Mountain bikers, joggers intruding on land near Poly

Trespassing has become a problem at Stenner Creek Ranch located in the Poly Canyon area. Ranch Manager Pete Cramer said he encounters joggers and mountain bikers cutting across his ranch, which adjoins Cal Poly property, about four or five times a day. Cramer attributes this increase in the frequency of trespassing to pipeline construction. The pipeline is to pass through Stenner Creek Ranch.

The strip of land on which it will be constructed has been cleared and leveled. Cramer speculated that this may appear as a shortcut for those out exercising. "I don't know whether they're tired or not as ambitious as when they left, but they just cut straight across (the ranch)." Cramer said. "It's such a steep hill that the repetition is as bad as cattle going through there."

The ranch, which is owned by Karl Kirschner, is located out past the College of Architecture and Environmental Design's Design Village and is adjacent to a field which the university uses for cattle grazing. It can be reached by Stenner Creek Road, but the majority of the trespassers enter off of Poly Canyon Road. It takes about 20 to 30 minutes to reach it on foot via Poly Canyon Road.

Cramer explained that some trespassers may think they are still on Cal Poly property. "Once that is cleared up, they can't for the life of them understand why it's just not okay for them to come across anyway," he said. "They don't understand what the big deal is."

Liability is the big deal. Sgt. Mike Sheridan, station supervisor for the Sheriff's Coastal Station in Los Osos, has responded to calls at the ranch. "The main problem with people trespassing is that those cattle get aggressive — particularly the bulls," Sheridan said. "If the landowner knows that people are using his property and he does not take action to prevent it, then he's leaving himself open for liability for any injury the trespasser may sustain."

Cramer has tried to prevent trespassing by posting signs at each of the gates. Because of See BOARDING page 6
Scientists concerned about otter count

Friends of the Sea Otter, conceded that the otter count does fluctuate. But she said the latest numbers — considered with a lower spring count and higher mortality rate — do suggest a trend.

"Collectively, it's kind of a bummer," she said.

The sea otters, scattered from Santa Cruz to San Simeon, have become a symbol of the Central Coast. The federal government declared them a threatened species in 1977 because their population was deemed too small to survive a large oil spill.

Their numbers totaled about 1,350 individuals in 1982, when the spring and fall counts began. Since then, the population has varied, showing losses as great as 9.6 percent and gains as high as 15.7 percent. The number of otters hit a peak — 2,377 — in the spring of 1985.

The fall count is considered less reliable than the annual spring count because of poorer weather and visibility, said Jean Brennan, a research scientist who runs the Monterey Bay Aquarium's sea otter program.

For the first nine months of 1996, 145 carcasses were found on the Central Coast, far above the average.

Kevin Favor, a volunteer for Friends of the Sea Otter, conceded that the otter count does fluctuate. But she said the latest numbers — considered with a lower spring count and higher mortality rate — do suggest a trend.

"It was the second day in a row that the launch was scrubbed. On Monday, rain, clouds and strong winds kept the rocket grounded.

The launch was rescheduled tentatively for early Wednesday, pending quick resolution of the problem.

The sea otters, scattered from Santa Cruz to San Simeon, have become a symbol of the Central Coast. The federal government declared them a threatened species in 1977 because their population was deemed to small to survive a large oil spill.

Their numbers totaled about 1,350 individuals in 1982, when the spring and fall counts began. Since then, the population has varied, showing losses as great as 9.6 percent and gains as high as 15.7 percent. The number of otters hit a peak — 2,377 — in the spring of 1985.

The fall count is considered less reliable than the annual spring count because of poorer weather and visibility, said Jean Brennan, a research scientist who runs the Monterey Bay Aquarium's sea otter program.

For the first nine months of 1996, 145 carcasses were found on the Central Coast, far above the average.

Kevin Favor, a volunteer for Friends of the Sea Otter, conceded that the otter count does fluctuate. But she said the latest numbers — considered with a lower spring count and higher mortality rate — do suggest a trend.
MARS

"When people come (onto the ranch) they seem to think it's their backyard and it's confusing. Signs would help make choices to stay off land you're not supposed to be on."

"A lot of those folks probably don't know they are on private property," Cal Poly Public Safety Sgt. Robert Schumacher said, adding that sometimes they "honestly don't know where they are at. They just know they're out there having a good time riding their bikes."

Cramer said the ranch is completely enclosed with a barbed-wire fence. While the fencing has been cut open a few times, the main point of entry has been the metal gate at the top of the ridge along which the property line runs. This gate is marked with two yellow metal signs which warn against trespassing.

Cramer said the most common excuse people give for being on the property is that they did not see any signs. Sometimes this is after he has seen them climb over the signed gate.

He said that when he asks them to leave "a lot of people get kind of argumentative," not understanding why they cannot just go across.

According to Sheridan, about a year ago Kirschner was involved in a confrontation with trespassers in which they tried to physically assault him.

According to Schumacher, Cal Poly Public Safety recently purchased an off-road motorcycle, which can be used to patrol more areas.

"(Cal Poly) has a lot of property that is difficult to get to in cars," Schumacher said. "With a motorcycle it's easy."

He said Poly Canyon is not on a regular patrol schedule.

"Any patrolling we do is on a random basis," he said, indicating that if Public Safety is aware of a problem in certain areas, they can concentrate on it.

No arrests have been made at Stenner Creek Ranch this year, Sheridan said, though he has responded to calls at the ranch. On one instance, the lock on the metal gate had been cut.

"When people come (onto the ranch) they seem to think it's their backyard and they can do whatever they want," Cramer said, mentioning that mountain bikers ride through his pasture and "spook the cattle."

According to Schumacher, trespassers usually just leave, but that it is a hassle to ride out to speak with them.

Sheridan said trespassers can be arrested under two circumstances: if they fail to leave when asked, or if they continue to return and trespass.

Trespassing is a misdemeanor which is accompanied by a fine of up to $1,000, Schumacher said.

No arrests have been made at Stenner Creek Ranch this year, Sheridan said, though he has responded to calls at the ranch. On one instance, the lock on the metal gate had been cut. Cramer said the primary issue is the lack of respect trespassers show for the property and the animals on it.

"When people come (onto the ranch) they seem to think it's their backyard and they can do whatever they want," Cramer said, mentioning that mountain bikers ride through his pasture and "spook the cattle."

According to Schumacher, Cal Poly Public Safety recently purchased an off-road motorcycle, which can be used to patrol more areas.

"(Cal Poly) has a lot of property that is difficult to get to in cars," Schumacher said. "With a motorcycle it's easy."

He said Poly Canyon is not on a regular patrol schedule.

"Any patrolling we do is on a random basis," he said, indicating that if Public Safety is aware of a problem in certain areas, they can concentrate on it.

No arrests have been made at Stenner Creek Ranch this year, Sheridan said, though he has responded to calls at the ranch. On one instance, the lock on the metal gate had been cut.
The Daily cream puff

I was flipping through the Dec. 2 Mustang Daily and found, on page three, an advertisement that is a bit confusing. It read: "Mustang Daily Celebrating 80 Years of informing the students and pissing off the man.*"

Matt Novak

Smart's, save your money

This letter is in response to the article about the Smart family filing a wrongful death lawsuit against Paul Flores.

Foaad Khosmood is a computer engineering senior and likes his human flesh sprinkled with just a touch of lemon.

Letters to The Editor

I don't have to be a radical environmentalist to recognize the increasing existence and prevalence of environmental issues and concerns immediately. This policy would include sanctions for disciplinary actions against faculty or instructional staff caught initiating, pursuing, or being involved in "carnivorous" or "cannibalistic" relationships with any student they are currently teaching. This policy should be implemented...
COMET: Look in sky about an hour after sunset

From page 1:

"This has been nutty stuff since the day it was found, since we realized it was a large comet coming in fairly close," Hale said.

He has heard it's an alien mother ship or an angel from God. He has been told the comet is a sign of the Prophecies or a nonexistant object meant to defraud the public.

"For centuries, people have associated comets with bad events happening on the Earth. People 500 years ago didn't understand the mechanics of the solar system. These bright objects appeared from nowhere, hung around for a few weeks or so, then disappeared.

"There's no excuse for that these days. We know what comets are, we know a lot about our solar system. But there's still a complete lack of science literacy in our society," Hale said.

So he's collecting stories off the Internet about Hale-Bopp.

One claim of proof of an alien presence: The comet changed satellites. Comets don't do that, and Hale believes the story arose because people misinterpreted how science works.

In the case of any newly discovered comet, astronomers try to get a fix on its orbit as quickly as possible so they can study it. For Hale-Bopp, they figured its orbit with very limited information since the comet was so far away.

Hale said.

The initial findings were published as "an extremely uncertain orbit," then scientists recalculated more data became available, he said.

The latest claim arose about three weeks ago, when a man in Houston noticed what Hale calls a "large anomalous object" with Saturn-like rings near the comet.

Hale said the man was "pre-disposed to believe in government conspiracies, that scientists are all a bunch of liars" and concluded the object was an alien spacecraft.

Hale said it was a star the comet happened to be near at that time. The apparent rings, he said, were caused by diffraction, a phenomenon involving the breaking up of light rays.

To those who suspect a conspiracy surrounding the comet, Hale has a bit of advice: Go look. It's hard to hide a comet.

He recommends going out about an hour after sunset away from city lights and looking in the west-southwest sky about 10 degrees above the horizon. Hale-Bopp can easily be seen with a cheap telescope or even a pair of binoculars. It's even visible to the naked eye.

"There's an object that's very clearly not a star surrounded by large milky cloud," Hale said. "To the naked eye, it looks like a fuzzy star. It will get a lot brighter, we hope, over the next four months."

If you answered YES to any of these questions, the Peer Health Nutrition Education Team can provide resources & support.

Visit our offices located down stairs in Health Services. or call 756-5252

- We offer Free Services:
  - Nutrition Consultations
  - Diet Analysis
  - Workshops

Health Services
Division of Student Affairs

Now save (large amounts of) money ($$$) with new Apple Macintosh pricing and Motorola Compatibles.

New Macintosh Compatibles & Prices are here!

Apple Macintosh Systems

WAS

NOW

PowerBook 190cs ................................................. $1199 $999
PowerBook 190cs 666MHz 16MB 8x-CD/500MBHD

Power Macintosh® 5260/120 ................................ $2149 $1499
PowerMac® 603el120 MHz 16MB/1.2GB/4x-CD/14" Monitor

Macintosh Performa® 6400/180 ................................ $1799 $1689
PowerMac® 603el180 MHz 16MB/6.6GB/4x-CD/28.8 modem

Power Macintosh® 6400/200 ...................................... $2099 $1899
PowerMac® 604el200 MHz/64MB/4x-CD/750MB HD

Power Macintosh® 7200/120 ...................................... $2099 $1479
PowerMac® 604el110MHz/16MB/1.2GB/4x-CD/12" cache

Power Macintosh® 7200/120 DOS ............................. $2539 $2129
PowerMac® 604el110MHz/16MB/1.2GB/CDOS/4x-CD/12" cache

Power Macintosh® 7600/132 ..................................... $2769 $2099
PowerMac® 604el120 MHz/16MB/2.8GB/CDL2 cache

*Power Macintosh® 8500/120 .................................. $2869 $2029
PowerMac® 604el120 MHz/16MB/2.8GB/CDL2 cache

*Power Macintosh® 8500/132 .................................. $2799 $2229
PowerMac® 604el120 MHz/16MB/2.8GB/CDL2 cache

*Power Macintosh® 8500/150 .................................. $3299 $2799
PowerMac® 604el150MHz/16MB/2.8GB/CDL2 cache

Power Macintosh® 8500/180 .................................. $4099 $3469
PowerMac® 604el180 MHz/32MB/2.8GB/CDL2 cache

*Power Macintosh® 9500/180MP ............................. $5289 $4879
PowerMac® 604el180 MHz/32MB/2.8GB/CDL2 cache

*Power Macintosh® 9500/200 ................................. $5459 $3899
PowerMac® 604el200 MHz/32MB/2.8GB/CDL2 cache/video card

Motorola Systems

Theirs Ours

StarMax 3000

- PowerPC 603e Processor
- Mac Operating System
- Five Year Warranty
- 256K Level-2 Cache

Monitors sold separately

StarMax 3000/160: Mac O/S Desktop System ....... $1599 $1589
160 MHz/16 MB/1.2 GB/CD/DVD 256 KB Cache

StarMax 3000/160: Mac O/S Mini-Tower System $1899 $1889
160 MHz/32 MB/2.5 GB/CD/DVD 512 KB Cache

StarMax 3000/200: Mac O/S Desktop System ...... $1999 $1949
200 MHz/16 MB/1.2 GB/CD/DVD 512 KB Cache

StarMax 3000/200: Mac O/S Mini-Tower System $2399 $2089
200 MHz/32 MB/2.5 GB/CD/DVD 512 KB Cache

StarMax 4000/160: Mac O/S Desktop System ...... $2599 $2219
160 MHz/16 MB/1.2 GB/CD/DVD 512 KB Cache

StarMax 4000/160: Mac O/S Mini-Tower System $2999 $2239
160 MHz/32 MB/2.5 GB/CD/DVD 512 KB Cache

StarMax 4000/200: Mac O/S Desktop System ...... $3199 $2529
200 MHz/16 MB/1.2 GB/CD/DVD 512 KB Cache

StarMax 4000/200: Mac O/S Mini-Tower System $3599 $2739
200 MHz/32 MB/2.0 GB/CD/DVD 512 KB Cache

- Comparison based on MacWAREHOUSE prices 11/96

□ Do you restrict the foods you eat?
□ Does thinking about eating make you anxious?
□ Do you exercise compulsively to burn calories?
□ Do you binge on "forbidden" foods?
□ Do you believe if you were thinner you'd be happier?

Questions: call us at 805 756 5311 or visit us on the internet at www.fdn.calpoly.edu/eb
BOARDING: Some skiers feel that boarders are punks with bad attitudes from page 1. Eight years to make the transition to expert. Most snowboarders can do it in about three years," said Amy Kurt in her article on the Ski vs. Snowboard website. As snowboarding has pro­gressed, so has its appeal to a larger variety of people. When snowboarders first hit the slopes they were mainly rebellious youth looking for an outlet. During this time, many skiers were unhappy with snowboarders' attitudes on the slopes and sought to have them banned from some ski areas, the article stated.

But the sport continued to grow, and the Professional Ski Instructors Association formed an instructor-certification program. These instructors taught and set an example for new snowboarders, Kurt wrote in her article. And now many more adults are participating in the sport. "The sport has been growing at an immense rate, and while for the first few years it was mainly young men who participated, it has really started to spread out age-wise and with women," said Troy Stevenson, owner of Kind Grizzly Boocks in Boulder, Colo., in a Wall Street Journal report on the World Wide Web. "In the last year, 49 percent of all new board­ers have been over the age of 40."

Of the 40 ski club members who responded to the poll, 67 per­cent (27 people) said they ski, 25 percent (10 people) said they snowboard, and the remaining seven percent (3 people) said they alternate between skiing and snowboarding.

There was a mixed response in the way people viewed the rela­tion­ship between skiers and snowboarders. A combination of responses made it hard to quanti­fy the number of people who share a single viewpoint. Some people said skiers and snowboard­ers related well because they share a passion for the snow and the thrill of carving down the slopes.

Other skiers said that they feel that snowboarders are punks with bad attitudes, and some snowboarders said that they felt that skiers have an attitude that the slopes are meant only for skiing. One snowboarder polled said, "Skiers and snowboarders don't relate. Skiers think they're better than snowboarders."

Another snowboarder polled said she thinks skiers and snow­boarders can relate because they share the love of a similar sport. She also said that she knows older people who can't stand snowboarding and only want to ski, concluding that the younger generation is more open to the sport. "Skiers and snowboarders can­not relate unless the skier has tried snowboarding," another snowboarder said. "There is a funda­mentally different approach to the mountain and the slopes."

Another skier said he thought that skiers and snowboarders feel off of each other, but that "there are cool and stupid skiers and snow­boarders."

Another snowboarder polled said she thought the relationship between skiers and snowboarders is fine now that snowboarding is more widely accepted. With the development of snow­boarding as a competitive sport in the 1998 winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, the sport is sure to attract new enthusiasts. "Snowboarding's popularity looks assured of continued growth for years to come. In addition, people in their 30s and over are making up an increasing percentage of snowboarders in the United States and Europe, and Japan is seldom far behind in picking up on worldwide trends," according to the Marubeni website. The snowboarding population in the United States is predicted to grow to more than five million by the year 2000 and will spend close to $700 million on boards and equipment this season alone," according to financial analyst Mark Leslie in a Wall Street Journal website report. "Not surprisingly, the surging popularity is attracting an increasing number of companies. But while there are about 200 companies marketing and distrib­uting snowboards and equipment, the top five control about 50 per­cent of the market," the report stated.

According to the International Snowboard Federation, during the 1993-1994 season, about 145,000 boards were sold in the United States, 160,000 in Japan.

"Snowboarding is one of the hottest areas of the leisure mar­ket, and investors are definitely looking for a way to play it," said Linda Killion, a portfolio manager for Renaissance Capital of Greenwich, Connecticut, accord­ing to the website report. See SNOWBOARDERS page 7

Big Savings on NEW Pentium PCs!

Campus I 133
Pentium 133 / 16 MB RAM / 1.1GB EIDE HD / FIC Triton MB with 512K PLB SRAM Cache / Tivo 64+2MB PCI Video / 33.6 modem / 8x CD-ROM / 16 bit Soundblaster Compatible Soundcard / 104 keyboard / Mu­sam Mouse / Speakers / Microphone / Win 95.

$1569

Campus I 166
Pentium 166 / 16 MB RAM / 2.0 GB EIDE HD / FIC Triton MB with 512K PLB SRAM Cache / Tivo 64+2MB PCI Video / 33.6 modem / 8x CD-ROM / 16 bit Soundblaster Compatible Soundcard / 104 keyboard / Mu­sam Mouse / Speakers / Microphone / Win 95.

$1829

Campus I 200
Pentium 200 / 32 MB RAM / 2.7 GB EIDE HD / FIC Triton MB with 512K PLB SRAM Cache / Tivo 64+4MB Matrox Millennium 64 bit video adapter / 33.6 modem/64MB CD-ROM / 16 bit Soundblaster Compatible Soundcard / 104 keyboard / Mu­sam Mouse / Speakers / Microphone / Win 95.

$2269

Optiplex 5133/GM

$1729

Optiplex 5166/GX

$2259

Optiplex 5166/GX

$2849

Optiplex GX Pro 180
180 MHz P6 Processor, Integrated 3c3 TP, SB 16 Sound Card, 32MB EDO ECC RAM expandable to 128MB, 2GB 1ns EIDE: HD, PCI Enhanced IDE interface, 2MB PCI local-bus Graphics Accelerator, Celeron Processor 400 MHz, 104 Soundcard, 4.0 MB, 1.44 MB Floppy, Win95, 15" Dell LS Color Monitor.

$3267
Eastin: high participation in class size reduction program

From nearly 30 to 18.8 pupils per teacher in participating schools. Eighty percent of the class-size reductions were in the first and second grades, primarily in their 20s or early 30s, are now, as watching a new, younger generation pick up the sport, and an older, adventure-some crowd tries its skills at surf-
in the snow.

By Doug Willis
Associated Press

AP-STATE
That compares with fewer than 2 percent of the state's 600,000 first- and second-graders in classes of 20 or less pupils just a year ago, Eastin told a Capitol news conference on Monday.

Eastin described the class-size-reduction program coaxed by Gov. Pete Wilson and the Legislature in July as "a wonderful reality today" despite the short time to implement it and a shortage of school facilities.

That legislation, part of the biggest one-time infusion of state money into local public schools in California history, reduced the average class size in one year from nearly 30 to 18.8 pupils per teacher in participating schools. Eighty percent of the class-size reductions were in the first and second grades, the primary targets of the school reform measures, and 20 percent were in kindergarten and third grades, which were the second-tier target.

A feared shortage of qualified teachers never materialized, Eastin said, in part because many qualified teachers were attracted back into the classroom by the opportunity to be more effective in smaller classes.

"We are attracting older teachers and younger teachers back into the classroom," Eastin said, adding that other teachers who planned to retire were persuaded to continue by the opportunity to teach under better conditions.

"I have never in my life seen a program that created more excitement and enthusiasm than this program," Eastin said. "They are going to show improved test scores ... in the first year." But, she said, a shortage of available classroom space has limited the program's growth.

In the 1996-97 budget, the state offered local schools $771 million in extra operating funds to hire more teachers to reduce class sizes, and another $200 million for additional classrooms.

Eastin said local schools applied for and have received $629.2 million, which is nearly 82 percent of the available operating funds. There were $351 million in applications for the $200 million in the facilities fund.

Easlin said she will seek legislation in January to shift some of the unclaimed operating funds to the facilities fund in order to continue expanding the class-size-reduction programs.

Schools have partitioned larger classrooms and converted libraries, teacher lounges, store-rooms, cafeterias, laboratories and other areas into classrooms on short notice. But at least $1 billion is needed statewide to create the extra classrooms that would complete the program, she said.

Eastin said she didn't have a firm commitment from Wilson for additional funds, but said the Republican governor "has been very amicable."
JASON Pratt
cal Poly Wrestling

"It's not a prerequisite for a law enforcement career, but a wrestling background could be valuable."

As a candidate for the state traffic officer academy (California Highway Patrol), Jason Pratt will bring a winning reputation with him from the Cal Poly wrestling team.

Before he hits the road as an officer, Pratt will represent Cal Poly's wrestling team for another season.

Polw wrestling coach Len Cowell praised Pratt's talent on the mat.

"He's our highest player coming back this season," Cowell said. "We look for him to be a first-year starter and expect big things from him."

Cowell also expects his senior wrestling star to qualify for the PAC 10 finals at Arizona State in March.

PAC 10 is one of a set of events raised in the Newman Park/Thousand Oaks area of Southern California. After two years at Moorpark Community College, he transferred to Cal Poly, where he continued his social science major with a criminal justice concentration.

As team captain of Moorpark's wrestling team, Pratt finished third in the state his first year, earned first place in a second finish place his second year.

After moving to San Luis Obispo, he red-shirted in order to be eligible for two full years of league competition.

This past year, Pratt's matchups earned him a third place in the PAC 10, qualifying him for the NCAA tournament last March.

Pratt said his most memorable wrestling memory occurred when he walked into the sports stadium in Minnesota last year and qualified to compete in the NCAA national tournament.

"I thought about it, read about it, saw it on television, and said it would be cool to be in that position," Pratt said. "Then I was in that position."

Although he did not capture a national award in Minnesota, he hopes to compete at nationals again.

"Losing my last match at NCAA was my worst moment in wrestling," Pratt said. While trying to pull his opponent's back to the mat, he put his own back on the mat.

"Technically, my opponent should have had some kind of control and he didn't," Pratt said. "The ref called it against me."

As Cal Poly's first matches of the season take place Dec. 6 and 7 in Las Vegas. Although Pratt will be participating, he is still recovering from a shoulder injury sustained in practice a few weeks ago.

Players may ratify labor deal today

Juwan Howard

Washington Wizards forward Juwan Howard agreed to enter an alcohol rehabilitation and education program Tuesday after pleading not guilty to driving while intoxicated.

District of Columbia Superior Court commissioner Ronald Goodbread then continued the case until Feb. 24. If Howard completes the court-monitored course by that date, the charges will be dropped.

Howard was arrested Nov. 11 after his 1995 Mercedes-Benz was speeding in Northwest Washington. Police said he had just left a private party at a night club.

Howard apologized for the incident later in the day, calling it "truly a big embarrassment for me and for my family and also for the Bullets organization."