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THE NEWSPAPER OF SILICON VALLEY

Great outdoors not so great among teens, survey finds

September 29, 2006

Posted October 3, 2006

Study: Calif. youths choose computers, TVs over great outdoors
Bay City News Service

By M.S. ENKOJI
Sacramento Bee

The San Diego Union-Tribune.

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STUDY SHOWS CA YOUTHS NOT VENTURING OUTDOORS

October 4, 2006

Program Brings Outdoor Adventures to At-Risk Youth



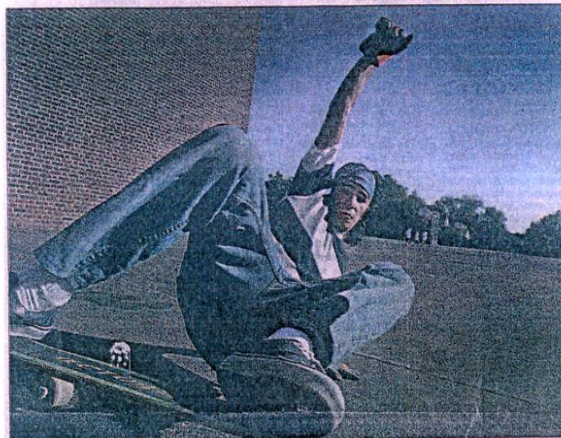
The Sacramento Bee

www.sacbee.com

Final edition

October 3, 2006

Great outdoors not so great among teens, survey finds



Youths turn to TV and computers for summer activities, their parents report.

By M.S. Enkoji
NESTAFF WRITER
A pickup game of basketball or a bike ride to the local swimming pool are fading summer pastimes for California youths, who are increasingly drawn to the computer keyboard and flat-screen entertainment, according to a new survey.
Television, computers and video games were the top factors causing a decline in teenagers' interest in the outdoors, 89 percent of parents reported in a survey of summer youth activity done for the Pacific Forest and Watershed Lands Stewardship Council.
"I was disappointed in what I was reading, but I was not sur-



prised," said Jayne Battey, executive director of the Bay Area nonprofit.
The Stewardship Council distributed \$2.25 million in grants statewide this year toward encouraging outdoor youth activity and is interested in gauging that activity, particularly among underserved populations.

Nearly 60 percent of parents surveyed last month say their teenagers' interest in outdoor activities is declining. Bucking that trend is 17-year-old Bryan Caselli, above and left, of Land Park, who prefers not to spend his leisure time indoors. "I would rather be outside on a skateboard," he said.
Sacramento Times
Bryan Panico

cent from Sacramento County.
Although 70 percent of parents rated the access to outdoor activities as either good or excellent, nearly 60 percent said their children's interest in the outdoors is declining.
Almost 30 percent of the parents said their children never visited any kind of park this past
► RECREATION, Page A4

A GLANCE AT THE SURVEY

In a survey of 605 parents of children 13 to 17 years old, the following percentages reported that their children did not participate in these

Attend day camp or sleepover camp: 68
Go to a public swimming pool: 56
Camp out: 50

Play an outdoor sport (team or individual): 43
Visit a city, county, state or national park: 29
The following percentages

following as their children's favorite outdoor activities:
Swimming: 39
Organized sports: 26
Camping: 19