CYCLE MANIA



This self-portrait of Brenton Kelly was shot with a timer as Kelly rode past the the Wrangell Mountains in Alaska.

What To Do For Summer Vacation

Brenton Kelly Spends His Summers Bike-Touring Around The United States; What Do YOU Do?

Speaking to Brenton Kelly over coffee at Nicoletti's, I'd never guess how intimidating he could be, if he only stood up. In his natural upright position he stands six feet eleven, and the sandy shade of his long shoulder-length hair and trimmed beard reminded me compulsively of Tolkien's ent-kings. It was not hard to imagine this man on a custom-built 28-inch touring bicycle making his way across the length of the United States, or discovering the farthest ends of the Yukon, watching the Northern Lights appear at two in the morning.

Brenton has done this, and more. On three long distance trips, he's travelled over six thousand miles, with much of this distance accompanied by his late cat, aptly named Rider, who practically grew up on the road. He had had another cat before Rider, but it had not adapted its potty-

In the mundane world, Brenton works as the production camera manager for the *Daily Nexus*, and is an accomplished photographer. Besides cycling, he's hitchiked from Washington D.C. to Santa Barbara and back several times, and climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro with his mother. He has also been noted as the only photographer to shoot the funeral of Dian Fossey, the subject of the film *Gorillas In The Mist*. These photos were published in several national magazines and earned him credits in the *National Geographic 100 Year Special*. The bike he now rides, which he first rode on his trip to Alaska, was custom built to be more than a mountain bike. "It's a Planet Bike," he tells me. The way I see it, Brenton is a planet *person*.

Brenton's longest trip, from Utah to Washington D.C. in the summer of 1986 had only been his second long distance tour. It was in Utah that he met up with Rider. He found her in a newspaper ad, just after she had been weaned. "She spent more than half her life on the trails," he says. "She was a real blessing." At first, Brenton kept her on a leash, but found that Rider enjoyed camping out, and was trustworthy throughout the trip.

Moving east, he averaged seventy to eighty miles a day—sometimes hitting 100 mile days—and eventually made it to D.C. in eight weeks, or about 3000 miles. For the vacationer looking for the cost-effective getaway, this might be just the trip. Brenton says he spent about \$300 during the entire journey. "It costs me more to pay rent."

He began his Alaska journey in Washington, rode up to Vancouver Island, where he took a four-day ferry to Haynes in Alaska. "British Columbia is very European," he says. "They like to show off their cultural diversity — 'look at us, we're different."

From Haynes he made his way up into the Yukon, a trip that was a challenge in more than one way. One night he camped out by Lake Kluani, a glacier-fed lake that contained "glacier flour" — suspended particles of rock that had been ground off the glacier, "making it look like thick, turquoise water." Around the lake, no trees stood higher than ten feet, preventing Brenton from making a bear-proof camp, where he'd hang his food bag over a tree branch.

(See BRENTON KELLY, p.4A)



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ASUCSB Fixes Bikes

By Garrett Omata Cyclemania Editor

By virtue of a dual existence as both a student of UCSB and UCLA, I am in a position to note the eclectic benefits that can only be found on a Santa Barbara campus. For one thing, the air is clear enough here that you can see the great hulking oil rigs off the seashore. Another nice thing is that the campus is small enough to provide personalized services, such as the A.S. Bikeshop. Funded by our friendly neighborhood Associated Students, the bikeshop exists for the purpose of helping students with the upkeep of their single mode of transportation.

Among other things, the bikeshop sells students repair parts at a rate more reasonable than most prefessional stores, mainly because it is a non-profit organization with a low overhead. The shop does not sell whole bicycles, but does offer repair services, with trained mechanics on duty to either help you with slight problems you might have, or else do the repairs for you, for a slight fee. For example, the cost of replacing a flat innertube would cost fivefifty to six dollars, including the tube. To replace a brake



Manager Willi Hart in front of the bicycle repair area.

TONY POLLOCK/Daily Nexus

five dollars, plus parts. All labor is guaranteed, and if you are seeking a specialized part that they don't have in stock, they are fully willing to make out a special order.

There are other supplementary services they (once ag offer that students often mechanics. neglect until they're late to their eight o'clock class and their bike all of a sudden receive is assured to be rears up and catapults them onto the asphalt. These are services such as free chain lubricant, a repair area that

cable the labor would only be is open to the public, and a plethora of repair tools that their mechanics will freely loan in exchange for a registration card. Hey, not even UCLA offers that. Not to mention all the advice and consolation you'll get from (once again) trained

> That friendly help you friendly... and trained. Manager Willi Hart, esq., has worked as a mechanic for the UCSB cycling team, A.S. bikeshop.

which took first in the National Collegiate Championship last year.

The bike shop is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. So, while you have to be in Santa Barbara anyway, take advatage of its unique qualities - the beaches, the tar, the restaurants, the moronic and insipid traffic signals...and best of all, the

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AND THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING

Forgotten Heroes

compiled one of the most impressive records of any club team on campus. Although it competes in the toughest of the five national conferences, UCSB has consistently placed in the top three of the Western Collegiate cycling Conference, while winning five Western Regional Championships. UCSB also won the first ever National Collegiate Cycling Championships, held last year in San Luis Obispo. Hopes are running high for a repeat performance this year

At the beginning of the 1989 season it appeared that UCSB's chances for repeating as national champions were excellent, with over 90 percent of their riders returning. Club president Trevor Thorpe shared this optimism. "We are definitely the team to beat," he was quoted in February. "With so many of

A Spotlight On he UCSB Bike Team

our riders coming back this year, as well as a few outstanding new ones, there are very few teams that can match our depth. I'm very optimistic."

Hard times, however, have since befallen the Gaucho cyclists. After winning four out of their first five meets, the team has slid into a severe midseason slump. Such a slump, usually attributed to finals and spring break, was not a surprise for those who have been around the sport here for a few years. What was not anticipated, however, was the extent and duration of it. UCSB suffered consecutive disappointments at UCLA, Berkeley, and then Stanford. The race at Stanford was particularly frustrating, as it was expected to be the weekend in which the team pulled things back together. With the end of the regular season now a mere two weeks away, the Gauchos suddenly appear to be in a desperate situation.

shortage of riders. Even though most of last year's riders are

It's just like "Return of the Jedi, right?

You're on that long stretch of public

roadway, your clammy hands clutching the

slick handlebar tape, your buttock tightly pressed against the saddle, and your feet

strapped into the toe-clips while your legs

pump furiously. It's High Noon, and your

opponent is a two-ton white cadillac con-

trolled by a sixty-eight year-old grand-

mother who must taste the blood of a

bicyclist before she can peacefully return to

may survive, and though the Japanese build

really great bike parts, it is probable that a

gas guzzler will come out the victor in most

confrontations. For the amateur cyclist, it

often does not pay to brave the city streets of

Santa Barbara, bike lanes or not. Luckily

though, there are options, because the

county also provides several different bike

paths that provide hours of riding under less

precarious circumstances. One source of

the musty crypt from whence she sprang. Under these conditions, only one of you

back and eligible to race, a number of returning standouts have, unfortunately, not been racing regularly for various reasons. Ben Standish has raced only twice, and Mike Colee has yet to compete for UCSB. Julie Michaels and Cheri Turner have each raced once.

Holding the team together has been credited to a number of factors. First there is the consistent scoring of Thorpe. He has been helped by fellow "A" riders Matt Simpson and Dana Albert. While strong, the "A" group is a little thin and will eventually be supplemented with riders from the "B" squad. Making matters worse yet, Matt Simpson recently injured his ankle in a practice criterium and most likely will sit out the remainder of the season.

The team has also benefitted from strong performances by women's "A" riders Sherri Halkin, Tina Osorio, and Shauna Donnel. The lower categories, stocked with many talented returning and new riders, have also played a major role in the team's success thus far in 1989. If the Gauchos are to repeat as national champs, however, the "A" squad will have to be strengthened according to Thorpe. "The other teams are strong, and are really starting to mesh," remarked last year's second place overall finisher at the national championships. "In order to be really competitive, we simply need more "A" riders."

If they hope to repeat as national champions they must regroup as a team and regain their competitive edge. Coach Thorpe's role as a motivator faces a serious challenge in the coming weeks. At this juncture he is still confident that UCSB can recover in time, but it won't be accomplished easily, nor can any one person be expected to rally the team together. 'What a lot of people fail to recognize is the importance of the team concept and team efforts to the sport of cycling. Right now I'm afraid a lot of our riders are falling victom to that kind of attitude - that this is an individual sport. Either way, if we fail or succeed, it will be a team effort.'

Even though it is the second largest club sport on campus, with over ninety members, the cycling team continues to experience financial difficulties. They rely heavily on sponsorships to help pay for their expensive equipment and cover travel expenses. Although contributions are significantly above last year's levels, due primarily to the efforts of Thorpe, Andy Vort, and former coach Wayne Stelly, much of the money continues to come out of the riders' pockets, and participation is costly. "We're very grateful to A large part of the problem is simply, and surprisingly, a our sponsors for the support they have given us," Thorpe

information on bike trail is Bicycling Santa

Barbara by John Lewis, available at Velo

distances. The difficulty of these paths vary

from those that any good bike could

traverse to those that would best suit

mountain bikes. Amanda Mitchell of Velo-

Pro suggests the Coal Oil Point trip for UCSB students. This path can be easily

taken from the bike lane on campus behind

the sciences buildings, and follows a level 23

mile route through Hope Ranch and loops

And for those fourth-year sophomores out

there who still don't know how to find

Sheadle Hall, the book also includes a guide

to the UCSB bikepath, winding around

Stadium Road and back behind the Physics

building where it meets up with the path

around Goleta Beach through to Modok,

(See BIKE TRAILS, p.4A)

around to Arroyo Burro Beach.

This book details twelve different bike trips with their different elevations and

Pro in Goleta.

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(Continued from p.3A) where it meets up with the path around Goleta Beach through to Modok, where the Coal Oil Point path can be taken up. This path also accesses the Hope Ranch path, which takes you along the coast to Loma Alta and loops back.

Mitchell cyclists a cautious reminder in light of recent events. "Avoid Highway 101 at all costs.'

Other paths in and around Santa Barbara are fitted for hikers, who don't appreciate more

conscious rider. For example, the Painted Cave route is a 15-mile ride that takes you past the rock paintings of Painted Cave. and to elevations from 100 feet to 2500 feet in a few miles

Daryl Abrams, the owner of Velo Pro and an avid also offers cyclist recommends some challenging trails for mountain bikes. There are several trails that the maps don't indicate, he says, and some of them are used by challenge- cyclists who don't know the

road etiquette.

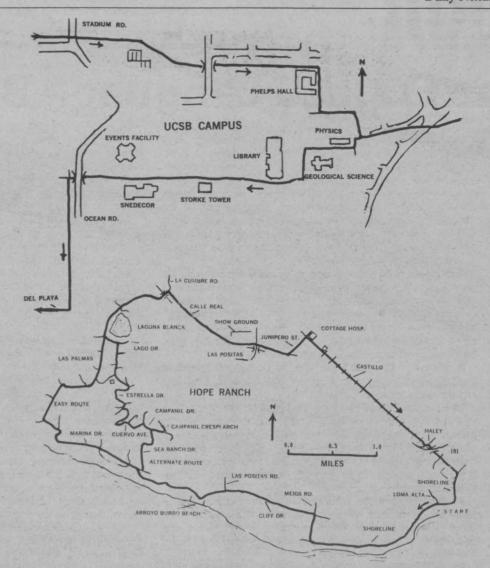
One good trail with many facets is in the Upper Oso in the local hills. The main path leads up to Hidden Patrero, a 1500 foot climb, and continues up to Happy Hollow at Little Pine Mountain. Along the path there's an easier route, the Camusa Connector Loop, that leads into the Red Rock Basin. Trails like these are found in Ray Ford's Santa Barbara County Recreation Map.

"It's easy to get the hang of it," Abrams says of mountain-biking, "A lot of people get in over their heads and then they just don't like it."

He also recommends that beginners should be sure to have a bike with a triplechain rig, and fat tires with 'quite a bit of knobby."

Finally, A few suggestions for biking around Santa Barbara: At the very least, a cyclist should bring with him or her a water bottle. sunglasses and sunscreen (remember that nonexistent ozone layer?), and A HELMET. Sure, those things look damn silly, but silly is better than rigor mortis.

- Garrett Omata



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Brenton Kelly

Early the next morning, just like camp manuals warn you, he had "woken up to a 'grunt-snort." Outside, six feet away, a blond female grizzly had come for breakfast.

"I respectfully 'grunt-snorted' back at her," he says. "And I convinced her that she should move on without my gear." The grizzly backed off and ran away. In the few moments that it took Brenton to grab his camera, the bear had disappeared, which was quite a feat since the lake was on one side of the camp and the highway on the other. Later, he found the tracks of two bear cubs following the grizzly's.

Naturally, Brenton really encourages people to get into bike-touring. "People think you have to be in shape first. But really, anyone can do it." Short two-three day trips are good ways to start out, and he says that California is a great state for riding. "People are used to sharing the road here. Kentucky drivers get too uptight," he says. Some of them, apparently, have a hobby of throwing beer-bottles at cyclists. Brenton says a good prevention tip is to watch out for pick-up trucks with three passengers, one to steer and two to take

And dogs? Why, of course! "The dogs back east are pretty bad. I used to spray them with my water-bottle, but I couldn't afford to waste the water." Now he carries a stick with him. At this time Brenton is planning to take two or three weeks

off this summer for a tour, destination yet unknown. Just listening to him stirs my imagination, so much that it makes 2000 mile bike trip almost plausible, and definitely inviting. I just hope he doesn't tell me about his climb up Mt.

Kilimanjaro.

- Garrett Omata



Good companionship and good reading are vital components of a good bike trip.

(Continued from p.3A) outside contributions."

Another element that

visibility as do some of their cultivates a friendly, jovial reknowned commented on the suject, counterparts around work which takes them far traits or riding habits. Jeff continues to elude the out of sight of most UCSB Kranzler, once known as being printed here. cycling club is the glory and students. Riders, often in "patch-kit" for never recognition usually packs, are only oc-leaving behind repair has only two remaining bestowed upon a national cassionally glimpsed as they equipment on any of his meets left in the regular champion. Due to the nature speed through campus on the rides, has recently been season: once at Santa Cruz, of the sport, they do not bike paths. Other than that renamed "first-aid kit" for and then Davis. The top enjoy the same kind of this year's racing schedule his multiple crashes at the several teams will then will keep the team hidden Stanford races. John Pelster compete at the national from sight until May 6-7 is known as "Captain Pell- championships which will be when the WCCC regional Star," or simply "Cap'n," held at Boulder, Colorado

finals are held here at UCSB. for reasons a little unclear. this year. The cycling team Dave Trier goes by the

atmosphere. A number of its character Rocky the Flying "but we're still far from our campus. The majority of members have been given Squirrel. Censorship laws, projected goals in terms of their training consists of nicknames consistent with as well as good taste, forbid hard, gruelling miles of road either their personality some of the more briquets from

At this writing the WCCC

- Steve Korbin

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