

# University takes steps to curb stunt skating

Citing damage done to low walls and structures, UO has installed pegs at many campus buildings

By Lisa Catto  
News Reporter

Skateboarding students who like doing stunts on their boards can expect a speed bump while riding on campus — literally.

Several departments at the University have installed pegs on low parts of walls and structures to prevent skateboarders from stunting and grinding on already damaged areas.

University Facilities Services Exterior Team Supervisor Tim King, who oversaw most of the installations at the academic buildings, said installing the pegs was necessary because skateboard stunting chips away at the fixtures.

"I don't think people realize the cost or damage involved," he said.

King said Facilities Services noticed a trend of increased damages to low exterior structures, much of it caused by skateboard stunts. He added that bicycles with pegs on the tire axles can also cause damage and are even more harmful than skateboard stunting.

King said stunting on skateboards and bikes has caused approximately \$50,000 in damage in the last several years.

Most of the pegs around campus were installed by Facilities Services at a number of academic buildings, including Fenton Hall, Condon Hall and the Science Library. The EMU has installed its own pegs at the EMU Amphitheater, and contractors installed pegs at the new Lillis Business Complex during construction.

University freshman David Hendrickson resents the

University's decision to install skate pegs.

"It sends a message to us that they don't want us here," he said.

Hendrickson is used to the pegs, being a native of San Francisco, where the trend of anti-skateboarding products is prevalent. However, he still believes they aren't necessary.

"It's way uglier than if it's (ground) up. And it's uncomfortable to sit on," Hendrickson said. "I wish they wouldn't put them in."

King disagrees. Facilities Services placed the pegs two feet apart — plenty of room for people to sit, he said.

Facilities Services has installed approximately 100 pegs during the past 12 months, something they would not have been able to do if they didn't save so much money by making their own pegs, King said.

Each peg costs about \$5 to make and install, while many

anti-skateboarding devices on the market cost about \$7, not including the cost to install them.

King added that the peg-making operation has gone so well that Facilities Services was asked to create pegs for Autzen Stadium.

It is difficult to gauge how much the University has saved on repairs by installing the pegs, King said, but officials will monitor trends in money spent on repairs in the future.

King said safety is another positive outcome of installing skate pegs, adding that stunting can be dangerous both for the skateboarder and for bystanders who could be hit.

Department of Public Safety Interim Director Thomas Hicks confirmed the positive impact the pegs are having on campus.

"We do receive a lot of complaints from the campus

community (about skateboarding and stunting)," Hicks said.

He added that the pegs, along with increased enforcement, have decreased the amount of stunting at prime locations on campus. Hicks said the Knight Law Center used to have many instances of stunting, but preventative measures have lowered the occurrences.

Students violating skateboarding rules on campus can expect a fine from DPS. Skating in a building or structure carries a \$25 fine and acrobatic or stunt skating carries a \$30 fine.

King said the goal with all of these preventative measures is to ensure safety and to prevent damage.

"We wish there were more skateboarding parks for them so they didn't feel the need to do that here," King said.

Contact the crime/health/safety reporter at [lisacatto@dailyemerald.com](mailto:lisacatto@dailyemerald.com).

## NEWS BRIEF

### Geopolitics expert to speak in Eugene

Neil Smith, professor of anthropology and geography at the City University of New York Graduate Center, will give a speech entitled "Lost Geographies and Failed Globalizations: From Versailles to Iraq" at the Eugene Hilton Conference Center on Thursday. His visit kicks off the winter term portion of the Wayne Morse Center

for Law and Politics "The Changing Geopolitical Order" lecture series.

"We are living through a new and dangerous imperialism that Americans have the responsibility to challenge," Smith said in promotional materials for the event.

Smith's research looks closely at how seemingly distant political climates are connected in various ways.

"We will explore the origins of this new empire over the last century and especially highlight the largely unacknowledged political geography of its

creation," he added.

Smith's past research has focused on globalization and homelessness, cyberculture and the flow of goods and materials, and environmental change and the future of nation states. Smith — also a published author of numerous books, his most recent work being "American Empire: Roosevelt's Geographer and the Prelude to Globalization" — is a leading expert on geopolitics. The event is free and open to the public.

— Beau Eastes

## CRIME WATCH

### Thefts and recoveries

The Department of Public Safety received one report of bike theft from Sheldon Hall in Earl Complex. DPS also received three found property reports and two reports of larceny: one from Klamath Hall and one from the Knight Library.

### Disorderly conduct

DPS received one report of disorderly conduct, one report of littering, one report of an arrest and one report of an assault in progress. DPS also received three reports of a suspicious subject, one report of a suspicious condition and one report of reckless endangerment.

Tuesday, Jan. 6, 8:35 p.m.: DPS received a report of two subjects using caution signs for sleds and sliding around on the ice.

Thursday, Jan. 8, 11:32 p.m.: DPS received a report of a subject lighting fireworks at Earl Complex.

### Alcohol and drugs

DPS received three reports of drug law violations and eight reports of liquor law violations. DPS also received 12 reports of Eugene Municipal Code infractions: 10 reports of minors in possession of or consuming alcohol, one report of an open container and one report of a subject in possession of less than one ounce of marijuana.

Friday, Jan. 9, 1:05 a.m.: DPS received a report of a group of disorderly subjects outside of H.P. Barnhart Hall.

### Miscellaneous

DPS received two emergency call reports, seven alarm reports and one report of a traffic offense. DPS also received four requests to tow from a reserved space: one from the UO Annex parking lot, one from a disabled space in the Student Health Center staff lot, one from the Emerald Street parking lot and one from the Knight Law Center.

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