Spa

Best SLO Doctor

1st: CP Health Center
2nd: Dr. Mazzone
3rd: Dr. Sturgeon
HM: Dr. Koo, Med Stop, Dr. Bravo

Best SLO Dentist

1st: CP Health Center
2nd: Leopold & Murphy
3rd: Palm Dental Care
HM: Dr. Kim, SLO Dental Practice

Best SLO Eye Doctor

1st: CP Health Center
2nd: Urban Optics
3rd: Costco
HM: Primary Eyecare

Best Lawyer

1st: Chris Perello
2nd: William K. Gamble
3rd: Stephen Stern, James McKiernan, Ernst & Mattison

Best Veterinarian

1st: San Luis Obispo Veterinary
2nd: Broad St. Vet Clinic
3rd: Animal Care Clinic
HM: Dr. Jaymie Noland

Best Pet Store

1st: Petco
2nd: Petsmart
3rd: Aquatic Adventures
HM: Tails

Best Car Dealer

1st: Sunset Honda
2nd: Toyota of SLO
3rd: Perry Ford of SLO, Smith Volvo, San Luis Nissan BMW

Best Place for Car Repairs

1st: Villa Automotive
2nd: Landis Automotive
3rd: Rizzoli's Automotive
HM: Sunset Honda, Jiffy Lube

Best Surf Shop

1st: Central Coast Surfboards
2nd: Moondoggies
3rd: SLO Surf
HM: One Way Boardshop, Esteem

Best Bike Shop

1st: Art's Cyclery
2nd: Foothill Cyclery
3rd: Cambria Bicycle Outfitter
HM: Wally's Bicycle Works

Best Scooter/Motorized Bike Store

1st: SLO Vespa
2nd: San Luis Motorsports
3rd: SLO eGo
HM: Central Coast Mechanics

Best Outdoor Activity Rental

1st: Poly Escapes
2nd: Mountain Air Sports
3rd: Kayak Horizons, Central Coast Surfboards

Best Dance Studio

1st: Cal Poly Rec Center
2nd: Academy of Dance
3rd: American Dance Studio
HM: Moon Ja Minn Suhr Dance Studio

Best Sports Store

1st: Sports Authority
2nd: Big 5 Sporting Goods
3rd: Mountain Air Sports
HM: GH Sports Outlet, SLOCO Soccer

Best Swimwear

1st: SLO Swim
2nd: Sports Authority
3rd: Central Coast Surfboards, SLO Surf

Best Women's Fashion

1st: Urban Outfitters
2nd: Lucky Lulu's
3rd: Express
HM: Coverings

Best Men's Fashion

1st: Express
2nd: Urban Outfitters
3rd: Ross
HM: Bloke

Best Boutique

1st: Lucky Lulu's
2nd: H&G Clothing
3rd: Therapy
HM: Crazy Jays

Best Thrift Store

1st: Goodwill
2nd: Mission School Thrift
3rd: Decades
HM: Salvation Army

Best Place to Buy a Gift

1st: Hands Gallery
2nd: El Corral
3rd: Best Buy
HM: Urban Outfitters

Best Place to Shop on a Budget

1st: Ross
2nd: Goodwill
3rd: Dollar Tree
HM: Costco

Best Bank

1st: Bank of America
2nd: Wells Fargo
3rd: Washington Mutual
HM: Union Bank of California

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Best Bookstore

Barnes & Noble

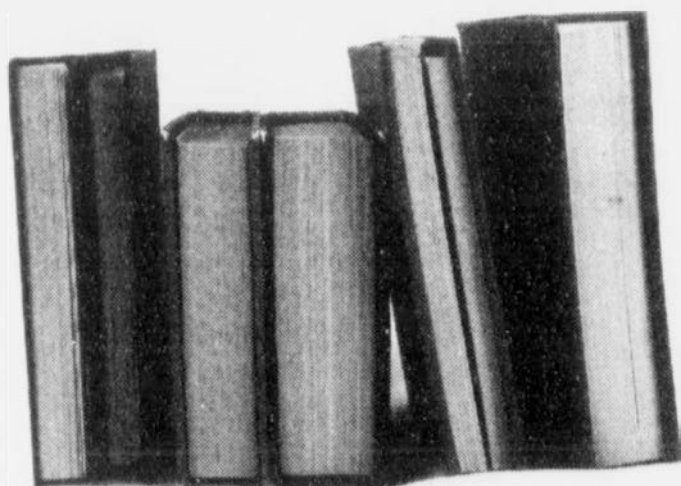
With classes demanding our attention each quarter, students often find little time to read for pleasure. But when they do, they choose Barnes & Noble as the best place in San Luis Obispo to find a great book to enjoy.

Barnes & Noble hosts a wide variety of books for consumers ranging from top sellers such as *Twilight* to home cook books and how-to guides. And if you're a book club member, the prices are some of the most competitive in San Luis Obispo. However, it's not just the books that draw customers to this store.

The Barnes & Noble store manager feels the bookstore stands out because of the customer service it provides. "We all love to be here," she says about the store's employees.

Customers agree that the store atmosphere draws them to Barnes & Noble. Many students come to grab a cup of coffee upstairs and enjoy the peaceful quiet.

"I come here a lot to sit and do



homework,"

said Jenn Gibon, a second-year Cuesta student.

Local book enthusiasts make their way to Barnes & Noble at 894 Marsh St. to enjoy the inviting atmosphere, book variety and prices.

Best On-Campus Place to Eat

Campus Market

Campus Market stands out from other places to eat on campus because of its variety and long hours. Students can get anything from coffee to produce, sushi or scantrons, seven days a week.

The market stocks all the essential grocery items, and students with meal plans can use their Plus Dollars to stock up. They also offer tons of prepared and hot food options for stu-

dents needing a quick bite to eat. Psychology major, Melissa Peters, works at Campus Market and said it is busiest during lunchtime, between 10 and 2:30. "At lunch people order a lot of pizza twists or stuff from the grill. The salad bar is also pretty popular."

The grill serves students breakfast burritos, scrambled eggs, potatoes, or ham and egg sandwiches in the morning and tri-tip sandwiches, gar-

denburgers, hot pastrami, and other lunch choices. The market opens at 6:30 a.m., Monday - Friday, and at 10 a.m. on the weekends.

The market also offers a variety of locally produced products including ice cream from the Cal Poly Creamery, Mustang Cheddar, organic SLO Chai tea and Campus Market Private Label Jam.

— Jessica Avanzino

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Best Electronic Store

Best Buy



The students have, once again, voted Best Buy as their favorite electronics store — and rightly so, since it stands as the largest electronics store chain in the United States. Best Buy offers installation and maintenance service, technical support and subscriptions for cell phone and Internet services.

"This is where I bought my iPod," says Agricultural Business major Jake Taylor. "And shopping at Best Buy made me realize that you can essentially buy any electronic item here and it's pretty much guaranteed for a long time — even longer if you buy the warranty. Buying your electronics here is a much better idea than buying them online, even if you can get them cheaper, because you can't beat the service and reliability of

Best Buy. Plus, they are the first ones to have my favorite video games in stock."

Another advantage for the King of electronic stores: the Geek Squad. For those less technologically savvy, the Geek Squad offers new personal computer set-up and security, repairs and upgrades, wireless networking and data protection, among other things. Despite where you purchased your equipment, the Geek Squad can fix any computer, any time—even making house calls.

The Geek Squad mission: "to create a world where computer problems are obsolete."

Best Buy can be found at 221 Madonna Road in San Luis Obispo.

Best Place to Buy Student Supplies

El Corral Bookstore

El Corral Bookstore sits in the heart of Cal Poly's University Union and provides students with a wide variety of college essentials, from pencils and notebooks to textbooks and backpacks.

Its convenient location makes it easy to purchase a scantron on the way to class or to shop for the latest Cal Poly merchandise during UU Hour. El Corral also accepts Campus Express Club cards, which makes purchasing supplies even easier.

New school supplies and Cal Poly merchandise are frequently introduced at the bookstore to give students the most popular, fashionable and seasonal options available. El Corral conducts price comparisons regularly to ensure

that students receive the best possible value for their supplies.

"I can get everything I need for class in one place, and most of the proceeds from the bookstore go directly back to the school," English junior Lauren Babek said.

Students can receive up to \$1200 off Adobe software and up to \$400 off Microsoft software at the bookstore; a deal that is nearly impossible to find elsewhere.

In addition to everyday low prices, students who pre-order their textbooks online through Textbook Reservation receive 10 percent off their textbook order and an extra discount on school supplies.

— Carla Silvia

Best Place for Karaoke

Mother's Tavern

On Monday and Tuesday nights, Mother's Tavern is the place to be for karaoke. Mother's gives people in San Luis Obispo a fun option on nights when there isn't much else going on downtown.

They clear out the restaurant area in the evening, and turn it into a dance floor. If you aren't singing or dancing, you can walk upstairs to the mezzanine, where you get a good view of all the action.

The environment inside can give even the most timid karaoke singer the courage to perform. Dark, mahogany woodwork and vaulted ceilings surround the stage lit for anyone looking to sing-a-

long.

Doug Sumeriski tried karaoke with his friends for the first time last summer. After encouragement from other karaoke customers at Mother's, Sumeriski got on stage. "I think the atmosphere there just works for karaoke," said Sumeriski, "I sang, 'Welcome to the Jungle' by Guns N' Roses."

Mother's Tavern frequently has DJ entertainment and hosts Swing Band Sundays, where students get a discount when they show their student ID. They serve lunch, dinner, cocktails, beer and wine and are open seven days a week until 1:30 a.m.

— Jessica Avanzino

Best Car Repair

Villa Automotive

Having car trouble? Need a tune-up? Villa Automotive was voted best automotive repair shop in the San Luis Obispo area. This family-owned business, whose motto reads "From our Family to Yours," prides itself on its commitment to customers and consistency in excellent service since 1947.

John Villa, owner of Villa Automotive, said he believes the business receives new customers and returning customers because although they are a small, they strive to stay up-to-date with new technology and maintain an experienced staff. The service industry, he said, "is about service, and the key is having the same people. Most of our employees have been here for 10 years

or more."

He adds that what sets Villa Automotive apart from other automotive dealers is longevity. "Are we the cheapest in town?" he asked rhetorically. "No. But we are the most cost effective, which means we fix it the first time which, in the end, saves you money."

Its commitment to excellence, experienced staff and customer service has won Villa Automotive the best automotive repair award for 18 years running in the New Times.

That's why San Luis Obispo residents in need of car service head to Villa Automotive located on 1651 South Street. It is open seven days a week offering quality services to its customers.



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Best Gym or Dance Studio

Cal Poly Rec Center

Ninety-five thousand square feet of fitness space. Two hours before your next class. One big need to release endorphins. One Poly card.

The Cal Poly Rec Center is a college student's ultimate dream of having fitness in the palm of his or her hands.

What other gym in San Luis Obispo has racquetball courts, an Olympic-sized pool, sand volleyball pit, multiple basketball courts, cardio theaters, fitness room used for instructional classes, and martial arts rooms?

The Rec Center is a student-run facility and was built with student money about 15 years ago. Ac-

ording to assistant director Greg Avakian, all of the employees are somehow related to Cal Poly, and around 200 of them are students. Students and faculty get much more than just another 20 minutes on the treadmill by coming to the Rec Center.

"They get to have a recreation experience, not just a work-out, gym experience. It's a big difference," said Avakian.

Every part of the facility has an opportunity to have an instructional sense to it. If you've never played racquetball before, the center offers classes.

There are currently 35 exercise classes being offered at the Rec

Center and these include Dance Fusion, Hip Hop, and free yoga and spin classes on the weekends.

Students can purchase a quarter pass good for all classes throughout the week for \$49 or a noon pass for \$37.

But even with so many opportunities to exercise, the Rec Center's main commitment is recreation.

"Open recreation time is what we value the most," said Avakian.

And with the big Rec Center expansion project set to break ground this summer, you can count on the Rec Center just getting better and better in the years to come.

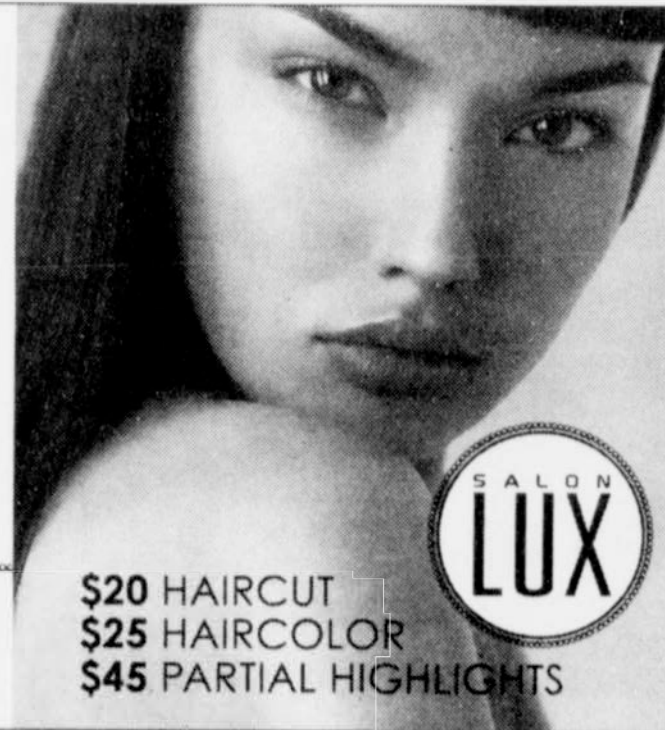
— Krizia Torres

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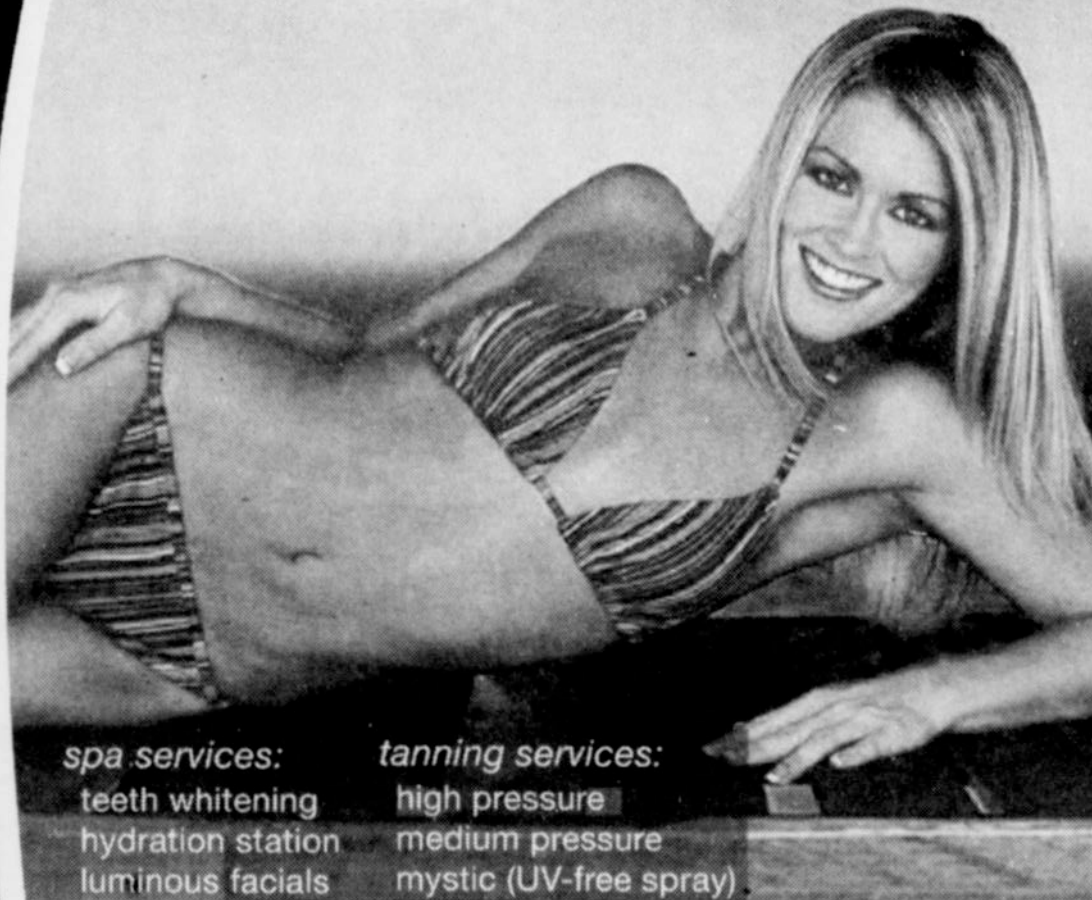
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Best Happy Hour

The Cliffs

With its unparalleled views of the Pacific and affordable mixed drinks — try the margarita — it's hard to imagine The Cliffs ever losing the Best Happy Hour distinction. The resort-hotel's bar overlooking the beach is perhaps most famous for its outstanding free tacos.

Jim Madison has worked at the bar since its inception seven years ago, and understands its appeal. "The taco and drink combo is unbeatable, and the drinks and service are outstanding."

The recently renovated bar offers good discounts

on all beer, wine, spirits five nights a week from 4 to 7 p.m., Monday through Friday. The earlier you go the better, as you can grab a prime spot on the deck to watch the sun set on a usually clear Central California skyline.

The Cliffs is located right off Highway 101 at Shell Beach.



Best Keg Deal

BevMo!



Turning 21 is a big deal in college. You no longer have to tell your friends, "I can't, I'm not 21 yet," and that alone is cause for celebration. Many students count the years, months, and days until they can join that elite crowd of legal-aged drinkers, and when that time finally arrives, it's time for a party.

Unfortunately, most students don't realize that drinking can be extremely expensive, and when you're a broke college student trying to get by on Top Ramen, scoring a good deal on weekend beverages is key. For Cal Poly students, BevMo! is the place to go.

At BevMo! you can buy a five-gallon keg of Portland MacTarnahan's for

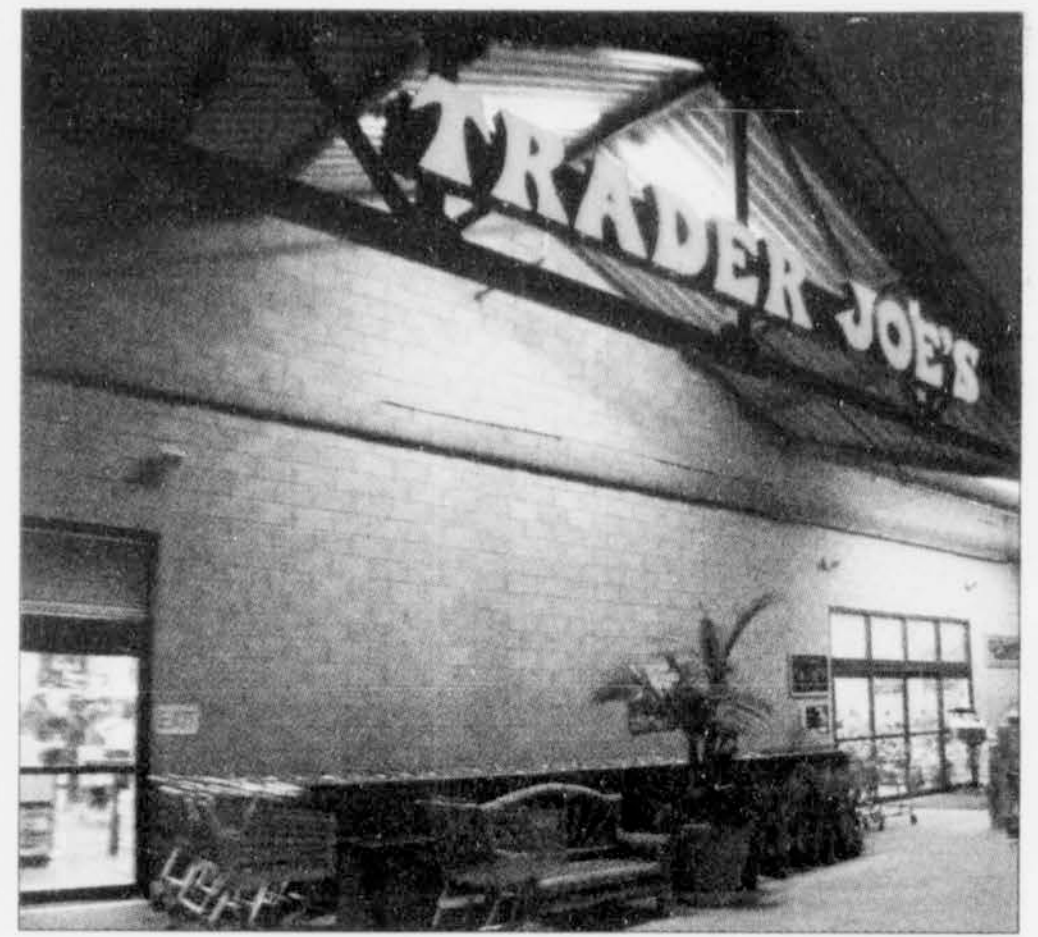
\$55 or Pyramid Hefeweizen for \$75. For larger parties, you can buy a 15.5 gallon keg of Pabst Blue Ribbon for \$92.99, or spend a little more money for a more high-end beer like Pilsner Urquell or Paulaner Salvator Doppelbock. Whether you're a beer snob or you just want to party (responsibly, of course), BevMo! has over 100 kegs to choose from.

"We're different from other local liquor stores because we're corporate, but that gives us the ability to have more of a variety at competitive prices," stated Kyle Sumner, Assistant Manager.

In addition to low prices on kegs, BevMo! sells wine, spirits, mixers and barware. Customers can also sign up for ClubBev, which is free, and allows you bottles of wine as low as \$1.99 and other discounts throughout the store.

When the big day finally comes, be smart with your birthday money, and check out the great BevMo!'s great deals.

— Brittany McKinney



Best Grocery Store

Trader Joe's

Despite being almost five miles from campus (quite a trudge in our compact town), Trader Joe's still attracts a large constituency of wandering, hungry college students.

Come by any time between 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. and you'll see why.

Employee Dan Weber guesses that the distance isn't a deterrent because of the store's low prices and varied selection. An employee of Trader Joe's for 20 years, Weber appreciates what he describes as "the consistently huge collegiate turnout." Weber said he and his managers do their best to support college

students with a wide variety of produce, dairy products, and specialty items you won't find anywhere else.

Weber estimates that about 80 percent of the store's staff are college students from Cal Poly and nearby Cuesta. Customers are encouraged to bring in their own reusable grocery bags and receive a small discount at the register. For its employment of students, affordable groceries, and \$2 wine, Trader Joe's is San Luis Obispo's best grocery store.

— Megan Worthington

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Best Meal Deal/ Late Night Meal

Taco Bell



It's 1:30 a.m., and after a long night out on the town, one thought comes to the mind of many Cal Poly students: "fourth meal!"

It's a sight to be seen after midnight at the Taco Bell on Santa Rosa Street on any Thursday, Friday, or Saturday night. The rush usually begins around 11:30 p.m., and the line stretches out the door while music plays and students chat over their burritos and nachos.

"I like going to Taco Bell because it becomes a social place late at night. I get to see everyone I know there. My favorite orders are the Crunchwrap Supreme and bean and cheese burrito" says sophomore Courtney Preston.

With an array of items to choose from at very reasonable prices, Taco Bell is a great way to end a night out.

Taco Bell is open Sunday through Thursday until 3 a.m. and Friday and Saturday until 4 a.m. It has a lot of budget deals — a cheesy, double beef burrito for 89

cents for instance — which makes it a little hard to decide just which one snatched them the award for this year's "Best meal deal."

"It's probably either meal number one or two," said manager Maggie Gonzalez, citing the two most ordered meals from the menu. Taco Bell is leading the industry's race for great economic deals with its "why pay more" menu, featuring nine items for 99 cents or less.

Taco Bell has nearly 6,000 locations around the U.S., two of which are in San Luis Obispo. The Taco Bell on Santa Rosa Street has the second highest of the sales record in the state of the chain's restaurants, perhaps because of its proximity to Cal Poly.

Cal Poly student Shane Cyriac says he eats at Taco Bell at least once a week. As for the meal deal, his vote is on the Cheesy Gordita Crunch or the Crunchwrap Supreme.

— Ashley Hudson and Emma Seither

Best Local Winery Edna Valley Vineyard

Edna Valley Vineyard is located, as its name would suggest, in the heart of San Luis Obispo's Edna Valley. Overlooking acres of wine grapes, the tasting room is the perfect place for the local wine drinker.

"I love the view. The tasting room looks out over the vineyard so you can see the valley while you taste," said Lindsay Walsh, a Cal Poly graduate student.

Open year-round, Edna Valley Vineyard caters to its patrons through a wine club that offers specialized wines available only onsite at the tasting room and quality customer service. Tours are also available upon request during the weekend. Edna Valley Vineyard also offers an online calendar filled with dinners, cooking classes, and much more for their loyal



wine enthusiasts.

Edna Valley Vineyard prides itself on its commitment to quality and believes that "the wine should be as pure an expression of the place and the grape as possible."

The winery focuses on Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Syrah, Merlot, and Cabernet Sauvignon. The Edna Valley 2005 Chardonnay Paragon Vineyard offers a unique stone fruit aroma that adds to the richness of the wine. The 2006 Edna Valley Chardonnay Paragon Vineyard received a best buy nod in the Connoisseur's Guide to California Wine. With low-impact farming and winemaking, Edna Valley Vineyard is dedicated to excellence.

— Anne Michul

Best Facial: Bladerunner Day Spa

Looking for a personalized facial that will leave you feeling refreshed and ready to take on the day? Look no further than Bladerunner Day Spa located in downtown San Luis Obispo on the corner of Monterey and Morro streets. This modern day spa offers everything from hair styling, to manicures, to massages to their famous facials.

Its downtown location offers the perfect atmosphere for locals and students alike. And the client

tele varies, from young teens to senior citizens.

"We have a wide range of services from teen facials to anti-aging facials," said aesthetician Nora Nolan. With such a wide selection, it's easy to find a treatment that fits your skin type.

"Our most popular is the Dermalogica Express Facial which we customize to fit our client's skin type and specific needs," Nolan added.

Bladerunner Day Spa also of-

fers a Microdermabrasion Facial, one of the most effective methods for skin exfoliation, and a Classic European Facial that revitalizes and exfoliates. It has a retail center where you can buy the products, like those offered in the Dermalogica line, used during your personal facial. Bladerunner Day Spa has been offering quality services since 1986. The professionals at Bladerunner credit their successes to professional customer service.

— Anne Michul

Best Place for a Massage

Sycamore Mineral Springs

For anyone looking to get pampered, Sycamore Mineral Springs in Avila Beach has it all. While offering luxury lodging, Sycamore's Spa and Wellness Center is a local favorite.

Since the 1930s, people from all over the world have traveled to Sycamore to soak in its famous mineral water.

Located on more than 100 acres of tranquil forests and meadows, Sycamore Mineral Springs is great place for a massage.

The spa offers many different services guaranteed to renew your mind, body, and spirit. Swedish, deep tissue, hot stone, and even quick fix 30-minute massages are offered.

A long list of facials and body treatments are available off of their

spa menu. They even offer a unique treatment geared toward wine-country. Sycamore specializes in different wine therapy massages and treatments.

Local Chardonnay grape seeds are used for their powerful antioxidant properties. All of the wine therapy treatments even include a glass of local Chardonnay wine.

Whether you want a couple's massage or a quick facial, Sycamore offers it in a professional, beautiful setting.

Sycamore also offers offer yoga classes, hiking guides, and relaxing mineral baths to enjoy before your massage.

Sycamore Mineral Springs is located at 1215 Avila Beach Dr. in Avila Beach.

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Best Music Store

Boo Boo Records

Poet and physician Oliver Wendell Holmes long ago prescribed his readers to "take a music bath once or twice a week for a few seasons, and you will find that it is to the soul what the water bath is to the body." The ingredients of each individual's music bath will vary, of course, and Boo Boo Records understands that.

From Jazz to Rap, LPs to CDs, concert tickets to memorabilia, Boo Boo Records is prepared to serve your music needs.

Adding to its appeal, the 35-year-old record store hires people who find music just as meaningful as Holmes does. Manager Malik Thorne equated the opening of a newly purchased LP to viewing a beautiful piece of art.

Thorne understands how the authenticity of an independent music store makes its contents that much more appealing, saying, "You walk in and feel a certain excitement about music."

In addition to its knowledgeable staff and diverse selection, the store also has listening stations that play new releases selected by employees.

Check out their Web site which provides useful insider information for music bathers including bonus tracks, upcoming shows, and free album posters.

Boo Boo Records is located at 978 Monterey St. in downtown San Luis Obispo.

— Megan Worthington



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Best Italian Food Giuseppe's

Created as a senior project by Giuseppe DiFronzo, Giuseppe's offers the best in homemade Italian cuisine. DiFronzo started his business with an eight-table restaurant in South County. Then, three and a half years ago, he opened the more urban, modern San Luis Obispo Giuseppe's.

"I stepped out of my comfort zone," DiFronzo said about branching out.

Now, 20 years later, Giuseppe's has become essential in local dining. DiFronzo prides himself on attention to detail, from the lemons and limes he grows in his own garden, to organic strawberries, to dry ice in the martinis. "It's the atmosphere. It's top quality," he says.

Whether you are in San Luis Obispo or Pismo Beach, Giuseppe's offers Italian food for the whole family. The San Luis location boasts a contemporary Italian cuisine menu filled with flavorful dishes. The Pismo Beach location features a more Southern Italian palate with Sicilian inspired décor and dishes. Either restaurant makes for the perfect lunch or dinner.

After 20 years, he still has a passion for the business. As for DiFronzo's thoughts on winning the Best Italian Food, distinction, he said, "I'm grateful to Cal Poly. I wouldn't be here if it weren't for the learn by doing philosophy."

— Anne Michul



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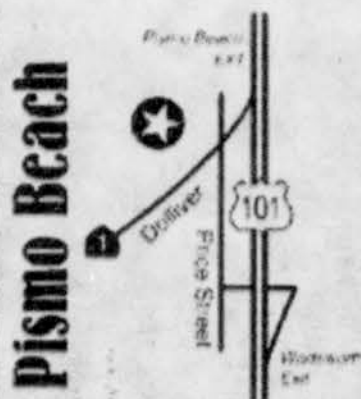
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Best Men's Fashion

Express



There are many boutiques and stores in San Luis Obispo that carry a variety of women's clothes, but stores that carry men's clothes are harder to find. Express in downtown San Luis Obispo has recently begun to sell men's clothing, proving to be the No. 1 store for local guys to shop.

Express sells a variety of chic men's clothing from polos, tees, and knits to pants, jackets, and suits.

"I actually shopped for clothes at Express yesterday. I like to shop there for the jeans. Even though their brands are a bit more expensive than what you find in some other stores, the quality definitely justifies the price," said freshman David McCutcheon.

Most of what you will find at Express is affordable for the college student's budget. T-shirts start at \$24.50 and jeans at \$56.00. The pricier items are in the \$90 to \$100 range. Most students shop during the sales held at least once a month where clothes are featured at \$9.99 for the last season's looks.

Whatever clothing items the male Cal Poly student desires is offered at Express, where the must-have looks of the season are always in stock.

Express is located at 887 Higuera St. in downtown San Luis Obispo.

Best Women's Fashion

Urban Outfitters



Whether you want to find a new pair of shoes or a hilarious coffee table book, Urban Outfitters is a one stop shop for everything cool. With racks of cutting edge designs, you are destined to find that perfect something.

Funky, fashion-forward trends is what Urban Outfitters is all about. The store stands out against other boutiques in downtown San Luis Obispo by carrying a variety of designs hard to find elsewhere. With a two-level store, a woman (or man for that matter) can spend quite a bit of time discovering new items. Although it is a nation-wide chain, the store feels more like a small boutique rather than a corporate retailer. This store is ideal for creating a one-of-a-kind look. Whimsical, edgy, '80s inspired, you name it, and the store probably has something to fit your taste.

Along with apparel, Urban Outfitters offers home décor, jewelry, books and great gag gifts. Customer Christy Hart, 25, enjoys shopping here for herself and others.

"I usually check out the sale rack upstairs first. It's a great way to save money on some really cute stuff," she said.

Urban Outfitters is located at 962 Monterey St. in downtown San Luis Obispo.

Best Place to Have Your Parents Stay: Madonna Inn

"The Madonna Inn is this amazing hotel. It's very pink and it's very themed," Bridget Marquardt, one of Hugh Hefner's former live-in girlfriends so articulately states on an episode of E!'s popular reality hit "Girls Next Door." In this particular episode, Hef's bevy of blondes road trip down the Central Coast, only to stop in one of San Luis Obispo's most famous landmarks, the Madonna Inn, which

also happens to be the Mustang Daily's No. 1 voted Best Place to Have Your Parents stay.

While you probably never thought your parents would ever have anything in common with Hugh Hefner, this hotel is a favorite of lodgers young and old.

The brainchild of Alex Madonna, the Madonna Inn is easily recognizable by its Swiss-inspired exterior and Pepto-Bismol pink

color scheme. It consists of 109 rooms and suites, a coffee shop, bakery, ladies' boutique, men's clothing shop, dining room, bar, wine cellar, gourmet gift shop—all of which tourists from around the country swarm to see.

Each room in the Madonna Inn is uniquely themed; Cal Poly parents have their choice among rooms such as Old Mill, with a working waterwheel, or the Cave Man Room,

most sought after because of its leopard skin accents and stone floors, walls, and ceiling. It's even equipped with a rock waterfall shower, featuring a stained glass window of a cave-man.

The hotel has a new pool area that is a site to behold. You can read more about the Madonna Inn, see photos, and even make reservations online at www.madonnainn.com.

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For more information about Costco, visit **Costco.com** or call **1-800-774-2678.**

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MI	NICKNAME (NAME TO PRINT ON MEMBERSHIP CARD)	NAME SUFFIX (OPTIONAL)
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		<input type="checkbox"/> Jr <input type="checkbox"/> Sr <input type="checkbox"/> II <input type="checkbox"/> Other
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- Check here if you do not want your name, postal address, e-mail address, and membership number and status shared with carefully selected partners so they may qualify you for these offerings.
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* Your driver's license number is not mandatory to gain membership at Costco, but if you plan to write checks at Costco, we do need your driver's license number.

Note: Completion of this application constitutes acceptance of Costco's Privileges and Conditions of Membership, including our privacy policies and practices, which are available at the membership counter or online at Costco.com. Please provide your Household Cardholder with this information. **Renewal Policy** - Memberships renewed within 2 months after expiration of the current membership year will be extended for 12 months from the expiration date. Memberships renewed more than 2 months after such expiration will be extended for 12 months from the renewal date.

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Coupons will be mailed to member using Awareness Code 21481.

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Best Paso Robles Winery: Tobin James Cellars

Tobin James Cellars, named after founding winemaker Tobin James, was built from scratch on the site of an old stagecoach stop. Located just off of Highway 46 East in Paso Robles, Tobin James Cellars is conveniently located in the heart of Paso Robles' wine region.

Restored to perfection, this winery has a character all on its own. Its saloon atmosphere is unique and intriguing to both locals and tourists. "It's unique and unusual. The tasting room really shows off the character of the wine and staff,"

says Cal Poly senior Rebecca Ziemba. Wine is poured and tasted off "the grand, antique 1860's Brunswick mahogany bar from Blue Eye, Missouri."

Diehard fans of Tobin James can become a part of the James Gang and enjoy discounts, invitations to special events like the annual Zinfandel Festival Reception held specifically for James Gang members and their guest.

Club members also receive access to unique wines only poured in the tasting room like 2005 Estate Private Stash, an

Estate Bordeaux blend. With wines like the 2007 Chardonnay "Radiance" and the 2006 Syrah "Rock N Roll", wine drinkers will never be bored. Their wines feature unique aromas and flavors like hints of kiwi and black currant. With outrageous names and bold tastes, it's no wonder Tobin James Cellars was named Mustang Daily's Best Paso Robles Winery.

— Anne Michul

Best Organic Produce

Trader Joe's

Trader Joe's is where value, adventure and tasty treasures are found every day.

All Trader Joe's labeled products contain no artificial flavors, colors, preservatives, MSG, or trans fats. None of the Trader Joe's label products is sourced from non-genetically modified ingredients. All products sold at Trader Joe's labeled "organic" and "made with organic" must meet NOP (National Organic Program) standards.

So you can trust the quality of every product you purchase with the Trader Joe's label. There's a high standard of quality that speaks for itself.

With a vast selection of innovative, hard-to-find, great-tasting foods, Trader Joe's isn't your average grocer.

Not only does Trader Joe's have original organic products without the high prices of run-of-the-mill grocery stores, but also the customer is treated with special courtesy. If you're ever unsatisfied with a Trader Joe's product, you may return it for a full refund, no questions asked. That's true customer satisfaction.

Buying directly from the source whenever possible allows Trader Joe's to keep prices down and keep shoppers coming back for more. So it's likely your first trip to Trader Joe's won't be your last.

Trader Joe's is located at 3977 South Higuera St. in San Luis Obispo.

— Cassie Malgieri

Best Swim Shop

SLO Swim

"We SUIT you best" is not only the tagline of San Luis Obispo's largest swimwear store, but it's also a promise. Owner Shelley Phillip has been selling bathing suits for 14 years. Getting her start at the Sea Barn in Avila Beach, she ventured back to SLO to start her own store. Though it started as a rather small swimwear store on Chorro Street, SLO Swim is now serving clients from a larger location on Higuera Street.

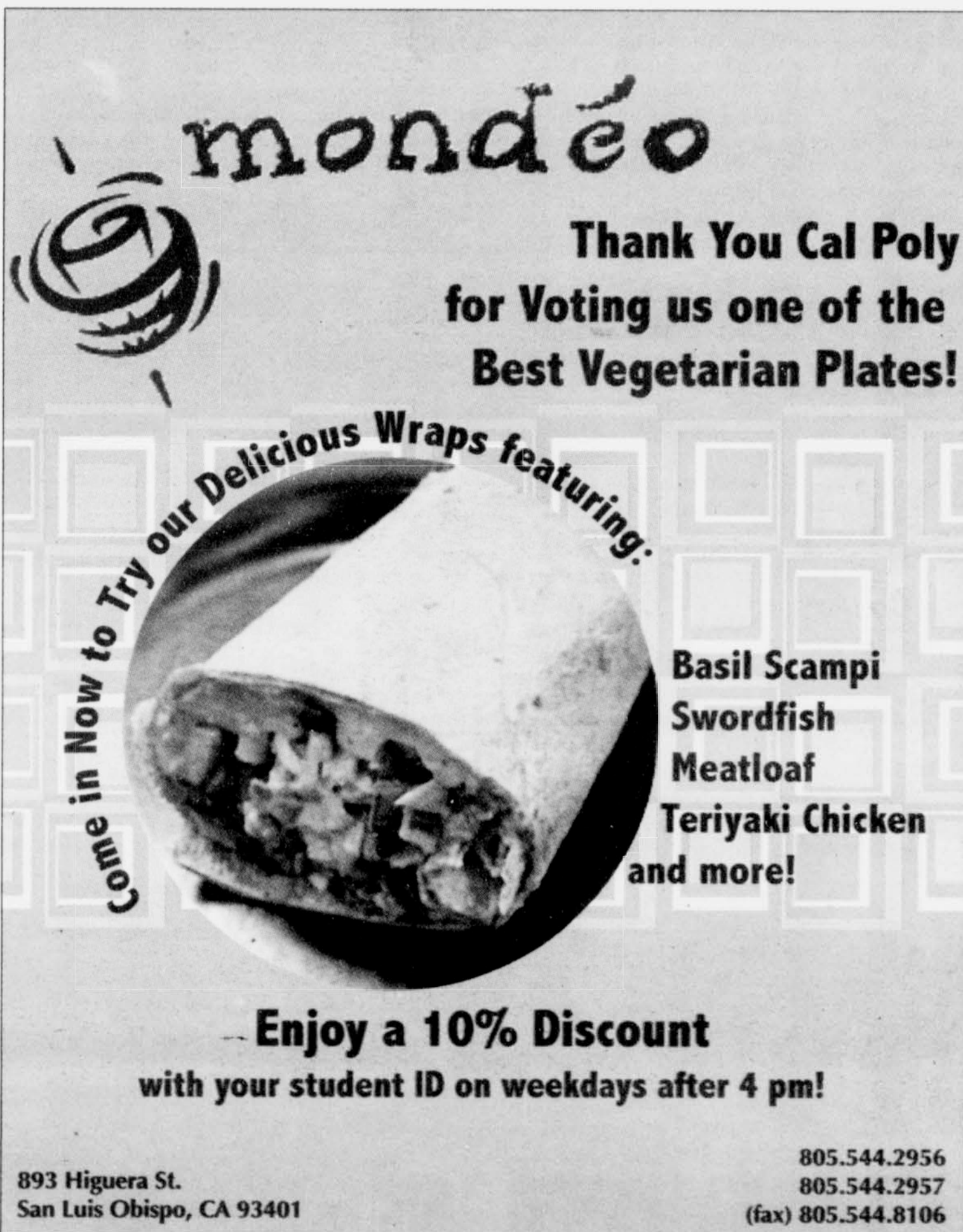
"Shelley is huge on customer service," says SLO Swim employee Kendra Zoller. "She has such loyal customers that only work with her and she knows everything about suits,

including what looks best on clients."

Offering an astounding selection of swimsuit brands, SLO Swim is proud to specialize in larger cup sizes. They can also custom order suits in the rare occasion you can't find what you're looking for.

Not solely a swimsuit store, SLO Swim offers clothing and sportswear from dresses, shirts, shorts, sandals, swim caps, and purses. "We cater towards all ages," says Zoller.

"We carry junior sizes and favorite brands like Vix and Vitamin A, yet we also have contemporary suits for older people, and a small area of kid's suits."



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Best Bank

Bank of America

With over 6,000 banking centers and more than 18,000 ATMs in the United States, it comes as no surprise that Cal Poly students chose Bank of America as their No. 1 bank.

Bank of America, located at 1105 Higuera St., is known for providing quality service to its customers.

"It's nice to know that people are noticing our genuine service. Even though we are a huge bank, we still act as small since we share the same community," banking center manager Julie Cagle said.

Students can open a free CampusEdge Checking Account with no minimum balance required. This program makes it easy for parents to directly deposit funds into their child's account. Students can even make payments to their landlords online.

Even better, students are eligible to receive \$10

when a friend joins CampusEdge.

Online banking is one of Bank of America's proudest features. Its user-friendly approach and variety of capabilities appeal to customers of all ages. Free mobile banking and text alerts were recently added to make students' lives easier.

Students can stay informed about checking, savings and credit card activity at any time by receiving text messages or emails with payment and balance information.

An ATM is conveniently located in the University Union with three others around San Luis Obispo.

Between banking centers, ATMs and online banking capabilities, you can rest assured that wherever you go, Bank of America will be there to serve you.

— Carla Silvia

Best Pet Store

PETCO

PETCO is your one stop pet shop. Specializing in an array of pet services, supplies and accessories, PETCO is the place to go to treat, pamper and take care of your pet's needs.

From the full-service grooming salon, and self-service dog wash station, to professional pet photography and DNA breed testing, you're sure to find all that you came for and more.

PETCO's knowledgeable employees are quick to offer a hand and answer any questions custom-

ers may have. If you need further assistance you can also attend their canine education programs where they'll help you learn how to train your pet.

To show how important animals and their owners are to them, PETCO offers pet owners relief in these tough economic times by holding low-cost vaccination clinics.

"As the economy slows, we've seen an increase in the number of customers visiting our clinics," said Taylor Phillips, PETCO's

vice-president of pet services new growth.

In addition to vaccinations, the clinics also offer services like heartworm testing and preventatives, fecal testing, de-worming, and micro-chipping.

So make sure to take your pet to PETCO and show how much you really care about him (or her).

Petco is located at 271 Madonna Road in San Luis Obispo.

— Cassie Malgieri

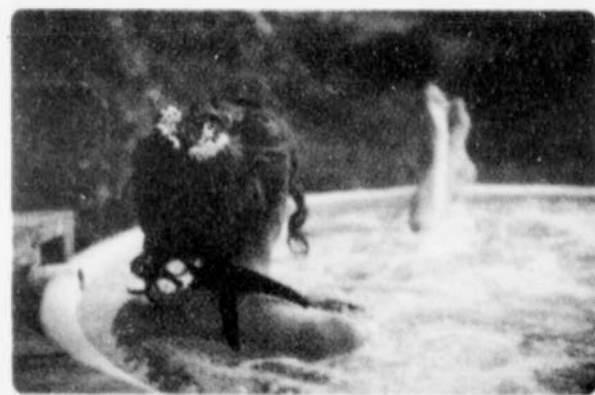
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Best Place to Buy a Mattress

Costco

San Luis residents know that when you want to buy big, there's only one place to go.

That's why they voted Costco the best place to buy a mattress in San Luis Obispo. Here you can find a variety of mattresses for your needs, ranging from twin-sized to king-sized.

Warehouse Manager Jay Dougherty said that the reason most residents buy at Costco is the value. "We guarantee a really good mattress at a great price," he said.

And, although Dougherty said Costco keeps its mattresses stocked year-round, he explained that the store ensures that its stock remains fully loaded during the back-to-school season so students have a

chance to get their choice of mattress.

"I bought my mattress from Costco at the beginning of this school year," said fourth year Cal Poly student Danielle Tabachnick.

"When I'm not sleeping in the architecture lab it's nice to be able to come home to a soft bed."

Costco mattresses range from \$200 to \$600 depending on the style you chose.

So if you're looking to buy a new mattress, head out to Costco, located at 1540 Froom Ranch Way off of Los Osos Valley Road to find a comfy mattress at a great value.

— Claire Hodgkins

Best Storage Facility

Derrel's Mini Storage

Are you short on space? Derrel's Mini Storage may help. This storage facility is a favorite among Cal Poly students wanting to store extra stuff during the summer. While offering a wide range of sizes, Derrel's keeps prices low. For as little as \$45.50 a month, you can have safe, clean, affordable storage.

With more than 50 locations in Central California, Derrel's Mini Storage is dedicated to its customers' needs. Since 1982, the company has built architecturally appealing facilities that provide all your storage needs. The friendly on-site managers will help you

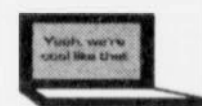
find a unit that best fits your needs within your budget.

Open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., the storage units are accessible through its computerized gated entry system. The extra-wide aisles provide easy maneuvering even in larger trucks.

Derrel's is running a currently running a free rent special. When you rent a full month, you get a month free. This special is available for up to three free months of rent.

Derrel's Mini Storage is located at 3650 Broad St. in San Luis Obispo.

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Best Thai Restaurant Thai Palace



For those looking for a restaurant to satisfy their spicy palette needs, look no further than Thai Palace.

Located right in the heart of downtown San Luis Obispo, lining the alley that makes up the Court Street shops, Thai Palace is a destination for the exotic food aficionado.

The restaurant has been around for 10 years but it just experienced a face-lift two years ago when the entire restaurant was remodeled.

"The theme of this restaurant is a back alley in Bangkok. We are a friendly, high-end, casual environment," said manager Matthew Yin.

The most popular dishes at Thai Palace are the curries, fried rice, and stir fry noodles. Everything usually

comes as mild or medium, but you can ask the waiter to make it hot or very hot if you're feeling up to the challenge. But if going hot isn't your thing just yet, Yin said that there are food options for beginners, too.

The restaurant's busiest times are weekend dinners Thursday through Saturday, but the good news is you can make reservations.

Thai Palace is located at 1015 Court Street, right next to Yogurt Creations. It is open Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for lunch and 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. for dinner; Saturday 12 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

— Krizia Torres

Best Place to Shop on a Budget Ross

Let's face it, with a failing economy, bills to pay and low-wage jobs, special occasions and shopping for the new seasons can weigh heavily on a college student's budget.

That's why many San Luis Obispo residents prefer to shop at Ross when they are on a tight budget.

Ross stocks top-name brands including Liz Claiborne, Guess Jeans, and BCBG that have been closed out from other retailers.

Then Ross sells the items back at a discounted price to consumers.

"You get more value for your money," said store manager David McNeil. "It's first rate merchandise at a reduced price."

San Luis Obispo residents look to Ross for a variety of their home and school needs.

"It's the cheapest place in town and great for buying stuff around the house" said Monique Furtado, a Cal Poly junior.

Meanwhile, other students browsed the discounted shoes and clothes racks in preparation for the changing seasons.

"It's one of the cheapest places for shoes," said Joyce Tarr, a third-year Cal Poly student.

So if you find yourself counting pennies this year, but in need of a good gift, new outfit, or home supplies, Ross, located at 868 Higuera St., is a great place to find quality items on a budget.

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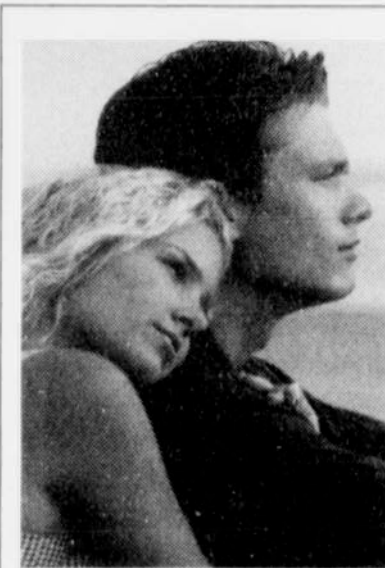
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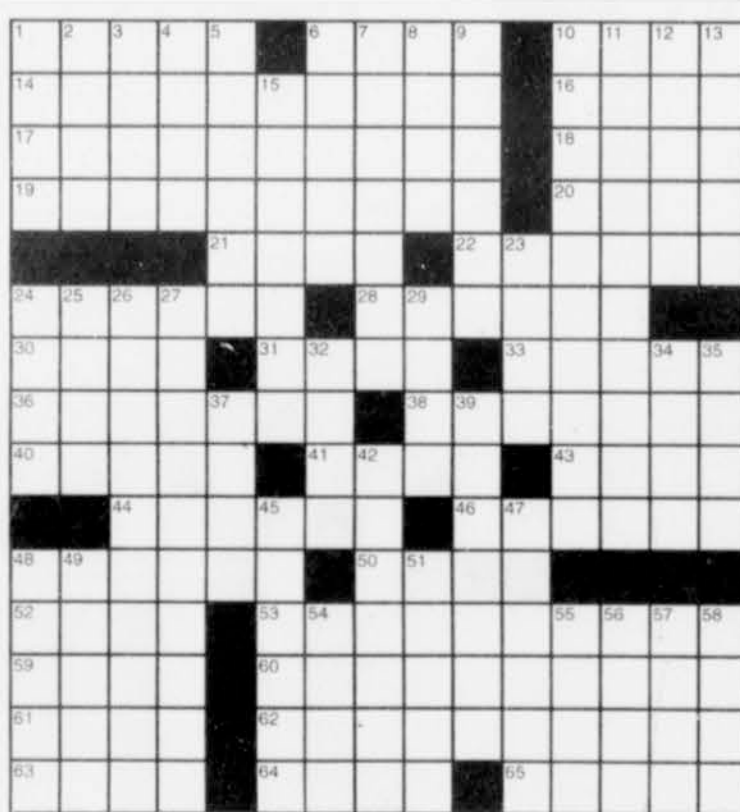
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- 1 Romp
 - 6 Scotch flavorer
 - 10 Soprano ____ Huang
 - 14 A raise may raise it
 - 16 Novel about its author's experiences on Tahiti
 - 17 When many shots are taken
 - 18 ____ snuff
 - 19 Not letting go
 - 20 Many a Kirkuk native
 - 21 Some livestock
 - 22 Regatta setting
 - 24 "A Writer's Life" writer, 2006
 - 28 Some singing villains
 - 30 PBS station with a transmitter on the Empire State Building
 - 31 Spin cycles?
 - 33 Upland inhabitant
 - 36 Response to "I have a question for you"
 - 38 Tinseltown is part of it
 - 40 Cul-__
 - 41 He fought Robin on an episode of "Batman"
 - 43 "An Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals" philosopher
 - 44 Since
 - 46 Verne of Austin Powers films
 - 48 Reno's county
 - 50 Break
 - 52 Michigan's ____ College
 - 53 Arnold
 - 54 Schwarzenegger, four times
 - 59 Somewhat dense
 - 60 Match point?
 - 61 Government largesse
 - 62 It requires spin control
 - 63 ____-Ball
 - 64 See 48-Down
 - 65 Ringer of some necks
- Down**
- 1 Steward's domain
 - 2 Poet who wrote "Hope springs eternal in the human breast"
 - 3 Penitent
 - 4 Birds with "meat cleaver" bills
 - 5 "The Two ____" (Martha Finley children's book)
 - 6 Run on
 - 7 Passes gingerly
 - 8 Greatly
 - 9 Addition column
 - 10 Unnamed individual
 - 11 Many an item at a checkout line
 - 12 Our counterpart in France?
 - 13 Small perk
 - 15 Reply to "Have you got that in stock?"
 - 23 Brand named after the pronunciation of its parent company's initials
 - 24 Fiat
 - 25 Huber of women's tennis
 - 26 "Keep it simple"



Puzzle by Mike Nothnagel

- 27 Oscar nominee for "Training Day," 2001
- 29 Kind of ed.
- 32 Aleutian island
- 34 Torch site
- 35 Israel's Weizman
- 37 Prefix with -pod
- 39 Béchamel sauce ingredient
- 42 Adapts
- 45 Confines
- 47 Leak
- 48 With 64-Across, sight under the eaves, at times
- 49 Perfectly good
- 51 Not just jitters
- 54 Force through a sieve
- 55 Is in Spain?
- 56 Sluggers' stats
- 57 ____ fil (wireless, in Paris)
- 58 Conclusion lead-in

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



su | do | ku

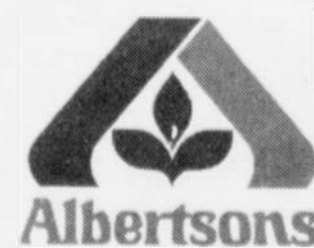
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Best Place to Study

Kennedy Library

Studying is not always the most enjoyable aspect of college, but the students at Cal Poly know how to get it done at Kennedy Library.

The library started in a small room of the original administration building on campus in 1903. Over the last 100 years, it has grown immensely and is now stocked with more than five million items.

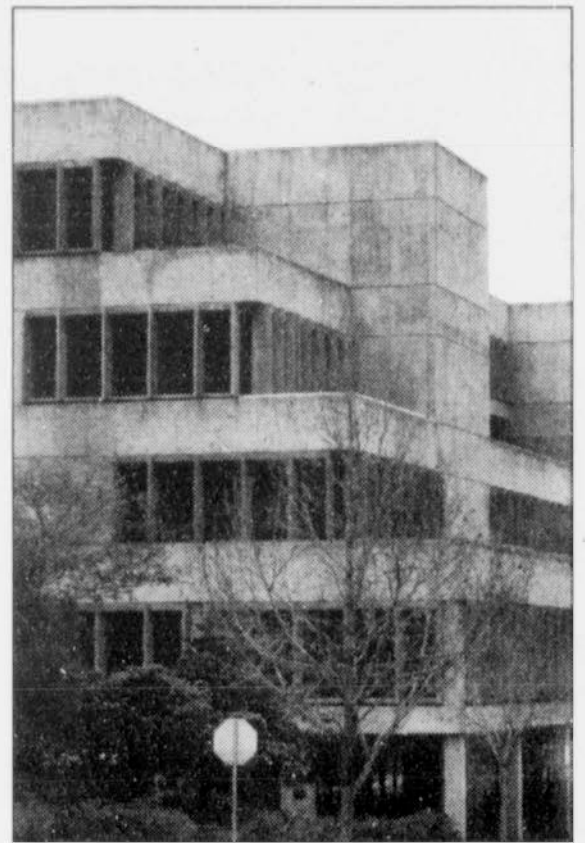
There are many different quiet places to study throughout the library. Featuring five stories with quiet desk nooks, study rooms, computer labs,

24-hour reading room, and Pony Prints, the library was built especially for studying. Julian's Coffee Shop was just added to the newly renovated second floor, as well as large brand new study rooms for students to gather in.

It's rare to find a library where eating and drinking are not only permitted, but encouraged. Stop by Julian's and enjoy some of their tasty treats on your way to class.

"I live with seven other girls, which makes studying in the house really hard," English senior Diana Bales said. "The library is a quiet place to study at night and it's especially sweet now that Julian's was put in."

Conveniently located at the west end of campus, students can easily escape for a quick study session, gather for a group meeting or engage in an intense cramming session before a test; which is why it was voted the number one best study spot.



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Best Motorized Bike & Scooter Store

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Do you have that urge to get on a motorized bike and ride down the Central Coast with the warm wind in your hair?

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SLO Vespa offers a variety of inventory, bike service, and riding accessories.

It is an advocate of greener commuting with all scooters getting up to

70 miles per gallon.

At any one time, there are at least 40 scooters in stock. A wide variety of models and price ranges is offered. You'll also find accessories, gifts and riding apparel.

There is also a scooter club that rides at least once a month. Featured on their Web site www.wilmorescooterworks.com, are photos from the club's rides as well as a blog for local riders to share their riding experiences.

If you're looking for a quick way

to get to school, zip around San Luis Obispo, or just enjoy riding motorized scooters, SLO Vespa has the bike to fit your specific needs.

SLO Vespa is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. — but if you can't come by during those hours, you can always stand outside the showroom window and admire the shiny new scooters all lined up and ready to go.

The store is conveniently located at 1144 Higuera St. in downtown San Luis Obispo.



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Best Sushi

Shin's

College students like sushi. College students like affordability. Shin's is the perfect Japanese restaurant and sushi bar to cater to those specific needs.

Sounds too good to be true? Shin's menu offers a great selection of quality cut hand rolls for half the price of what other regular sushi restaurants offer.

"The owner, Steve Shin, is so nice. He buys the fish and imports everything at a great deal and makes it very affordable for the people of San Luis Obispo," said server Adam Aguilera.

But the affordable price isn't the only reason why Shin's is the top pick for Japanese cuisine. The upbeat, party-like atmosphere is what attracts most hungry college students who religiously crowd the entrance on weekend nights. There is a sake bar that serves beer on tap as well as traditional Japanese beer and cocktails. If you come in on Thursdays after 6 p.m. you can try a free sample of Soju

cocktails.

"The college crew that comes here can really connect with us because we aren't uptight. We know how to be ourselves. We're here, we're real. We want to sell you good, affordable food," said Aguilera.

And amidst those big crowds of college students is a birthday celebrant. Shin's offers a very unique, fun birthday celebration consisting of strobe lights, techno music, restaurant participation, mochi ice cream, and a picture with a frame that says, "I celebrated my birthday at Shin's." The walls of the restaurant are lined with Polaroid pictures of people who came to celebrate their birthdays at Shin's.

"We love seeing people having fun," said Aguilera. Shin's is located at 1023 Monterey St. in downtown San Luis Obispo.

— Krizia Torres

Best Sandwich

High Street Deli

For your lunchtime sandwich, there can only be one answer, High Street Deli. Located in the middle of High Street, off of Broad Street, in a 100-year-old building, this deli truly caters to your every taste bud. With sandwiches you can barely fit your mouth around, soups and salads made from scratch, and delicious cookies, you are sure to leave High Street Deli satisfied.

From classics like the B.L.T. to hot meatloaf sandwiches, manager Adam Gruner says, "it's about good people and good sandwiches." On winning the Mustang Daily's Best Sandwich, Gruner says, "we've been on top for a couple years now and it's always an honor. Thanks for supporting us!"

High Street offers a substantial menu with daily specials and customer favorites like the California Turkey sandwich piled high with roasted turkey, avocados, and melted pepper jack cheese. They even offer catering for the local party or luncheon.

Kyle Cameron, a Cal Poly graduate, orders the same sandwich every time he eats at High Street. And he knows to come in around 4:20 pm for the 420 sandwich special when sandwiches are only \$4.20. He says, "High Street Deli adds more love to their sandwiches than anywhere else."

— Anne Michul

Best Sports Store

Sports Authority

Sports Authority came to San Luis Obispo fairly recently and moved into the buildings formerly home to Copeland Sports. Business couldn't be better, and the staff has worked hard to make it that way.

"I'm really proud of my staff and their attention to detail, as well as the fast and courteous service they provide," store manager Daniel Costales said.

Sports Authority has recently had to downsize its building in order to satisfy earthquake codes, an issue that's been dealt with all over downtown for the last five years, Costales told me. That doesn't mean, however, that Sports Authority has downsized its merchandise or departments in any way.

see Sports, page 27

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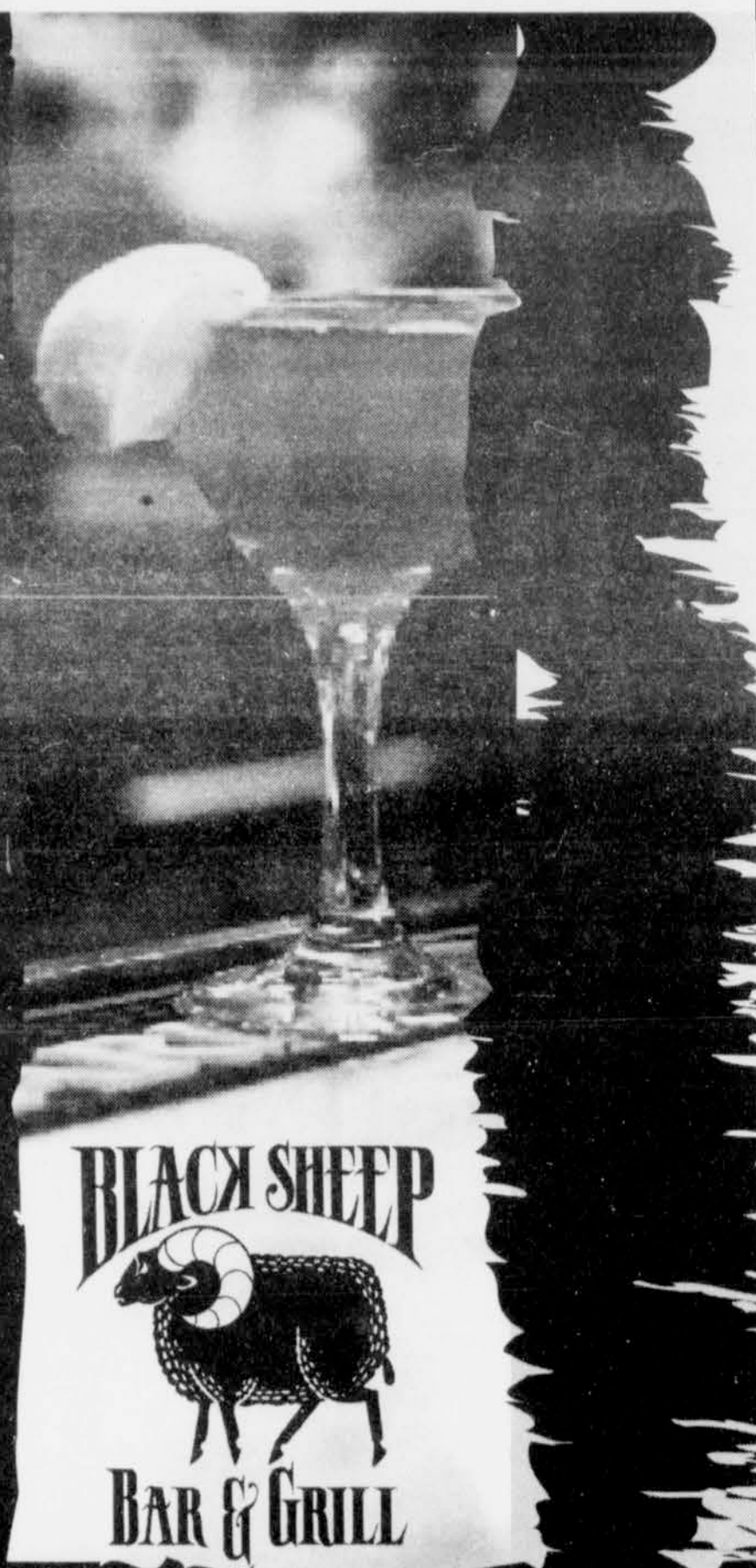
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Best Student Housing Poly Canyon Village

Poly Canyon Village, the newest residential addition to the Cal Poly campus, was voted Best Student Housing.

The new housing unit opened in fall 2008 and is home to 2,700 continuing students. With four floor plans, housing four to six students in private and shared bedrooms, students have access to all of the finest amenities. Each apartment is fully furnished and offers picturesque views of the Cal Poly campus and its surrounding hills.

Jamba Juice, Einstein Bros. Bagels, Peets Coffee and Tea and Village Market are all located in the central retail plaza where students can pick up coffee and a bite to eat on the go. With a recreation center, swimming pool, study rooms,

knowledge center and conference room, residents have the access and facility to work hard and play harder.

All current continuing freshmen students have the opportunity to apply to live in the Poly Canyon Village Apartments for the 2009-2010 Academic Year. Student admission is decided upon a lottery drawing. Upperclassmen interested in living in Poly Canyon are able to place their name on an "Interest List" after the initial lottery process has been completed for current freshmen.

For any additional information visit the housing link on the Cal Poly Web portal.

— Cassie Malgieri



Best Steakhouse / Place to be Spoiled by your Parents

F. McClintock's

San Luis Obispo is famous for its tri-tip; you can find it at almost every restaurant you go to, and even at Cal Poly's Campus Market. When most people think of having a steak dinner, however, there's usually one San Luis Obispo restaurant that comes to mind: McClintock's.

Located in both Shell Beach and downtown San Luis Obispo, McClintock's is favored among students and community members alike, and the restaurant was voted "Best local, non-SLO restaurant" and "Best place to be spoiled by your parents" in 2008 by Mustang Daily readers.

And it's no wonder. Diners can enjoy a wide variety of appetizers, and most entrees come with a salad, beans, garlic cheese bread, a choice of French fries, rice, baked potato, or garlic mashed potatoes, and finally, ice cream or an after-dinner liqueur for the 21-and-over crowd.

"I go to McClintock's when my parents visit. The food is really good, and you get so much. The waiters are entertaining too with their water-pouring tricks. We had a waiter that poured our water blindfolded," said Monica Ambrosini, a business sophomore.

Not only is the place entertaining with its clever waiters and quirky, wild west décor, but your parents' money will be well-spent, and you will go home well-fed.

The best place to see the McClintock's staff in action is on Thursday evenings at Farmers Market. They're easy to spot because they always have the longest line and you will usually here the guys yelling out peoples' orders, giving the place a fun and enthusiastic atmosphere that even makes waiting in line enjoyable.

Business senior Ashley Bartlett and her roommates have made a tradition of going to McClintock's on Thursdays, and have gotten to know the staff well.

"When I go to Farmers, I can think of eating nowhere but McClintock's," Bartlett stated. "Some of my best memories are there, as every week my roommates and I bring all the 'McClintock's Men,' lemonade servers, and our favorite cashiers a freshly baked batch of sweets. We know they are grateful for our baked treats, because sometimes they even offer to buy us dinner. Nothing tastes better on a perfect Thursday night downtown!"

Before you leave San Luis Obispo, be sure to stop by McClintock's, which you won't find anywhere but the Central Coast, and satisfy your craving for a big, juicy steak by taking advantage of that free meal your parents are offering.

— Brittany McKinney

Sports

continued from page 25

Sports enthusiasts can find equipment and accessories for a variety of sports including baseball, bowling, BMX biking, snowboarding, golf and tennis.

The store also sells fitness equipment that will help you keep your 2009 resolutions in tact and

keep you looking stylish while doing it.

In addition to carrying all of the equipment you will ever need, Sports Authority also offers sports apparel and footwear from all the top brands.

If you're thinking of joining a club-sport or replacing those old running shoes you've had since high school, then look no further; Sports Authority will hook you up.

— Brittany McKinney



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Best Margarita Vallarta's

Calling all señors and señoritas tough enough to tackle Vallarta's famous 60 ounce margarita! Blended or on the rocks, this gigantic cup of fun is a rite of passage for many that come of age in San Luis Obispo. There's no wonder why Vallarta's won the top honor for "Best Margarita" this year.



"I've been to Vallarta's many times for my friends' birthdays and the 60 ounce margarita is a must," said statistics senior Lauren Olerich. "I've only seen a couple people finish the entire thing. My personal favorite is the raspberry."

Share it with friends or undertake it alone, this massive margarita is good enough to suit anyone's taste buds and is available in multiple flavors. For those with smaller sensibilities, the famous margarita is available in smaller sizes as well.

Vallarta's is a great place to kick off a birthday celebration. With plenty of seating for large parties and reasonable pricing, none of your friends will want to miss out.

Vallarta's is located at 1761 Monterey Street in San Luis Obispo.

— Diane Verhaeghe

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Best Tanning Salon Planet Beach

The winter season is slowly transitioning into spring and before you know it, summer is here. And what does that mean for those who have been hiding under layers of clothing all season? It's time to get a tan!

Planet Beach is San Luis Obispo's answer to all its tanning prayers. The salon is hip and out of this world. Planet Beach is equipped with multiple level lay-down and stand-up beds and a Mystic UV-free booth for those who opt for a spray tan.

Functioning much more than just another tanning salon, Planet Beach is

first to give birth to the idea of the "Contempo Spa." According to their Web site, this concept marries the tanning business with the day spa and wellness treatments. Customers can relax with an aqua massage, facial treatment and tanning session all in the same place!

Planet Beach is located at 787 E. Foothill Blvd. It is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday 12 p.m. to 6 p.m.

— Krizia Torres

Best Cell Phone Service Verizon

Verizon Wireless's motto "The nation's most reliable wireless network" proved true in San Luis Obispo when our readers voted it the "Best for cell phone service."

The wireless service offers innovative phones as well as good coverage in the San Luis Obispo area that beats out competitors T-Mobile and AT&T. One of the most valuable parts of the Verizon calling plan is free in-calling among customers.

Daniel Forbes, an engineering student, said he is happy with Verizon Wireless as his carrier. "We have a family plan, and it's really cheap." He says service is good whether he is

here at school or back home in Oakland. "There are some spots where the service isn't great, but most places I get service. I'm pleased with Verizon."

Forbes also said that he is impressed with their customer service.

"Any time we need to deal with customer service or anything they are really helpful, they are never rude on the phone or anything. If there's an erroneous charge, they'll reverse it really quickly. I'm happy with them."

Verizon Wireless is located at 994 Mill Street in San Luis Obispo.

— Emma Seither

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Best Thrift Store Goodwill

One of the biggest thrift store chains in California, Goodwill Industries proudly won this year's award for best thrift store in San Luis Obispo.

The thrift store giant has over 2,000 locations around the country, turning donated goods into charity for the community. In 2007, Goodwill reported \$3.2 billion in total revenue, 84 percent of which went towards employment programs and support services for those in need.

Will Kern, who works for Goodwill Industries in San Luis Obispo, said he is impressed by how much Goodwill does for the community and its own employees. He said he is touched to see an organization that is concerned with its employees.

"They take really good care of their people."

With tax season approaching, Goodwill is also helping low-income families get free tax preparation help. Recognizing that few people know about the

Earned Income Tax Credit, an IRS program to give higher tax returns to low income families, Goodwill has set up volunteer tax assistance sites in several cities to help people get the most out of their tax returns.

"The Earned Income Tax Credit is a valuable tax break that has lifted millions of working families out of poverty," said Jim Gibbons, president and CEO of Goodwill Industries International.

"Goodwill is ideally positioned to reach the target population of low-income workers who can most benefit from these refunds through our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites and our many financial literacy programs."

You can visit Goodwill on South Higuera Street, or online at www.goodwill.org.

— Emma Seither

Best Vegetarian Plate Natural Cafe

In a town brimming with carnivorous restaurants and boasting a university with its very own stock pens and course on cow slaughtering, what is a vegetarian to do?

If healthy, meat-free, and delicious are operative words in your vocabulary, then eating at Natural Café would be a wise choice.

The downtown restaurant's varied menu includes chili, burgers and hot dogs — all tasty and meat free. If you're not into mimicked meat then there are plenty of other options from pastas and salads to burritos.

San Luis Obispo's Natural Café is one of nine scattered around California, yet it still manages to maintain a local feel.

General manager Jennifer Stuckey cites regular customers as the restaurant's greatest asset. "We have lots of regular customers that make it feel like we're our own little family here," she said.

Stuckey said the most popular vegetarian dishes are the Old Town Salad and the Portobello Mushroom Sandwich.

For its excellent service and numerous meat-free options (and its sensitivity to the plight of cows everywhere), Natural Café is Cal Poy's choice for Best Vegetarian restaurant.

— Megan Worthington

Best Barbershop University Barbershop

University Barber Shop has been clipping and trimming since 1958. Surprisingly, owner John Phillips says this is the first year his shop has been named 'Best Barbershop' in San Luis Obispo.

Located next to Bali's Frozen Yogurt on Foothill Boulevard, the small shop's checkered floor, big mirrors, and old-fashioned chairs offer a flashback to a slower, simpler time — and are a testament to how long the shop has been in business.

Phillips has seen the community around the little five-chair shop change drastically over the years. "It used to be a 365-day a year business, but now our customers are migratory and it has

become a 160-day-a year business," referring to the student population brought in by Cal Poly and Cuesta. The University offered the barbershop a contract to open a location on campus, but Phillips was hesitant to isolate himself from the rest of the community, or the "365-day people."

He said what people like about the business is that they keep it simple.

"We're just an old-time barbershop that cuts hair. Beauty shops have a tendency to go towards hair coloring and all that type of stuff. We just cut hair."

— Emma Seither

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Best Beer Selection Spike's

With a list of 40 international beers to choose from and new ones featured on the menu each week, it is no surprise that Spike's was voted number one for the best beer selection in San Luis Obispo.

Much similar to Marti's Century Club, Spike's is home to the 'Around the World' beer card. For those who complete the feat of finishing the 40 beers on the card, Spike's will honor them with a special ceremony and a little memento to take home.

Aside from the vast beer selection, Spike's also offers weekly food specials. Among the most popular are Spike's chicken wings and Tuesday night's two tacos for \$2. According to frequent customer, Richie Herten, "The hot sauce is killer, that's why it's better than anyone else's Taco Tuesday around here. Not to mention the beer!"

Spike's is located at 570 Higuera St. in downtown San Luis Obispo.

— Cassie Malgieri

Best Flower Shop Poly Plant Shop

Perhaps you've been considering purchasing some mums (a shrub-like plant that blooms annually) for your yard or maybe a thank-you-for-having-me floral arrangement for your mama. Whatever your plant desires may be, Poly Plant Shop can likely fulfill them.

The Cal Poly-owned and operated nursery has recently expanded its inventory to include items produced on campus including honey, fruits, and jams. Ellen Breck has worked for the shop for 30 years and has witnessed its growth. "Sometimes we sell pottery that students will make to fit our plants. We've recently tried to incorporate pottery and other special items that students create, so we have

a more varied and interesting inventory," she said.

The shop's most popular flower? Alstromeria, a South American lily that Breck claims to be the largest and prettiest in San Luis Obispo County. Like most of what the shop sells, Alstromeria are grown locally. With an eye on sustainability, Poly Plant Shop's array of locally grown plants and student-made products has put itself on the map as the best flower shop in SLO.

The nursery is located on Via Carta and is open Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

— Megan Worthington



Want to live in the new Poly Canyon Village Apartments next year?

Add your name to the Interest List for Poly Canyon Village!

Beginning **FEBRUARY 27, 2009**, continuing off-campus students and current on-campus residents who did NOT enter the lottery or interest list process can now request to have their names placed on an interest list for the new Poly Canyon Village Apartments. Call the Poly Canyon Village Administrative Office, 805.756.9300, or send e-mail to University Housing at housing@calpoly.edu.

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10. Adjacent parking.

For additional information about on-campus housing, please visit www.housing.calpoly.edu.



Best Tasting Room Taste

"It's an adult candy shop," said Taste associate Jill DeLariva, referring to the Mustang Daily's number-one voted Best Tasting Room.

For those emerging wine enthusiasts out there, Taste is a great place to begin your journey into the vast world that is the SLO county wine country — all without actually having to leave downtown San Luis Obispo.

Taste's exclusive Enomatic Wine Pouring System not only puts dozens of San Luis Obispo's finest wines right at your fingertips, but also provides a sleek interior decor for the downtown tasting room.

Local photographer Barry Goyette has also had a hand in

modernizing Taste's décor. His black and white photographs of local winemakers placed in pewter frames add a chic touch and bring to life the personalities behind each winery.

Presented by the SLO Vintner's Association, Taste lets you sample up to 72 different wines — from producers in San Luis Obispo's Edna Valley, Arroyo Grande, Avila Beach and Nipomo Regions — three of which come from the Cal Poly vineyards.

"We are very excited to be voted best tasting room," says Holly Burke.

"It's especially great because we are locally based. It's a complement to the wines and vineyards of the area."

Best Party Supply / Craft Store Beverly's

Beverly's employees know a thing or two about Halloween. The most popular Halloween costume this year?

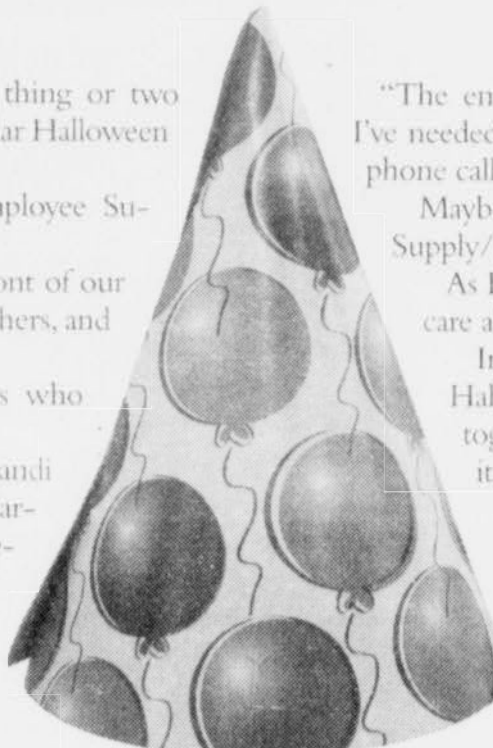
"Peacocks," says Beverly's employee Suzanne Wardman.

"The Christmas tree in the front of our store was covered in peacock feathers, and students just loved the idea."

Students aren't the only ones who love Beverly's.

"This place is the best," says Mandi Borges, the owner of Butterfly Harness, a SLO based company specializing in hand crafted dog harnesses.

"I don't come downtown for anything else," she continues as she makes her way to the cash register to check out a heaping assortment of fabric.



"The employees help me with every single thing I've needed. They're so generous; they've made orders, phone calls—anything to help get the fabrics I need."

Maybe this is why Beverly's was voted Best Party Supply/Craft Store.

As Borges can attest, the employees at Beverly's care about their clientele.

In fact, Wardman is in the process of making Halloween costume creations, Grecian goddess togas, and Mardi Gras face masks — you name it, they've seen it — a whole lot easier.

Essentially, she'd like to put in place a "call ahead" system in which students could call in orders for big, themed parties they know they have coming up.

This allows Beverly's to be more prepared whilst at the same time provides students quick, easy access to the thousands of fabrics, ribbons, and buttons they may need.

Best Dance Spot The Graduate

Voted Best Dance Spot last year, the Graduate steals the top spot once again.

Home of one of the biggest dance floors on the Central Coast, the Grad offers entertainment seven days a week. From Monday Night Football to Country Night Thursdays, there is a little something for everyone's taste.

The Grad also hosts many live concerts living up to their motto, "Every night is an adventure."

In addition to having an awesome happy hour every day from 3 to 7 p.m., every Wednesday is College Hump Night. With beers only 25 cents and \$4 Long Island Iced Teas, no wonder it is such a popular night.

Make sure you shine those shoes because this is the only night with a dress code. The cover is \$8 for 18-20, and only \$5 for those over 21.

Thursdays are Country Night at this hot spot. Starting at 9 p.m., the

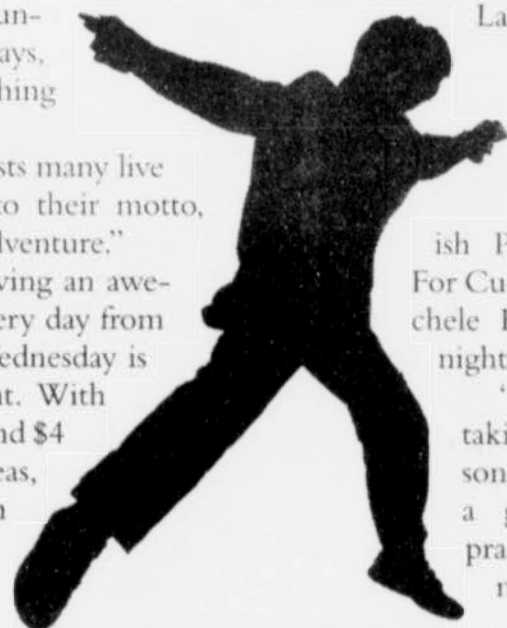
Grad will spin pure country and offer \$1.50 draft beers. Cover is the same as Wednesdays, \$8 for 18-20 and \$5 for 21 plus.

Friday nights are home to "Noche Caliente," where anyone 18 years and older can get their Latin music fix.

You can spice up the night with Cumbia, Salsa, Merengue, and Spanish Pop and Rock. For Cuesta student Michele Kubacki, Friday nights are a blast.

"I just started taking Salsa lessons... and it's a great place to practice my new moves," she said.

On Saturday nights, DJ Slick will be taking your requests. The night is 18 and over and the Graduate offers 2 for 1 cocktails from 10 p.m. to midnight.





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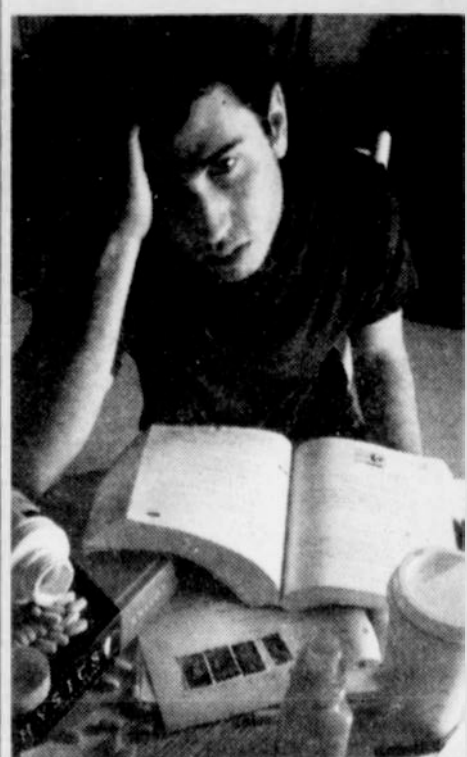
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Best Pizza Woodstock's

Pizza lovers flock to Woodstock's Pizza to choose from over 10 of the best specialty pizzas in San Luis Obispo. Whether it's the Featherweight or the BBQ Bird, you're sure to find a pizza made just the way you like it. With nearly 30 years of experience, Woodstock's knows how to do pizza right.

Located at 1000 Higuera St., Woodstock's aims to provide every customer with the ultimate pizza experience. This includes prepar-

ing each pizza with individual attention and creating a lively, welcoming atmosphere for customers to enjoy.

Woodstock's pizzas use only the freshest of ingredients. The dough is handmade each day and the secret sauce has been the same for years.

"I love Woodstock's Pizza. Maybe it's the pepperoni or maybe it's the way the crust is folded over. Either way, it's delicious,"

said communication studies junior Kaley Parker.

If pizza isn't your favorite, don't hesitate to try one of Woodstock's tasty appetizers, salads or desserts.

New to Woodstock's is Monday Madness. All students receive a free medium cheese pizza with the purchase of any extra large pizza. Trivia Night is every Tuesday at 8 p.m. and Wednesday night is Pint Night from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Woodstock's also has an on-



going special exclusively for Cal Poly students that gives 20 percent off an extra-large pizza.

In case you can't leave the house,

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Voted best property management company, Cal-West has been serving Cal Poly students since 1975.

"We really do like working with college students. They are a breath of fresh air," property manager Ellie Malykont said.

As a matter of fact, since its

opening, 95 percent of Cal-West's clients have been college students. Cal-West provides property management services from Santa Maria to Atascadero, although its main focus is in San Luis Obispo. Its proximity to campus makes Cal-West a desirable company to work with for students.

Different from all other property management companies in San Luis Obispo, Cal-West solely manages property. This distinction from other companies gives them a reputation of excellent customer service and exceptional property management.

Cal-West will begin leasing its apartments and houses to students on May 1 for the 2009-2010 academic

year. Students can begin leasing the Garfield Arms Apartments and the El Dorado Apartments on April 1.

Cal-West is located at 1380 Broad St. in San Luis Obispo. Stop by today to learn about the company's many different properties in town. The staff is anxious to help you with your housing needs.

— Carla Silvia

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Best Surf Shop Central Coast Surf

California's Central Coast is home to some of the finest beaches on the west coast, which makes Central Coast Surfboards a popular destination for those interested in surfing.

Central Coast Surfboards primarily focuses its inventory on surf-related products such as surfboards and wetsuits. They also feature over 20 brands of skateboards.

During the winter season, CCS carries the latest snow gear and accessories. Fashionable apparel and shoes are available in store and online throughout the year.

In addition, surfboards and wetsuits can be rented for those who do not wish to purchase equipment of their own.

CCS has been serving the San Luis Obispo community since 1975. Mike Chaney, founder of

CCS and former Cal Poly student, aimed to provide surfing and skating products to the local community and has been doing so for over 30 years.

Chaney can still be found roaming the store and helping customers with their surfing needs.

Employees at Central Coast Surfboards strive to provide customers with exceptional service. With this goal in mind, if they don't have what you're looking for, they will look into getting it for you.

"Everyone is always willing to help me find what I need, and CCS has some of the best prices in town," customer Kyle Morton said.

CCS recently moved to its new San Luis Obispo location at 855 Marsh St.

Stop in soon or visit the Arroyo Grande store at 148 W. Branch.

Best Place to rent a movie Hollywood Video

When balancing classes, work, a social life, and other activities, sometimes all you want to do at the end of the day is put on your favorite pajamas, settle yourself on the couch with a bowl of popcorn, and watch a good movie. When there's nothing on TV, don't panic; Hollywood Video is there for all of your couch potato needs.

"I think we have one of the widest selections of any store," stated Alfredo Rayos, a Hollywood Video Shift Leader. "We have tons of DVDs, and our Blu-ray section has recently quadrupled in size. We also have the Game Zone, which is the new area that sells videogames. There are a lot of gamers here, and sometimes we hold tournaments in the store, which a lot of other places don't do."

Not sure what to rent? No problem. Hollywood Video's friendly and personable staff is there to help.

"Quite a few people come in and are a little indecisive about what they want to rent, but we help them out as best we can," said Rayos. "I like to ask people about what types of movies they like, their favorite actors, and so on, and then I try to piece that information together to make recommendations for them."

In addition to offering a wide variety of entertainment, Hollywood Video also sells all of your favorite movie snacks from popcorn and soda to candy and ice cream. Additionally, its convenient location on California Boulevard allows you easy access to dinner and a movie with Pita Pit, Dominos, Bali's, Starbucks, and Jamba Juice all within walking distance.

What really makes Hollywood Video the best place to rent a movie, however, is they way that you'll be treated as a customer.


"A lot of people say our customer service is better than other rental places," said Jimmy Gibbs, Customer Service Representative. "That's part of why I wanted to

work here. I've only worked here for a month, but I really love talking to people and I'm getting to know a lot of regular customers by their first names."

Rayos agreed. "We're really proud of the way we take care of our customers. It's in our mission statement: 'Treat the customer like a star every time.' It's nice to know that we're well-liked."

So whenever you need a celebrity and sugar fix, or just a break from the responsibilities of everyday life, Hollywood Video is your ticket to entertainment.

— Brittany McKinney



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We will start accepting most applications on March 1st, so don't delay and get a head start on finding a place to call home!



Best Overall Restaurant Firestone

Maybe it's the location at the head of downtown, or the great seasoned fries, there are a number of reasons why people voted Firestone Grill the best overall restaurant in San Luis Obispo.

"The food is awesome," said Daniel Hall, a sophomore at Cal Poly. "They are always quick, and always have good service."

Hall and his friend Ryan Walter always order Firestone's signature tri-tip sandwich. Their menu caters to everyone, boasting juicy burgers and pulled-pork sandwiches as well as tasty, crisp salads.

They waited for their orders in

Firestone's new outdoor eating area. Just finished last year, the extra space has helped with the previous problem of limited seating. The fireplaces and trees make a good contrast to the indoor sports bar.

Big TV's and late hours draw a large crowd on any night of the week. Firestone's is a favorite of reminiscing Cal Poly alumni, as well as a great place for students to take their friends and family who come to visit. It is a long-loved and legendary staple of the San Luis community.

— Emma Seither

BEST FOR Best Cocktail Giuseppe's

Ever wondered what a peanut butter & jelly would taste like were it to be made by a bartender? With more than 25 signature martinis, Palazzo Giuseppe serves up an assortment of surprises: the Peanut Butter & Jelly, Wasabi, and Flirtini martinis make up only a small portion of the vast and interesting menu.

What more would you expect from

a cocktail served at Cal Poly Alum Giuseppe Difonzo's downtown restaurant and bar? Palazzo Giuseppe's bar certainly lives up to its reputation and new title as Mustang Daily's number one voted Best Cocktail.

"I love Giuseppe's 'smoking' martinis. I had the Pomegranate one, and what topped off the experience was

the dry ice tablet that the bartender dropped in the glass—my drink started to smoke while I drank it!" says Rosheen Ashtianti, Cal Poly English major.

Located on 1010 Court Street, Palazzo Giuseppe hosts happy hour Monday through Thursday from 4-7 p.m.

Best Boutique Lucky LuLu's

Need a quick, cost effective wardrobe change? In need of a party dress, some cotton tanks, or funky earrings? Cal Poly students flock to Lucky LuLu's for their low prices and trendy clothes.

Following the latest trends has never been so affordable. With its large airy windows, large-plank hard wood floors, fast paced music, and helpful associates, it's no wonder this large

downtown boutique was voted number one by Cal Poly students.

Located at the end of Higuera Street in downtown San Luis Obispo, Lucky LuLu's offers budget-friendly women's apparel. "Lucky LuLu's reminds me of a cross between Forever21 and Express. It's a great boutique for items that would cost much more at other stores, like



coats and shoes," says Journalism junior Tessa Davis. "I stop by Lucky LuLu's every time I'm downtown shopping for a dance or even just planning for a weekend at the beach. Among my favorite finds are their colorful sundresses and beach sandals."

The store is located at 691 Higuera St.

Best restaurant to bring a date Novo

We've all felt the butterflies of going on a first date or wanting to spoil that special person in your life with a great romantic dinner. Novo Restaurant Lounge has a large array of delectable dishes, an eclectic wine selec-

tion, and a charming atmosphere. It's a combination for a perfect date.

The original brick building, built in the 1890s as a cigar factory, still remains intact with a lovely terrace underneath big oak trees accented by the hum of the running creek underneath.

"Novo is the best place to take a date to impress her. My ex-boyfriend took me there and it was the most romantic date I'd ever been on. I love the ambiance, great service, and delicious food," says senior Stephanie Hamilton. Stephanie did not say what later made the gentleman an "ex-boyfriend," but it certainly wasn't his taste in restaurants.

Voted the best restaurant and best date place in San Luis Obispo by guests, local supporters, and local suppliers, Novo features multicultural dishes from around the world and specializes in their delicious Spanish tapas appetizers.

For \$50 you and your significant other can enjoy a great meal with tapas and join the many other Novo fans of Cal Poly and Cuesta students at the number one date place in San Luis Obispo.

Novo is located at 726 Higuera Street in downtown San Luis Obispo.


— Ashley Hudson

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Many of Sunset Honda's ser-

vices are focused toward the Cal Poly community.

The College Grad Program offers recent graduates the opportunity to purchase a car with no credit and virtually no down payment. Unlike most other dealerships, graduates do not need to have a job to be eligible for this program.

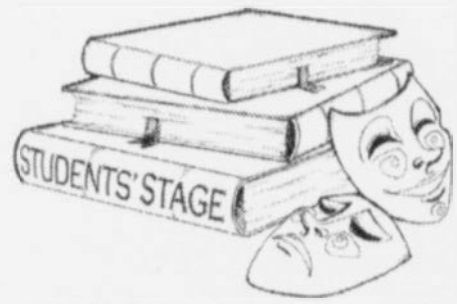
Students can also set up a time to bring their car in to be serviced in less than thirty minutes.

While waiting, take advantage of the wireless Internet and technology areas designed to help students study while they are at the dealership.

You are sure to be satisfied with the quality of the vehicle and the ongoing, exceptional service you will receive at Sunset Honda.

— Carla Silvia

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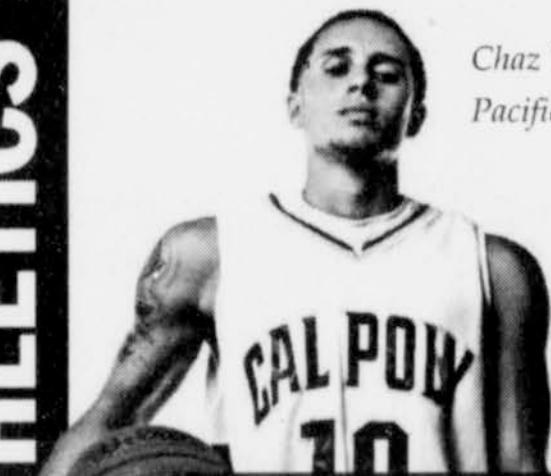
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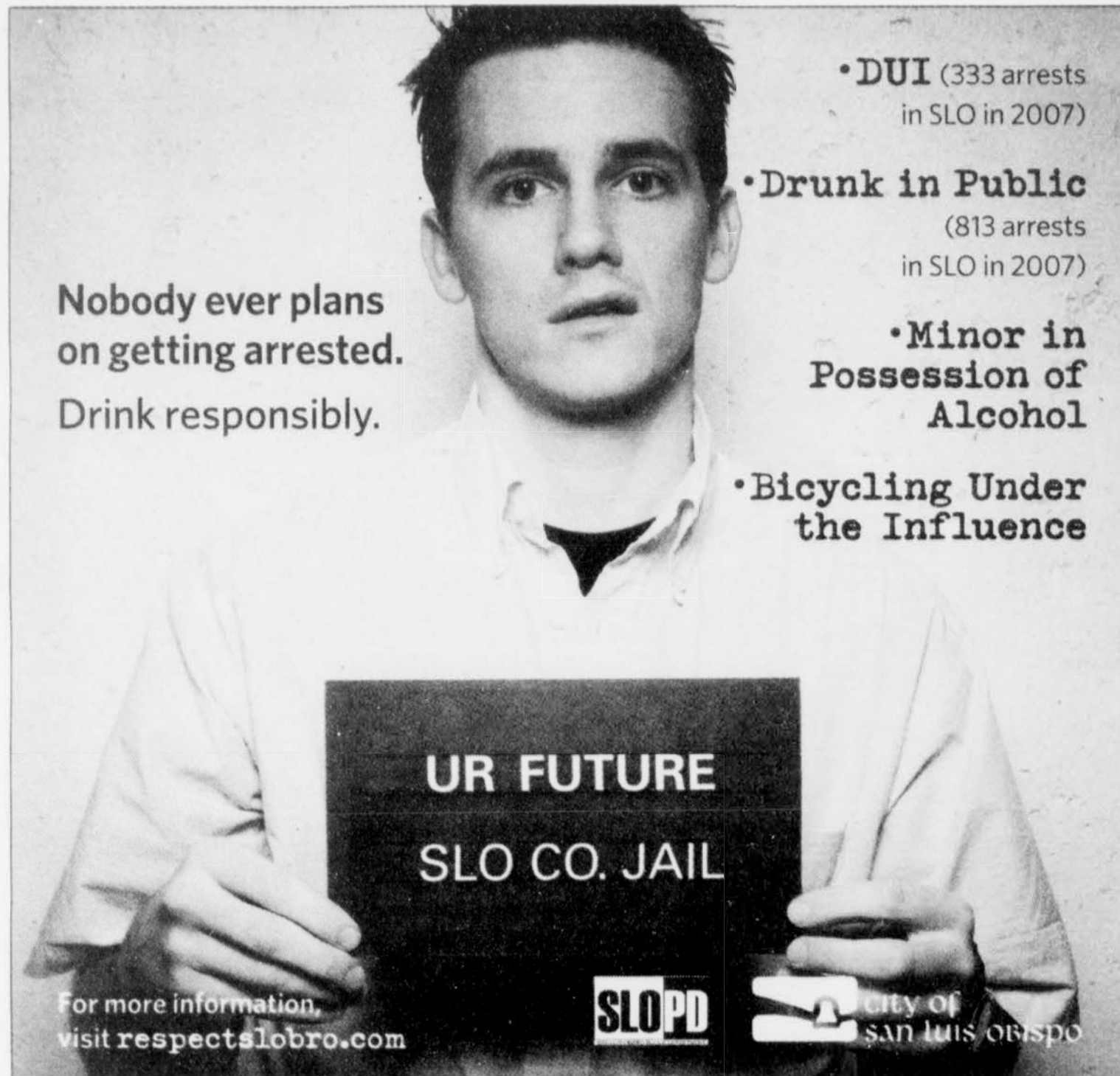
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Best SLO doctor Cal Poly Health Center

One of the downsides of moving away from home is that your parents aren't there to make you soup and tend to your every need when you're sick. Luckily for Cal Poly students, there is the Health Center.

The Health Center is a convenient place to go when you're feeling under the weather; it's on campus, covered by student fees, and you don't need to have health insurance to be treated.

"I come to the Health Center because it's free and if I have a cold and can't self-medicate, then I know I can come here and see someone who knows what they're talking about," said Kristen Calderwood, a Graphic Communications senior.

"I've gotten better care here than at the emergency room."

Students can come to the Health Center for everything from check-ups to X-rays to prescriptions, and anything that requires an additional cost is much more inexpensive than places off cam-

pus. For instance, if you have a headache and need something to make it go away, the Health Center's pharmacy sells a generic version of Advil for around one dollar, which makes staying healthy easy on college student budget.

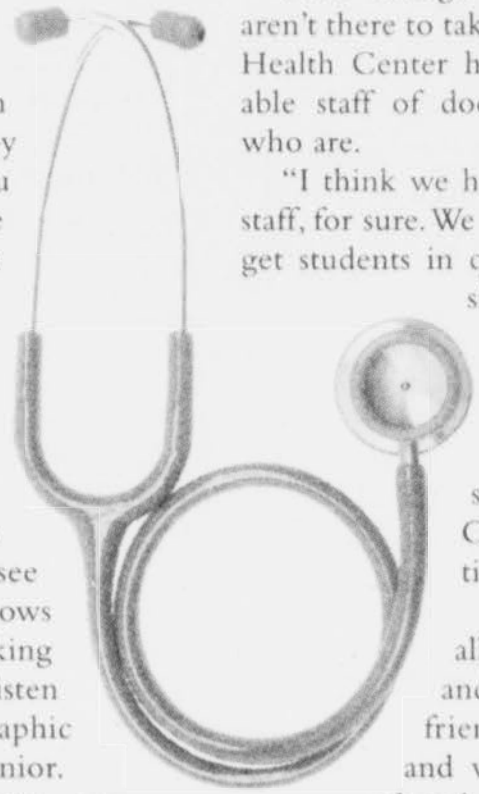
Even though Mom and Dad aren't there to take care of you, the Health Center has a knowledgeable staff of doctors and nurses who are.

"I think we have a really great staff, for sure. We try really hard to get students in quickly, and considering that we don't currently have a full staff, I think we do really well," stated Audrey Capp, Administration Assistant.

"We have really good doctors and nurses who are friendly and helpful and who really know what they're doing. They work hard."

It's a comfort to know, being away from home, that knowledgeable, friendly, and affordable care is at your service and waiting to help you feel your best.

— Brittany McKinney



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Best BBQ/ Hamburger

Firestone Grill

A great game, a refreshing beer and a mouth-watering burger. Do you need another reason to check out Firestone Grill?

Located in the heart of downtown San Luis Obispo, you can follow the stomachs of many hungry locals to this restaurant in search of a delicious BBQ to share with friends and family.

For years, Firestone Grill has been creating some of the best burgers, ribs and tri-tip sandwiches in San Luis Obispo.

Cal Poly alum Bryan Barsness says "The ABC burger is still the best burger in town." The ABC burger, which has avocado, bacon and jack

cheese is just one of the many choices for meat lovers. Other popular choices include its renowned tri-tip and the pig sandwich. These BBQ items all pair well with a basket of perfectly seasoned fries that can be shared with the whole table.

Although Firestone Grill's BBQ menu still follows its same traditional recipes, the restaurant has remodeled its facilities to create more open seating for customers that want to relax and watch a game while eating.

BBQ patrons hail Firestone, located at 1001 Higuera St., as the perfect, casual place to meet up with friends or bring visitors to share in the downtown San Luis experience.



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Best Breakfast Place

Breakfast Buzz

Most people go to Breakfast Buzz for the "Buzz" Burrito, two eggs, home fried potatoes, bacon, sausage or ham, tomatoes, avocado, cheese and sour cream, all wrapped in a flour tortilla. This tasty treat is just one reason that Breakfast Buzz has been voted the best place for breakfast in SLO.

While the burrito is what the restaurant is famous for, Breakfast Buzz has it all: Omelets, French toast, biscuits and gravy, and fried egg sandwiches. Cal Poly junior, Chris Vanos, usually sticks with the breakfast burrito, which he describes as "home-cooking for a hangover."

Jessica Morris, a server at Breakfast Buzz says, "people get stuck buying the burrito but everything else is

good too." Morris says Tuesday mornings are becoming popular again, because Breakfast Buzz has brought back the 2 for 1 special. If you buy a breakfast burrito, you or a friend get a second one free.

"We recognize the economy is having an impact on everyone," Morris says. "That's why we have the 2 for 1 special. We want to be able to help out college students."

Breakfast Buzz is located at 295 Santa Rosa Street in San Luis Obispo. It serves breakfast and lunch, every day from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. and also offers take out.

— Jessica Avanzino

Best Coffee House

Starbucks

Can I get a grande zebra mocha with a half pump of maple and half pump of hazelnut, no whip? What about one venti iced soy chai with one pump of white mocha?

If this language translates into something somewhat coherent, then you know that there's a Starbucks Coffee close by.

It goes without saying that this coffee house has become the most recognized and respected coffee house globally, as well as right here in San Luis Obispo.

According to the company's website, "Starbucks purchases and roasts high-quality whole bean coffees and sells them along with fresh, rich-brewed, Italian style espresso beverages."

Starbucks also offers a variety of premium teas produced by the Tazo Tea Company.

With the grand opening of a Starbucks in the Cal Poly University Union at the beginning of the school year, many students eagerly lined up to get their caffeine fix.

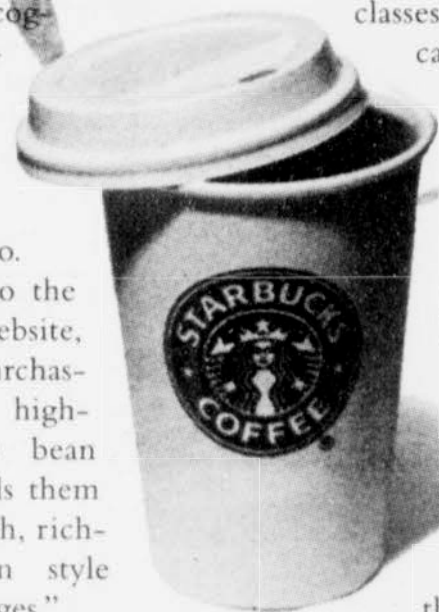
"The location is in the heart of campus," said manager Lori Raissipour. "So it's convenient for everyone to stop by no matter where they're headed."

Students often stop between classes to grab a cup. Because Starbucks is right on the way, there's still enough time to cram for that biology midterm.

In addition to great tasting coffee and other morning delights, the service at Starbucks is professional and welcoming.

"It's all about the friendly employees. Everyone is so wonderful," said Raissipour.

— Krizia Torres



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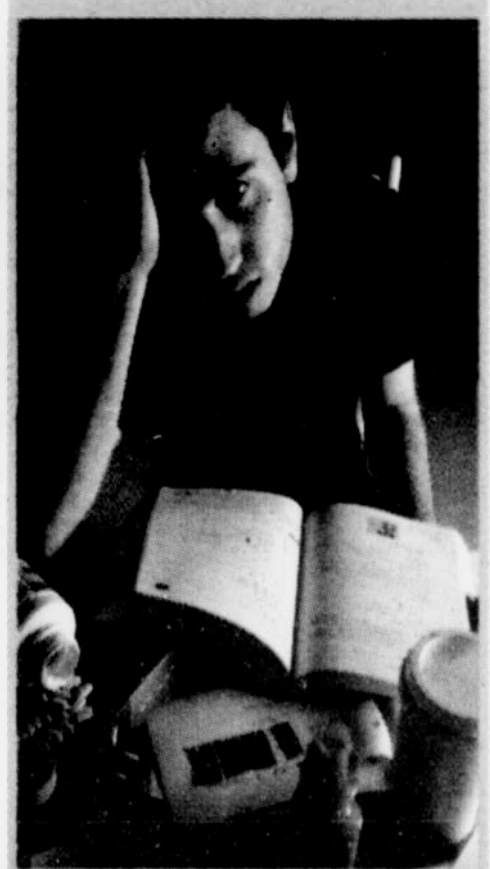
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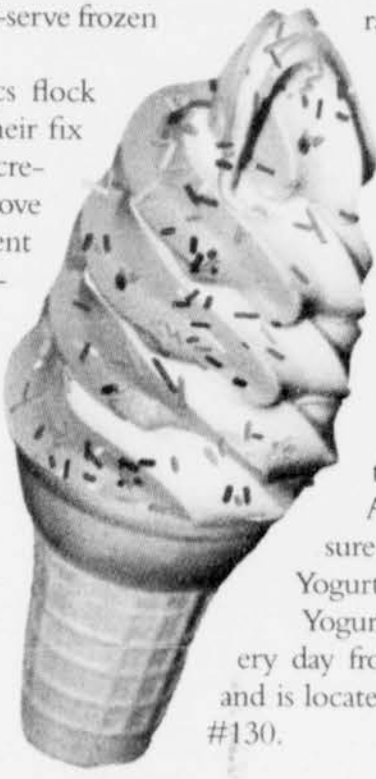
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you from your homework.

Best Dessert Yogurt Creations

By now, this self-serve frozen yogurt pit stop is no longer a buzzword...it's an addictive late night safe haven of sweets. And Yogurt Creations is not just any kind of self-serve frozen yogurt store.

Sweet-toothed fanatics flock in numbers just to get their fix and also to try out their creativity. With a treasure trove of more than 60 different candies, fruits, and toppings to mix in with the frozen yogurt, how could anyone not get creative with their food? The routine: Grab, fill, sprinkle, enjoy.

Surely those who call Yogurt Creations a second home know that the procedure is quite simple. Grab a cup or cone, make a frozen yogurt selection, peruse the plentiful selection of toppings,



and be on your merry way. There are fun flavors such as Irish Mint, Classic Vanilla, Snickerdoodle, and Euro Tart.

But it's not just the wide-range of flavors and toppings that have college students raving about Yogurt Creations.

"It's clean, lively, fun, and upbeat," said manager Brian Lanpert.

Surely enough, the store appeals to most with its brightly colored walls, tidy counters and friendly service. And one thing is for sure; we can't get enough of Yogurt Creations!

Yogurt Creations is open every day from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and is located at 1075 Court Street #130.

—Krizia Torres

Best Credit Union SESLOC

School Employees of San Luis Obispo Credit Union (SESLOC) was formed in 1942 with the goal of being a valuable financial services provider in our area. Today, more than 65 years later, it's easy to see why SESLOC was voted 'Best Credit Union' in the San Luis Obispo area.

Starting with only 32 SLO county school employees, SESLOC now has more than 36,000 members on the central coast. SESLOC Federal Credit Union offers services to everyone who works or attends school in the county.

For as little as a \$50 deposit, anyone can enjoy the benefits of being a SESLOC member. Members enjoy a variety of lifetime benefits and are able to borrow at reasonable rates of

interest. With branches and ATMs all around the county, there is always one near by. The on campus branch is located next to the El Corral Bookstore. It offers business hours Monday through Friday, and also has a 24 hour ATM.

Since SESLOC is a not-for-profit member owned credit union, all profits benefit the members in different ways. Higher saving rates, lower loan rates, and many free or low cost services are just some of the benefits of being a member. Even after you stop attending school or change jobs, SESLOC will continue to offer their services to you.

SESLOC's main branch is located at 11491 Los Osos Valley Road in San Luis Obispo.

Best Art Gallery University Art Gallery

When the University Art Gallery is choosing exhibits to feature, it looks for art that will inspire, challenge, and make students see life in new ways.

Their most recent exhibit featured the work of designer and illustrator, Marian Banjtes. Along with her drawings were many other forms of design, including a campaign for Saks Fifth Avenue, an animated fur logo for a UK firm, and a LOVE banner that hung in Times Square.

The final two shows of the school year will feature student work. From April 10 to May 1, the gallery hosts the annual Juried Student Exhibition featuring photography, graphic design, studio art and digital media projects. Outside art experts will come in and choose the top entries. The last show of the year will give Fine Arts graduating seniors a chance to show off their best work. This exhibition will run from May 8 to 29.

Gallery Coordinator Jeff Van Kleeck, said the gallery strives to be

innovative and thought provoking. "The arts give us space to contemplate different ideas and challenge us to better understand the complex world we live in," he said. Van Kleeck encourages students to submit ideas for artists they would like to see at Cal Poly.

The University Art Gallery is located in the Dexter Building, next to Kennedy Library. It is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

—Jessica Avanzino

Splash Cafe



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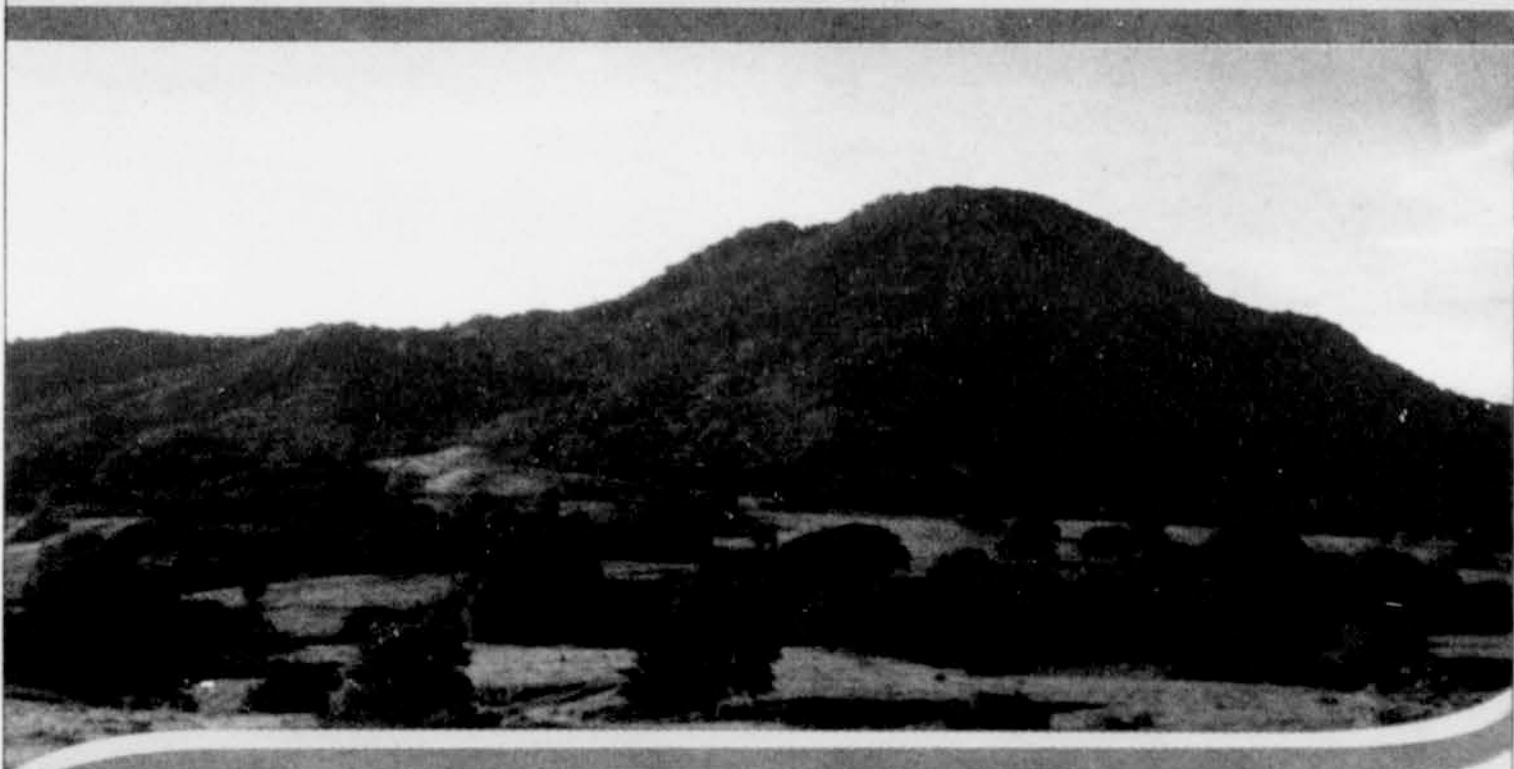
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