

# CREATIVE

# LIVING

*Life for people on  
a student budget*

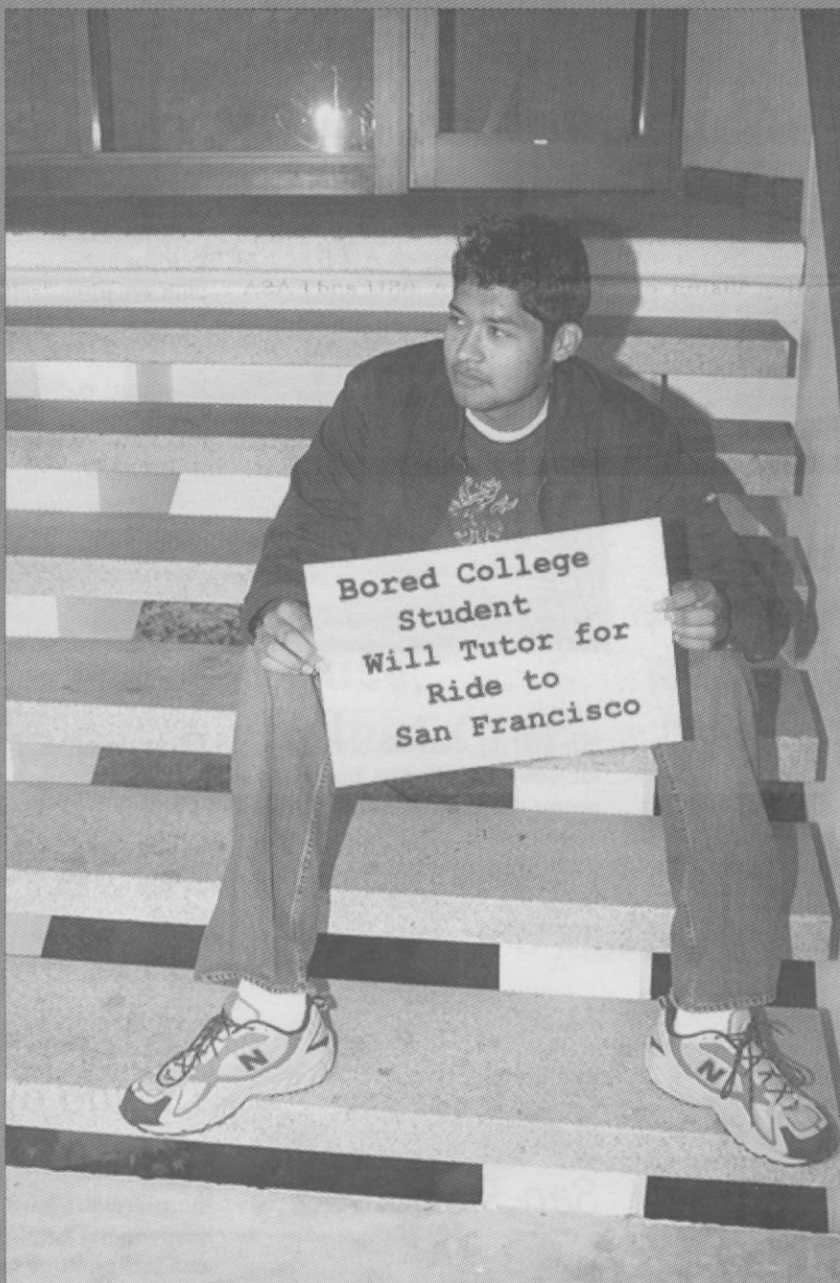


Photo by Melanie Linney

- Cooking*
- Eating*
- Decorating*
- Entertainment*

This month, In-Depth looks at how to live well on a college student budget

# To have a car, or to not have a car? That is the question

## I..... SMC lacks means for pedestrians to get around

by **Colin de-Leon Horton**  
Opinion Editor

A week ago, I visited my brother, who is a student at UC Davis. It was strange. The campus has a completely different feel to it. Davis is actually a college town, and the businesses around there reflect that. Imagine, for instance, the miracle of being able to go to a place and order food after 11 p.m. And here's the kicker: you could walk there. Or, and here's another nifty possibility, bike, and it would take you about five minutes. In other words, unlike here, you don't need a car. It's fabulous. One of my main difficulties in my last four years here at Saint

Mary's is that here you do need a car, and I don't have one. I do have a bike, but it's really inconvenient to use on such an isolated campus like the one we have. If I had a car, I would do so many things.

Here's a list:

- \*Join a gym that was decent.
- \*Live off campus where its cheaper than living here.
- \*Get a decent paying job instead of a not decent paying one that I have on campus.
- \*And in general, go wherever I wanted whenever I wanted without having to bother people to drive me. I would also probably have more friends, because it's obvious that people with cars are cooler.

Instead I'm forced to potter around here, sometimes not leav-

ing campus for days, going slowly stir crazy. It's a problem.

It's because of this that I was not surprised to hear of people using the Saferides program in order to get around the area. What this campus needs is some sort of public transportation service. That's another neat thing about Davis. It has its own student driven taxi services for parties late at night. It also has a student driven bus service with different lines that can take you pretty much anywhere you want in the area. It's amazing. It's flabbergasting. It's also convenient. It's what we should have here. That isn't just the green party liberal in me talking that wants to save the environment with the trees that I love to hug. It's the me that wants to get around more.



Photos courtesy of mayhem-chaos.org, bacar.org, utexas.edu, and transit-rider.com

## 10 Things to do with a tortilla

by **Cori Simpson**  
In-depth Editor

1. Steam it in the microwave, add butter.
2. Add some cheese, microwave.
3. Add eggs, cheese, potatoes, wrap up.
4. Add beans, cheese, rice, wrap up.
5. Add chicken or beef, lettuce, cheese, fold.
6. Fry in a pan with salt.
7. Fry in a pan with sugar and cinnamon.
8. Add sauce and cheese, broil.
9. Cut into strips, bake, eat with dip.
10. Cut into triangles, fry, eat plain or with dip.

## Tired of trying to have a good time in 'goose-crotch nowhere'???

### Look to these places for college-aged fun on a Saturday night

A look at venues in the San Francisco bay area that offer entertainment to the 18-and-over crowd

by **Aideen Rahimi**  
Assistant Opinion Editor

Living on campus or in Moraga may seem more like living in "goose-crotch nowhere" rather than in a college town. Saint Mary's may provide a great education as evidenced by the small class sizes giving students ample one-on-one time with the mostly PhD-holding faculty, however, it doesn't offer much of a nightlife. The whole town of Moraga closes down at 11p.m., so the chance for a night out is pretty much out of question. But we do live only a short distance from Berkeley, Oakland, and San Francisco. Here is a list of things to do for those who may be lost as to what to do on a Saturday night, who have maybe a few dollars in their pockets, and who are eighteen or older.

**Blake's on Telegraph**  
2367 Telegraph Ave.  
Berkeley, CA  
(510) 848-0886  
18 and over

\$ Saver—happy hour weekday 4 p.m.-7 p.m. offers really cheap pints and \$3.50 appetinis. Other drink specials offered from 9 p.m.-midnight.

Review—The crowd is very diverse, ranging from college students to eccentric rocker types to dirty bums hanging outside the

jazz bar. Very fun and you don't have to be 21! There is a three tiered bar, and you must be 21 to go to the basement floor where the music usually is. Admission to the downstairs area varies from \$5 to \$10.

**924 Gilman St.**  
Berkeley, CA  
(510) 525-9926  
All ages

924 Gilman is alcohol free but admission to watch the bands is \$8 to \$12.

Review—this is more for punk rockers, with a fascinating array of crowds. Call them and go on a night with a popular band. 924 Gilman gave rise to such bands as Green Day!

**City Nights**  
715 Harrison St.  
San Francisco, CA  
(415) 339-8686  
18 and over

\$ Saver—call before 5 p.m. to be put on the waitlist and pay only \$5 instead of \$20 at the door.

Review—only go on Friday nights! Saturday nights are very ghetto. If you like dancing to hip-

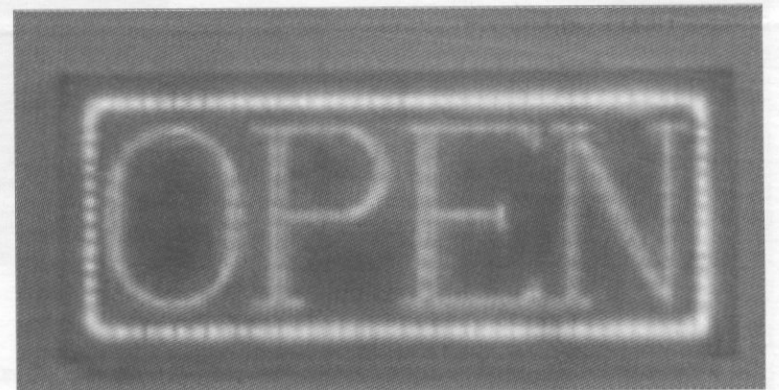


Photo Courtesy of www.neon-signage.com/ LED-store

hop and rap then this is the place for you, City Nights has many rooms with large dance floors and plenty of cages to dance in. There is even a bar on the first floor. The guys, however, can be very sleazy.

**Punchline Comedy Club**  
444 Battery St.  
San Francisco, CA  
(415) 397-7573  
18 and over

\$ Saver—local comedians show what they are made of on Sunday nights and the cover is only \$5.

Review—Comics such as Margaret Cho and Bobby Slayton are regulars here, but they show up unannounced so you just have to get lucky. The atmosphere is great, but be aware that there is a two-drink minimum.

**Pound SF**  
100 Cargo Way  
San Francisco, CA  
(415) 826-9202  
18 and over

Review—has a full bar with a wall of giant amps. This venue is the place for hard rockers and heavy metal heads. Stage diving and mosh-pitting is well recommended. There is a cover charge ranging anywhere from \$5 to \$20. Call before you go to see who is playing and the specials on drinks and the cover charge.

These are just a few of the many bars and clubs around the Bay Area that open their doors to unfortunate under-21 year olds. Regardless of your age, Citysearch.com is the best place on the web to go to for more bars and clubs, restaurants and other venues anywhere in the United States of America. Happy partying!

## 1. Royal Siam, Rheem

Moraga Road, Rheem  
I love curry and aside from my mom's, this is the best I've ever had. At \$8.00 and served with steaming hot white rice, it's a steal. For those of you who don't like spicy food, try their Pad Thai, it excellent. And if you're thirsty, they make a mean Thai Iced Tea. All of this for well under \$25.00.

## 2. Bo's BBQ, Lafayette

3422 Mt. Diablo Blvd., (925) 283-7133  
Rated "Best Barbeque in the Bay Area" by the San Francisco Chronicle, Bo's lives up to its billing. Although you can get away with a quality meal (BBQ Chicken) for two people for under \$25.00, I would suggest you spend a little more and get one chicken and one rib dinner and split them. It's more than enough food (get a doggy bag) and the ribs are as good your dad's grill at home.

## 3. Tomatina's, Walnut Creek



tomatina  
Photo Courtesy of tomatina.com

North Main St. Walnut Creek (925) 930-9999  
The classic standby for all Saint Mary's students, Tomatina boasts an excellent array of homespun Italian dishes at an affordable price. Start off with the Garlic Rolls (\$2.95), then split a salad or piandine (both are around \$9.00) and finish off with a small pizza (\$10.00). It says only six slices, but they are huge. With that sort of meal you might need a to-go box.

## 4. Koreanna Kitchen, Walnut Creek

1546 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek, (925) 938-5959  
If you're looking for a low key, quiet restaurant with lots of food, try this Korean BBQ joint in Walnut Creek. There are no thrills to their food as each dish that comes out is pretty basic. What you get is great though. I order the spicy

Tin's Tea House, 1829 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Walnut Creek (925) 287-8288  
Authentic Chinese food is my specialty and Tin's does it well.

## 6. Chow, Lafayette

53 Lafayette Circle Lafayette (925) 962-2469  
Located adjacent to Petar's in Lafayette, Chow is the perfect place for a great loud atmo-

the TJ Maxx/Starbuck's shopping center, Mandarin Flower offers delicious food in generous quantities. Start off with their delicious potstickers before enjoying a main course of various meats or seafood. Their combination chow mein is very good, as well as their rice. For a lighter meal, try the wonton soup or egg rolls. Prices range from around five dollars to around ten dollars. Most of the main dishes are in the seven to eight dollar range. One bonus: Saint Mary's students get a fifteen percent discount (if you tell them you are from Saint Mary's) plus a ten percent discount if you order take-out.

## 8. Pasta Pomodoro, Pleasant Hill

pasta pomodoro  
Photo Courtesy of pastapomodoro.com

Pleasant Hill Shopping Center, Pleasant Hill  
Generally I'm not a huge fan of chain restaurants but Pasta Pomodoro is good chain food, especially the Chicken Parmingiana for \$9.95.

## 9. El Charro, Lafayette

3339 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette (925) 283-2345  
I had to have one Mexican food place on here. It's cheap, it good, and has a great Margarita selection. Is there really a better choice?

## 10. Pizza Antica, Lafayette

3600 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette (925) 299-0500  
The beer is decent, the pizza is better, and the price is right.

# 10 local restaurants

that serve you a great meal



give you a great deal

These restaurants will satisfy your tastebuds without being too hard on your wallet

by Michael Chin, Sports Editor

chicken. In a few minutes I am met at the counter with three slabs of chicken breast and a half plate full of rice. On the side are kim chi and a salad with a sweet honey mustard dressing.

sphere and organic food. That's right, I said organic for under \$25.00. Meals range from pizza to steak to thai noodles. Don't forget to try one of their tasty desserts.

## 5. Tin's Tea House, Walnut Creek

## 7. Mandarin Flower, Rheem

Moraga Road, Rheem  
Located across the street from

## New foods for college students

A creative meal is out there, you just have to find it

by Amy Beth Kelly  
Managing Editor

The Collegian accepts no responsibility for fires, floods, or any damage done to any persons or dormitories as a result of these ideas.

-Tired of plain old Top Ramen noodles, fry the noodles with an egg or veggies next time.



Photo courtesy of amazon.com

-Make s'mores by using the oven burners to toast your marshmallows, you can also heat them

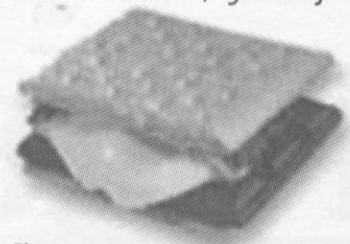


Photo courtesy of pauldavidson.blogs.com/wfme200406

for 10 seconds in the microwave. (Please be careful)

-George Foreman everything. It's not just for burgers. Grilled cheese sandwiches, quesadillas, and bacon, anything's game. Disclaimer: Foreman grills are not



Photo courtesy of store.jadebox.co.uk/product-Boo08BBQYC.html

allowed in underclassmen housing.

-Breakfast smoothies. Use one cup raspberry juice, 1/2 cup each frozen or fresh raspberries and blueberries and a cup of frozen yogurt and ice. Blend and enjoy.

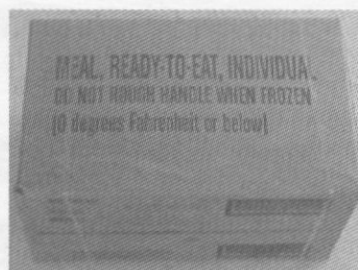


Photo courtesy of www.mreinfo.com/mre-menus.html

-For those of you without an oven/microwave, make a quesadilla by using paper towels to cover the tortilla and heat with an iron (not on the floor, of course).

-Frito pie in a bag. Take a snack size Frito bag pour in warm chili

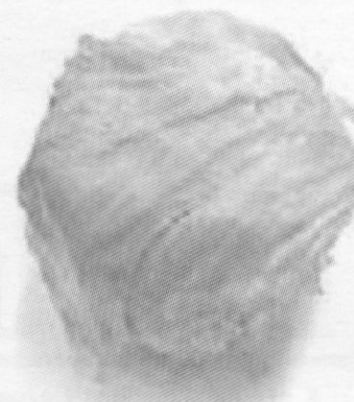


Photo courtesy of www.yourproduceman.com/news\_june21\_04.html

and grated cheese. Eat it with a plastic fork and you have a completely disposable meal.

-"Shop" at SAGA.  
-Drop in the "local" military surplus store or log on to ebay.com to order MRE's.

-Bachelor salad. Grab a head of lettuce, directly pour on dressing and bite. Yummm.

-Got a date? Make some pasta and sprinkle with oil and garlic. Don't have oil and garlic? Don't worry, garlic salt will do. Chicks dig guys who cook.

# Martha Stewart-eat your heart out!

A guide for great, affordable decorating

by Allison Kop  
Sports Editor

Now that the year is almost over, it's time to start thinking about where you want to live next year. After experiencing both worlds of the college living experience, I would have to say that off-campus living is the more attractive option. Sure, the townhouses are convenient, but rats in the walls and a bathroom you share with five other people? No thanks. Not to mention that in the right apartment complex, off-campus living can actually be cheaper than living at school.

So now that you've decided to move off-campus next year (good idea!), you have to start thinking about decorating. When decorating your off-campus pad, there's a few things you should keep in mind:

1. Know the difference between boys and girls.

When decorating your place it's always a good idea to have a theme. This idea is lost on most guys. In my experience, the typical decorating for most guys' apartments consists of stolen road signs, random sports equipment, or "a cool hole in the wall from when so-and-so threw that one guy into it at the last party." Needless to say, most of this article will be more helpful to the females out there.

2. Work with what you have.  
Decorating can be expensive, so try to work with what you've already got. Most of my furniture is my parents' old stuff, which does give our living room a kind of "senior center" vibe, but hey, that works for us. Pillows or a slip cover can totally dress up Grandma's old couch, so don't be afraid to hit up your family for furniture they don't want anymore.

3. Buy little things.  
You're not Martha Stewart. You don't have to make your house look like a spread for a lifestyle magazine. A cute picture here or a trendy coffee table there can be all you need to jazz up a room. IKEA and Target are great places to find fun stuff for not much money.

4. Use your own art.  
It took my roommates and me six months to figure out what to hang on one of the walls in our living room. Our final solution: framed pictures from my roommate's trip to Europe over Jan Term. They look awesome and cost about five dollars each. I also painted a picture that we have hanging on another wall. Conceited? Maybe, but way cheaper than buying a poster.

So, if Lady Luck didn't smile on you in this year's lottery, don't despair. Living off-campus can be fun and you get to decorate your place however you want. Enjoy it!

## Voices from around campus...

*"For decorating, I put DVDs in sandwich bags and tack it to my wall."*

*-Corliss Lee, '05*

*"I always try to go to cheap movies in the afternoon, and I try to go to cheap places to eat. Under ten bucks- Chipotle, Baja fresh. I really don't go to sit down places. I would rather buy expensive clothing."*

*-Melanie Petruzzi, '07*

*"Me and my friends [sic] go rock climbing with Rec Sports."*

*-Kristin Burstedt, '08*

*"I try to save my pennies for my hobby of horse-riding. I don't eat out much or buy too many expensive things. As for decorating my room, I tape up my own artwork, and pin up pictures, cards, and magazine clippings for a collage effect that reminds me of home, horses, friends, and the outdoors."*

*-Katie Azevedo, '08*

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