Winter escape: Poly Escapes leads student group on two-state expedition, 3

Believe the hype? Was the Y2K preparation worth it?, 5

Police stop skaters in tracks

By Adam Jarman
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

The Cal Poly Police Department began enforcing the new skateboarding policy with more vigor Monday. Warnings were eliminated and all offenders will be cited by the Cal Poly Police for skateboarding or in-line skating on campus.

These new enforcement standards, known as the Skateboard Damage Reduction Plan, are a multi-department initiative to decrease skateboarding-related accidents and damages on campus, Cal Poly Police Sgt. Lori Hashim said. Police cannot estimate the number of accidents per year since many go unreported, Hashim said. Similar new bicycle policies will be announced soon that concern stop sign violations as well as riding in restricted areas.

"If what you’re doing is just skating, I don’t see a problem with that,” said history sophomore Josh Kunz, who admitted the threat of a fine may keep him from riding on campus.

"It is a response to damages, safety concerns and the public,” Hashim said. The police department receives daily calls from students, faculty and staff concerned about skateboarding on campus, Hashim said. The facilities department is also involved in the plan.

Market builds makeshift patio until spring

By Melissa McFarland
MUSTANG DAILY STAFF WRITER

Cement has been poured and plans are wrapping up in the Campus Market’s outdoor seating project — the market’s final phase of expansion.

"Until it’s finished in spring, we’re trying to get something temporary in there, like some older benches and chairs, so the area can be used,” said flex Wolf, the project’s program manager.

The doubling of the Campus Market in summer of 1998 necessitated the extra patio seating. Wolf said insufficient funds delayed the project when the market initially expanded.

"The expansion actually took up some space,” Wolf said. "The store doubled in size, which means a lot more people, a lot more sales and a lot more stuff. And at the same time, the patio space was being made smaller.”

Designed by Cal Poly landscape architecture intern Jerico Hirfan, the patio extension will house tables with canvas umbrellas, which will add shade and color.

"It’s going to be pretty simple,” Wolf said. "There’s going to be some planters and trash cans, and eventually a little more of a barricade to separate some of the traffic. But it’s going to be pretty straightforward.”

Twenty-two parking spaces have been taken over by the outdoor seating. Nineteen of those will be rebuilt on either side of the expansion.

"We made the spaces go way down, to the minimum size that they can be, so that there will be enough room,” Wolf said.

Float winners laugh all the way home

By Alexis Garbeff
MUSTANG DAILY NEWS EDITOR

As the Cal Poly rose float’s dinosaur and time machine glided through the streets of Pasadena this past New Year’s Day, it stole time, a humor trophy and a $1 million time spot on television.

According to Margaret Shepard, a Rose Parade volunteer, the $250,000 that is a cumulative effect of Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly Pomona. Both schools paid for the float, which Shepard said aired on a time spot that would be worth $1 million in advertising.

This year the float took home the prestigious Humor Trophy, a Major Banner Award that means that all the floats, volunteer and professionally built, were contenders for the award.

"It was really exciting for us because for as long as I have been here, we have won two awards, and..." see FLOAT, page 2

This year’s rose float ‘Stolen Time,’ above, was a collaborative effort between Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and Cal Poly Pomona. The float took home the prestigious humor trophy and competed against professionally built floats.

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SKATEBOARD continued from page 1

an effort to decrease the damages incurred as a result of skateboarding on campus. Ed Naretto, facility services director, said these damages amount to approximately $10,000 annually.

"We are trying to look at new designs that are not conducive to skateboarders and in-line skaters," Naretto said. New benches have been broken, and many new railings need to be repainted, he said.

Naretto said curbs on campus become coated in wax from the misuse of skaters. Slipping on these curbs is a big safety concern, he said.

Also, the Judicial Affairs department will serve as an additional enforcement agency for violators. Ardith Tregenza, coordinator of campus student relations and judicial affairs, explained that students cited may be referred to her office and, while every case is different, she said, "We can often reach a mutually agreeable resolution informally through an initial meeting."

Although the Cal Poly Police will issue citations, Sgt. Steve Schroeder said the fines will come from the municipal courts. Pointing to his board, he added, "I use this and the bus."

Woolery, who has been skateboarding for 11 years, said an experienced skateboarder has just as much control as an experienced biker. Even so, Hashim said she is concerned about both the skaters' and pedestrians' safety on campus.

Unlike parking fines that are paid to Cal Poly, skating fines under this new plan will not be paid to the university, but to the courts, Schroeder said. These fines will not be a source of funding on campus.

Some students don't feel the fines are fair.

"(Skateboarding) is just another form of transportation ... like a bike," said Alex Woolery, a mechanical engineering sophomore. Pointing to his board, he added, "I use this and the bus."

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Students escape on Zion vacation

By Kirsten Orsini-Meinhard

Instead of heading for the comfort of home after finals, 22 Cal Poly stu­dents opted for the great outdoors. Armed with backpacks and sleeping bags, these students joined the week­long Poly Escapes adventure to Zion National Park in Utah and Black Canyon in Nevada.

“The whole trip was just relaxing. It was a good stress break, and we didn’t have to worry about anything having to do with the real world at all,” said James Willie, a third-year architec­ture major. This was Willie’s first long trip with Poly Escapes.

The trip was a wilderness dream, an uninterrupted week of hiking, climbing and rafting. Best of all, it was accommodating to all students. Travelers didn’t need to be mountaineers to survive.

After the last final was taken on Friday, Dec. 10, the sun packed with gear and students began the 12-hour drive to Zion National Park. The first night was spent under the stars in Barstow on the way to Zion. The group was up early the next morning and drove eight more hours, arriving in Zion in the afternoon. That night the group was rewarded with a soak in hot springs. At the end of the river on Thursday, the group had been a week since any of them had been in the water.

“Travelers didn’t need to be mountaineers to survive.”

Student descriptions of what they mean,” he said.

According to Will Hoida, a second­year recreation administration major, one of the best stops of the trip was on Monday. The group left Zion National Park and headed to the Valley of Fire State Park in Nevada on its way to Black Canyon.

“There was this crazy bright red hill,” Hoida said, describing a canyon the group found on one of its first stops.

Poly Escapes provided the group with most of its gear, such as rafts for the river and tents. Students paid a fee of $90 that included gas, park fees and rafting fees.

After paddling eight miles to the end of the river on Thursday, the group was on the road again to Las Vegas. It had been a week since any of them had showered. After a change of clothes and a meal that didn’t have to be organized, the group ended its trip with a night on the town.

It’s almost impossible to wake the dead. So much for day two.

Jason Schaller, chemistry junior, writes a weekly column for Get Out.
Millennial hype served no purpose

Okay, so how many people died as a direct result of Y2K disasters? Or an easier question might be: How many Y2K disasters were there? How many riots erupted? Did the world come to a sudden end the second we finished counting down to midnight on the eve of 2000?

I think we all know the earth is still in pretty good shape despite all the hype about Y2K. It is amazing how much mass hysteria was generated by the idea that a small computer glitch could cause life-threatening problems. People worried about banks losing their money, a loss of electricity, water and sewage services, terrorist attacks, riots in major cities and countless other disasters. There were also numerous predictions of apocalyptic events. Obviously, all this paranoia was completely unnecessary. Sure, there were some legitimate concerns to be considered, but they were handled in a responsible and timely manner, causing few or zero problems.

Billions of dollars were spent to avoid both major and minor glitches.

The worst thing about the whole Y2K fear was the fact that no one thought of all the problems that could be caused by omitting the century part of the date to save space on computer chips. You would think that the people in charge of creating these types of systems would have had the brainpower to foresee those implications. Nevertheless, we did face this problem and managed to correct it in time. The panic associated with Y2K bugs and millennium events went way beyond what was necessary. Many people were sure that on Jan. 1, 2000, electricity would go out, and they would have to hibernate until the world returned to normal. Those who were nervous enough to buy mass quantities of canned food and portable stoves did so in secret because they were afraid that their less-prepared neighbors might eventually turn into hunger-driven murderers just to get at the canned chili and beef stew. People then stood up ammunition to prepare for the worst.

I was not worried about Y2K for a long time, but finally, after listening to people around me rant and rave about inevitable disasters, I became infected with paranoia. It was impossible to avoid. Just after midnight on New Year's Eve, I went into my room and turned out the light. There was a loud "pop" and the light went out. Instead of logically assuming the light bulb had blown out, my heart skipped a beat as I thought the Y2K bug had struck my house, and I might live in darkness for the next few months.

If we had not been bombarded with fear-teaded speculation and predictions days after day in the media and on the Internet, more people would have kept their sanity and enjoyed their holidays. All the hype was for nothing, yet it went on.

Except for one thing: The Y2K bug must have gotten into my microwave because it stopped working over break.

Karin Driessen is a journalism sophomore and a Mustang Daily staff writer.

Y2K hype saved us from certain disaster

Point/couterpoint

Since the much-anticipated Y2K bug turned out to be more of an ant than something like Mothra, many American taxpayers have begun to question whether the years of work and billions of dollars spent on protecting the world from a technological collapse were really worth it.

Numerous reports from various research groups estimate total world Y2K-preparedness spending at about $600 billion. These sums, however, believe the world got what it paid for: security, peace of mind and working millennium systems for 2000 and beyond.

If a doctor gives you a vaccine and then you don't get sick, you don't make negative comments to your health provider or complain to the hospital about the cash you spent. Instead, you thank the doctor for the preventative medicine and continue living your healthy life.

In the same way, the time and money invested in Y2K disaster planning was not wasted. If my computer had crashed or my parents had lost their stocks or airlines started falling all around me, then I would have found reason to condemn the Y2K hype. But, since Jan. 1 dawned, we were able to function properly, and I figure the sensationalism served the globe well.

A Reuters article by Neil Watson quoted Andy Kyte, a member of the information technology Farmer Group. Kyte believed massive world chaos would have erupted if large sums of money had not been spent on correcting Y2K-related glitches. According to the article, Kyte said virtually every aspect of life as we know it would have undergone major disruption.

In our country, received hope and expected visible results. Perhaps we're too spoiled by Hollywood's disaster movies. We get a packet of horrible things to come and suddenly are shocked when the computers didn't deliver. It's like watching the White House blow up in previews for "Independence Day," and then seeing a movie in which full Pullman passengers negotiate an alliance over tea with the aliens.

Perhaps we crave disaster, we want to get pushed to the brink of total destruction and then get pulled to safety by Will Smith.

But our lives aren't a movie. Big terrorist explosions pack the box offices, but humanity in real life.

A bank run may be a crucial plot device in the charming "Chinatown" classic, "You're a Wonderful Life," but not being able to eat for days due to lack of cash or unhurried mettles faces time around the world, even without Y2K-related glitches.

The initial hype alerted the necessary experts to the tasks they had to complete to ensure your ability to watch the parade.

New Year's Day.

If nothing else, the Y2K hype served to bring our epicentric country closer to the rest of the world. We got a glimpse of the way the globe functions as a whole. While watching the news for Y2K-related disaster information, I got to see festivities and celebrations in France, Australia, India and Tonga.

Furthermore, my house now has a full stock of clean drinking water, candles, batteries, medical supplies and other emergency necessities. In case of a disaster we can predict the second, we now have the resources to survive and something of an idea of how to act in a crisis. It seems safety does have a hefty price, but the cost is worth it.
Aida's offers another option for textbooks

Let's face it, we're students and we need textbooks. It's the first week of school and you're tired of waiting in line. You've thought about ordering your books online, but you know they won't arrive until the midterm.

Introducing option 3: Aida's University Book Exchange.

Aida's University Book Exchange combines low prices with great service. Aida's has all the textbooks professors require for classes, but at competitive prices. "It's very rare that we don't have the book. We've even gone overseas to get [a] book," says Larry Hensley, the owner of Aida's.

Opened in 1996 by Larry and his wife Jamilah, the bookstore carries both new and used textbooks and school supplies. Aida's serves Cal Poly, Cuesta, Allan Hancock and Chapman Universities. Mr. Hensley ran five bookstores in Pasadena before moving to San Luis Obispo.

"I was vacationing here and couldn't believe how high prices were, higher than at UCLA, which is known to be one of the highest priced bookstores." Despite the challenge of running an off-campus bookstore, Aida's has received positive comments from the students. "The older students know [to come here]," says Larry. Aida's employees are also students.

At the end of the quarter Aida's buys back the textbooks they sell. Aida's is not concerned with the condition of the books they buy back, but with the demand for the books. So what happens with all the discontinued books? Aida's donates tons of books each year to the San Luis Obispo library, and the high schools located in nearby Pismo, Atascadero, and Paso Robles. Larry also donates books to third world countries, approximately 40,000 pounds last year.

Aida's is open seven days a week. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Aida's University Book Exchange is in the process of developing a web page that will go on-line next fall. Until then, Aida's can be found at 973 Foothill Boulevard in the University Plaza Square by Kona's, by calling 541-5854.
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AIDAS  |  IANAS

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"We have to feel pretty good walk­
ing into that arena because we could've been ahead 23-0," Galea y said. "I won't have to tell the players anything. They can put the tape on and see what hap­pened, how we played."

The Vikings defense has improved since then, with John Randle moved inside and former wide receiver Robert Tate lining up in the secondary.

In Sundays 24-17 win over Detroit, Tate had six tackles, broke up two passes and had his first career interception. He also had kickoff returns of 37 and 47 yards.

"He can electrify the crowd in a lot of different ways," Green says. "This week, he needs to electrify the Cowboys."

Miami (9-7) at Seattle (9-7)

Both teams have lost five of their last six, making this game very must anticlimactic.

Except for two things: it could be the final game for Dan Marino and/or Jimmy Johnson's final appearance as Miami's coach.

So that was the theme for the week. "Let's put the soap opera on the back burner for one week," Johnson pleaded. "Just for one week, I'm going to. If everybody would put the soap opera on the back burner and let us focus on Seattle, I'd be a lot happier if you do."

Both Johnson and Mike Holmgren would be happy if their teams woke up.

The Seahawks, who only had to beat the Jets to qualify, slept through a 19-9 loss and woke up only when they watched the final minutes of Oakland's 41-38 overtime win in Kansas City.

"We're in the playoffs," sighed Holmgren. "It's not the ultimate goal, but it's one goal. I feel a lot better than 19 other coaches in this league who didn't make the playoffs."
today's Question:
Players' associations declined the evaluation.

The Cal Poly women's basketball team plays host to the Pepperdine Waves tonight at Mott Gym at 7 p.m.

The Mustangs (3-7) stopped their three-game losing streak with a 73-58 win over Sacramento State on Dec. 30. Cal Poly had five players score in double figures, including Taryn Sperry who had 14 points and 11 rebounds.

The Waves (6-6) roll into Mott coming off a 95-80 loss to Mississippi State Monday, which stopped Pepperdine's four-game winning streak.

The Mustangs must stop the explosive backcourt of Roderick Clark and Daminis Hjounou. Clark averages more than 16 points per game while Hjounou averages 12.5.

Baseball orders psychological evaluation of Braves' Rocker

ATLANTA (AP) — John Rocker was ordered by baseball to undergo psychological tests before deciding whether to punish the outspoken reliever for remarks he made disparaging gays, minorities and immigrants.

Commissioner Bud Selig said Thursday he will review the evaluation of the Atlanta Braves star before deciding on disciplinary action.

"Mr. Rocker's recent remarks made to a national magazine reporter were reprehensible and completely unacceptable," Selig said in a statement. "I am profoundly concerned about the nature of those comments as well as certain other aspects of his behavior."

Selig said he will take "whatever additional action that I consider to be necessary" after Rocker's evaluation.

Braves president Stan Kasten said at a news conference that he thought punishment was warranted, but said the commissioner's office will decide, not the team.

"It's important that John gets right with the organization, his teammates and the community," Kasten said. "But we at least need to give the man an opportunity to demonstrate his heartfelt remorse and correct the problem."

He said if the comments had been published during the season, Rocker likely would have been suspended indefinitely.

Kasten said the evaluation should begin within days. He said releasing Rocker remains an option but is unlikely.

Kasten said baseball officials and the players' association declined the evaluations were appropriate. The two organizations jointly will pick psychologists to evaluate Rocker's agent, Randy Hendricks, said neither he nor Rocker would comment.

In his comments to Sports Illustrated last month, Rocker said he would never play for a New York team because he didn't want to ride a train "next to some queer with AIDS."

He also insulted immigrants, saying, "I'm not a very big fan of foreigners.... How the hell did they get in this country?"

While living in Atlanta during the interview, Rocker spit on a roll machine and mocked Asian women: "Look! Look at this shot," he said. "I guarantee you that's a Japanese woman. How bad are Asian women at driving?"