

Hitchhikers Warned In Santa Cruz Area

SANTA CRUZ—The UCSC run on the local Santa Cruz bus route will be heavily used in the future, if students at the University of California, Santa Cruz, heed the advice of the UCSC Acting Police Chief John Durcan.

Following reports of the disappearance of two UCSC co-eds, who, it is believed, were hitchhiking to and from the campus the evening of February 5, Chief Durcan and UCSC faculty and administrative staffs have been urging students to use the bus service or arrange rides with friends, in preference to hitchhiking.

The UCSC campus is on a 2,000 acre site, some 3.5 miles from central Santa Cruz. Approximately half of UCSC's 4,800 graduates and undergraduates live in the local community, rather than in residence houses or student apartments on campus.

In the spring of 1970, UCSC students voted to levy themselves a \$3.50 per quarter "Transit-System Fee," which provided more frequent and extended city bus service between the campus and local towns and residential areas. In exchange for the prepaid fee, all UCSC students can ride anywhere in the transit district free of charge, upon presentation of their student I.D. card.

Currently, the local buses stop at principal campus points every half hour weekdays, from 7:45 a.m. to 11:45 p.m., with a final run at 45 minutes past midnight. On weekends, runs are scheduled every hour, from 8:45 a.m., to 12:45 the next morning.

Although, according to a recent survey, more than 2,000 UCSC students regularly use the bus, hitchhiking has become an accepted, alternative mode of transportation. "We have always had a deep concern about this," said Chief Durcan. "Hitchhiking is never a good idea anywhere. The risks are just too great; it's like playing Russian roulette. A hitchhiker can get a thousand rides without incident; the next one could result in a bad experience. It's just not worth it."

—Joan Ward

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