

► Students bike, skate their way to traffic court

University administrators are putting the brakes on some forms of student transportation. To keep students from plowing over pedestrians and roughing up campus property, the use of bicycles, skateboards and in-line skates at many schools has become illegal.

At California Polytechnic State U., San Luis Obispo, public safety officers ticket in-line skaters and send them rolling to traffic court five miles away.

The ticketing is a result of a California Administrative Code that prohibits in-line skating, skateboarding and similar modes of transportation on university grounds. Enforcement of the code is up to the discretion of individual public schools.

Mike Kennedy, an investigator for Cal Poly police, says the ordinance was a result of large numbers of skateboarders on campus.

"We were afraid they would hurt themselves or run into pedestrians and hurt them," he says.

The school enforces the code to cut down on liability and prevent property damage caused by out-of-control skateboarders.

While Kennedy says his department could go after in-line skaters if they wanted, the skaters aren't much of a problem on campus yet.

At Humboldt State U., also in California, a 24-hour ban on bicycling and skateboarding has grounded students on certain parts of campus. Administrators there also cite concerns about safety, liability and damage to campus property.

The ban is limited to certain areas, specifically the highly-trafficked inner court area where administrators are worrying about pedestrian safety, says Rees Hughes, director of student activities.

"We felt it wasn't safe for pedestrians with all the bikes and skateboards whizzing by," Hughes says. "We had to do something... we tried to do it on a voluntary basis last year which turned out to be marginally successful."

Hughes says the main culprits on campus were cyclists and skateboarders. "The sidewalks have little slopes to them, which were perfect for them to slalom back and forth on."

In-line skating, "oddly enough, hasn't materialized at Humboldt yet really," Hughes says. "If things change and in-line skaters begin to present a problem, then we have the right to look at expanding the policy to include them as well. But right now in-line skating is a non-issue."

Two in-line skaters from State U. of New York, Albany, Mark Cerazin and Dan Stackhouse, say students who want to skate on campus should be permitted to do so as long as they sign release forms freeing their schools from liability if they are injured.

Known as "hold harmless" agreements, they are similar to those some ski mountain operators require skiers to sign.

But just because someone signs one of these forms doesn't mean a university is protected, says Marti Ellerman, associate counsel with SUNY central.

"These 'hold harmless' agreements or assumption of risk agreements, as they are also known, have limits to their impact," she says.

"For one thing, these agreements don't cover the state if it is found its negligence led to an injury. And for another, these agreements only cover the skater. But what happens if the skater runs into someone? The campus isn't covered by that either." ■ Tom Murnane, *Albany Student Press*, State U. of New York, Albany

► Oh Clarence, now look what you've done

An increase in awareness of sexual harassment nationwide has affected colleges and universities, where statistics show reports of harassment have increased by more than 50 percent since 1991.

The national Equal Employment Opportunity Commission reports that 1,244 sexual harassment charges were filed in the United States for the first quarter of 1992 compared to 728 in the first quarter of 1991.

The increase in complaints is a result of the publicity surrounding the Clarence Thomas-Anita Hill battle last October, says Lisa Brodkey, director of the Sexual Harassment Education Program at the U. of California, Davis. "They helped people to bring this out in the open."

Along with increased reports of harassment, a study indicates peer harassment is an emerging issue.

According to a Center for Women's Policy Studies survey, 70 to 90 percent of undergraduate women have experienced some form of peer harassment by males or groups of males.

Brodkey agrees peer harassment rapidly is gaining more attention and says it can take many forms.

"Peer harassment ranges from sexual advances to whistles and catcalls," she says. "And it's subject to anyone, from anyone."

Peer harassment became an issue last spring at UC, Davis, when the marching band was investigated after allegations surfaced about sexism and hazing within the group.

"Women and men were treated the same, but some practices, especially the language, were sexist," says Kerry Smith, student activities adviser.

After three former band members made allegations of sexism and hazing, six others came forward to confirm their charges. The alleged incidents resulted in the removal of the group's student director.

The complaints of sexism were indicative of increased sensitivity of harassment, Smith says. "In these post-Anita Hill times, people are going to be more aware of what is appropriate." ■ Tim Elbertson, *The Daily Orange*, Syracuse U.



What a trendsetter: A zoo of a confirmation hearing leads to record harassment reports for undergrads.

► They just couldn't leave well enough alone

Students at Monmouth College in New Jersey say they have it a little easy — too easy, in fact.

Last semester the student government at the private college in Trenton passed a resolution asking instructors to stop relying so heavily on multiple choice exams as the sole means of student evaluation.

The Monmouth students want term papers and essay exams instead of standard fill-in-the-bubble testing methods.

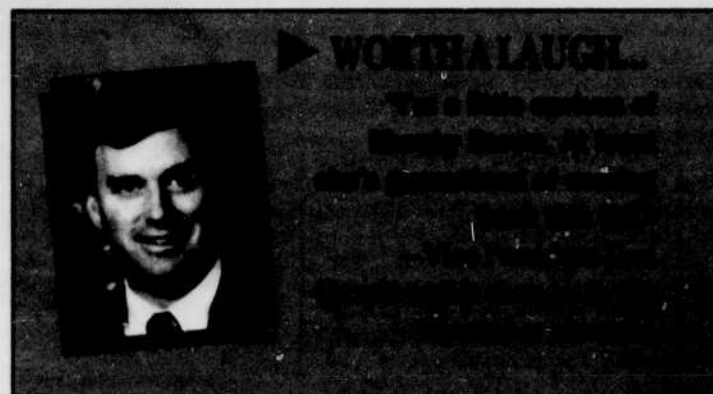
"It's probably the first time students have ever requested tougher exams, but I don't think it speaks badly for the faculty here," says Ken Campbell, head of Monmouth's history department.

Although the resolution had no legislative power forcing instructors to comply, many faculty members have endorsed the proposal, noting student interest in their own education is a positive sign.

Campbell and Paul Shelton, vice president and dean of campus life, say the student government representing the 4,276 Monmouth students simply wanted a testing option for evaluation.

Monmouth, which offers a core curriculum including four semesters of writing courses, requires students to take a writing proficiency exam before graduation.

Forty-five percent of the students fail that exam with 70 percent of those failing their first retake. ■ Chris Buckle, *Purdue Exponent*, Purdue U.



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Bikers beware: California schools are laying down the law for anything on wheels.