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. "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 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."

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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. **"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 these 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 this, he said, "I will only get worse as comet Hale-Bopp gets closer to Earth."

"I personally have been called a traitor to Earth for hiding information," he said.

Discovered in July 1995 by amateur astronomers Hale and Thomas Bopp of Stanford, Ariz., the streaking ball of ice and dust is now 270 million miles from Earth — beyond the orbit of Mars — and is growing brighter. Hale hopes it will be brilliant by March 22, when it will come closest to Earth.

While scientists hope Hale-Bopp will produce knowledge on the nature of comets, right now it's producing stories on the See COMET page 5.
Scientists concerned about otter count

Friends of the Sea Otter, concealed 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 bodes up," 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.

Researchers found 2,019 of the marine mammals last month, nearly 8 percent fewer than a year ago, said Brian Hatfield, who coordinates the count for the U.S. Geological Survey's biological resources division.

Hatfield said the finding, compared with last fall's count of 2,190 otters, isn't necessarily cause for alarm.

"If, however, we get another low count next fall, it would be cause for concern," he told The Monterey County Herald.

Ellen Faurot-Daniels, science director for the Monterey-based Central Coast Institute for the Healing of Racism, conceded that the otter count does fluctuate. But she said the latest numbers — considered with a lower spring count and higher mortality rate — are cause for concern.

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

At the Juvenile Services Center in San Luis Obispo.

Ellen Faurot-Daniels is concerned by this spring's otter count — 4.2 percent lower than 1995 — and a higher-than-average number of otter carrion found this year. For the first nine months of 1996, 145 carcasses were found on the Central Coast. For about the average.

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For more information call 781-3226.

See OTTERS page 3

"What we really need to do is look very hard at this coming spring's census," Brennan said.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed dropping the sea otters' threatened status if the population reaches 2,650 and stays there for three years. Federal scientists say the animals should be considered endangered if their population falls below 1,850.

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TRESPASS: Intrusions create possible liability problems

From page 1

pipeline construction, five barred wire gates have been added in addition to the two permanent metal gates. He also asks trespassers to leave when he sees them.

It is questioned, however, whether or not the trespassers really realize what they are guilty of.

"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 "honest-ly don't know where they are at. They just know they're out there having a good time riding their bikes."

Daren Connor, program coordinator for ASI and adviser to the ASI Outings committee, said, "That's a common sentiment— it's confusing. Signs would help make choices to stay off land you're not supposed to be on."

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

Cramer said, however, that 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 accomp­lied 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.

Sheridan 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.

January 11, launch operations manager.

According to Faurot-Daniels, smaller otters could be getting caught and drowning in the traps. Faurot-Daniels said smaller otters could be getting caught and drowning in the traps. Faurot-Daniels said smaller otters could be getting caught and drowning in the traps. Faurot-Daniels said smaller otters could be getting caught and drowning in the traps.
The Daily cream puff

Editor,

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
English professor

Smarts, save your money

Editor,

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

Everyone at Cal Poly knows that Kristin Smart disappeared earlier this year. The case was even on Unsolved Mysteries. But just because the case hasn't been solved doesn't mean the Smart family should be filing a $40-million lawsuit against Paul Flores.

Although I don't know what it is like to lose a child or someone very close to me, I can understand that the Smart family is very confused and upset. They have lost a daughter and don't know what happened to her, but filing a wrongful death suit against Flores will only make the loss worse.

If nothing is proven from this trial they will be worse off than they started because they will have to deal with a different kind of loss: one from the judicial system. Flores has been questioned by police and has not been named a suspect. I am not working on this case, but just because the case hasn't been solved doesn't mean the Smart family should be filing a $40-million lawsuit against Paul Flores.

Vincent Cusimano
Engineering Science

Letters to the Editor

Today, terms such as recycling, hazardous waste and air pollution are practically household words. However, I still see people on campus putting cans and paper in the trash cans instead of the recycling bins that are not more than two feet away.

I wonder if these people are just incredibly lazy or they just don't know that they are re-affirming the fact that the United States is one of the most over-consuming and environmentally-destructing countries in the world.

I want to be more confrontational than the Daily and its staff. Please, I beg of you, inform me about "the man" that the Daily has been pissing off for 80 years.

Matt Novak
English professor

Be a part of the solution

I saw your advertisement in the daily.”

While I do not know what it is like to lose a child or someone very close to me, I can understand that the Smart family is very confused and upset. They have lost a daughter and don't know what happened to her, but filing a wrongful death suit against Flores will only make the loss worse.

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When recycling goes too far

By Jessica Yamada

I don't have to be a radical environmentalist to recognize the increasing existence and prevalence of environmental problems in our lives. You don't have to be a radical environmentalist to live an environmentally friendly lifestyle.

Today, terms such as recycling, hazardous waste and air pollution are practically household words. However, I still see people on campus putting cans and paper in the trash cans instead of the recycling bins that are not more than two feet away.

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COMET: Look in sky about an hour after sunset

From page 1

Internet.

"There’s 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 Prophesies or a nonexist­ent 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 course. Comets don’t do that, and 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.

Hale-Bopp, they figured its orbit, it would be 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-Bopp can easily be seen with a cheap telescope or even a pair of binoculars. It’s even visible to the naked eye, it looks like a fuzzy star. It will get a lot brighter, we hope, over the next four months."

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BOARDING: Some skiers feel that boarders are punks with bad attitudes.

From page 1:

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 age-wise and with women," 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.

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SACRAMENTO — Ninety-two percent of California's first-grade pupils and nearly 74 percent of its second-graders are now in classes averaging fewer than 20 students per teacher, state schools chief Delaine Eastin says.

AP-STATE

That compares with fewer than 2 percent of the state's 500,000 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 enacted 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.

Eighty percent of the class-size reductions were in the first and second grades, the primary targets of the school reform measure, 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 $371 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 $862.9 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.

Eastin 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 program.

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 agreeable.

Wilson issued a written statement which praised the program's results and the way both Eastin and local school officials have implemented it, but made no additional commitments.

Wilson is currently working on his 1997-98 state budget message, which will include his proposals for future school support. Traditionally, governors guard all details of their budget proposals as secret until the entire package is unveiled each Jan. 10.

The school bill which Wilson signed last July 15 made participation in the program mandatory, with the state paying 90 percent of the cost of reducing class sizes, or about $650 of the estimated operating cost of $800 per pupil per year.

From page 6

With top snowboarding companies expanding and investor dollars pouring into the market, the stability of snowboarding's future on the mountain seems secure. Snowboards will continue becoming more refined, as they have during recent years, with the

Eastin: high participation in class size reduction program

Snowboarders' East: high participation in class size reduction program on the mountain seems secure.

younger generation pick up the

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Snowboards will continue becom­

stability of snowboarding's future

more options and superior perfor­

The kids of yesterday who helped kick off the snowboarding trend are getting older. These early snowboarders who are most common in their 20s or early

an... and the older, adventure-some crowd tries its skills at surfi­

ing the snow.
Pratt aims high for new season

By Donna Holmes
Daily Staff Writer

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.

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

"Our highest placer coming back this season," Cowell said. "We look for him to be a force and expect big things from him."

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

Pratt is one of a set of twins raised in the Newbury 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 for a second place finish 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 nationals.

"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, Pratt 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."

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Cal Poly's first matches of the season will 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.

Getting ready for his first tournament requires attention to diet and intense exercise in order to qualify for his 156-pound weight classification. After a summer of no training, Pratt gained more than 20 pounds that he must lose, but said casually that he can do it.

"It's something all wrestlers go through for about five days right before they weigh in," Pratt said. "We work out intensively."

For the last two days he must restrict food and liquids and the result is about a 10-pound loss.

On the day of a match, Pratt said, "most of the weight is water weight."

Pratt added that most of the weight loss, usually comes back quickly. After the matches begin, he can begin eating again, but says he is careful what he eats.

As for the rest of the season, Pratt feels that Cal Poly has an excellent team this year but needs to stay focused to win the PAC 10.

"If we keep the intensity our team has, I know we're going to win the PAC 10," he said emphatically.

When Pratt is not studying, he works on the ranch where he rents a room.

Looking to the future, Pratt admitted he has had thoughts of maybe someday trying out for the Olympic team, but then retorted, "I'm thinking more about my career right now."

— By Donna Holmes
Daily Staff Writer

Players may ratify labor deal today

Ronald Blum
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Baseball players spent about 2 1/2 hours discussing the new labor agreement Tuesday in preparation for their vote to ratify the deal.

"It'll be very surprising if it's not ratified," union head Donald Fehr said after the players' executive board met at Dorado, Puerto Rico. "There won't be a vote until tomorrow morning at the earliest."

For other free agents, teams must decide by Saturday whether to offer salary arbitration to their former players or lose negotiating rights until May 1.

It is likely teams will be given additional time to make decisions regarding players in the new group. Those players can't start discussing contracts with new teams until after they formally file.

Meanwhile, two free agents signed Tuesday. Outfielder Jim Eisenreich, who spent the past four seasons with Philadelphia, agreed to a $3 million, two-year contract with the Florida Marlins. Catcher Joe Girardi decided to stay with the New York Yankees, agreeing to a $5.5 million, two-year contract.

Eisenreich, 37, hit a career-high 361 in 338 at-bats last season with three home runs and 41 RBIs.

Girardi, 32, hit .264 in his fourth season with the Yankees with two home runs and 45 RBIs and 13 steals, the most by a catcher in the major leagues last season.

In another ramification of the deal, the Fox network met with baseball officials late Monday night and decided its first interleague telecast will be Baltimore's game against Atlanta on June 14. Owners could not go ahead with interleague play until the labor deal was approved.

During the meeting, Fox officials asked to be included in the schedule process for future years before league officials finalize it.

— By Donna Holmes
Daily Staff Writer

Juwan Howard enters rehab

Washington Bullets 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 complies 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."