

Comic book fans in 'Pop Paradise'

Store also offers role-playing books, cards, dolls

Rebecca New
The Student Press

Bright red and gold paint exclaiming "COMICS" splatter across the brick wall of Pop Culture Paradise at 111 N. Forest Ave.

After getting laid off from Bank One, Noah Broessel opened Pop Culture Paradise with a longtime friend and partner.

"It was a childhood dream to open up a comic book store," Broessel said. "[My partner] had the inventory, and I had the money to invest; I bought my partner out half a year ago."

This spacious store carries the popular indie comic Teenagers From Mars and best selling comic Ultimate Spiderman.

Pop Culture Paradise not only carries comics but also has the infamous Dungeon and Dragons Third Edition role-playing books and the White Wolf's Vampire books.

"[My section] of role-playing books is small because I don't have the experience," Broessel said. But he can special order it and [he] gives a 10 percent discount."

However, consistent items that the so-called "geeks" buy keep the store open.

"My best sellers are the new comics that come in on a weekly basis, Marvel's HeroClix, Yu Gi Oh! and Magic Cards," Broessel

said. Not all the customers that come in are typical high school geeks. I mainly get college males from 20-40," Broessel said. "But the game Magic has stretched the stereotype for players because there are 13-year-old males and 40 year old women playing the game."

Then there are the "strange" fans that come in to request the more sinister comics and items.

"Some of them are kind of depressing, but I give good service to everyone," Broessel said. "The 'Living Dead' dolls are good sellers; they come in coffins."

His oddest request he received came from a distraught sister of a Johnny The Homicidal Maniac fan.

"She wanted the cover of some JTHM comic because it caused her sister to commit suicide," Broessel said. "It was kind of sad actually."

There is a subscription plan for readers and collectors alike that allows discounts for frequent buyers. It costs nothing to join, yet it was designed for avid fans to get discounts on their monthly comics. There is a discount for one to nine comics for 15 percent off retail price; 10-29 comics for 20 percent off; 40+ comics are 30 percent off. Then when buying anything else that is not a comic, it is 20 percent off the retail price.

"I'm a collector myself, so I try to give the best prices around," Broessel said. "With me, you get the discount right away, not some coupon [like Samurai Comics]."



HEATHER MCCUNE / THE STUDENT PRESS

Pop Culture Paradise may be a small store, but every space is used to keep as many items in stock as possible.

DPS: Preparing for the

Arizona State University police force aims to prevent major and minor crimes on campus

Matt Sotelo
and Reed Scharff
The Student Press

The Arizona State University Department of Public Safety is doing everything in its power to prepare the ASU campus for a major disaster while attempting to prevent smaller destructive occurrences.

The ASU DPS has emergency plans in place to handle everything from an earthquake or flood to an assault or civil disturbance. There is protocol for every possible situation that could occur, explained DPS Sgt. Al Phillips.

One possibility is a bomb threat or a detonation of a bomb on the campus.

"We had a situation a year ago, where we would get five or six bomb threats at the same time," Phillips said, "Fortunately, we were never finding any devices." Officer Phillips explained how well prepared DPS would be if there were real bombs.

"I feel very safe at ASU. Everyone is in yelling distance if you need it."

Phillips said that the Memorial Union, the administration building, and the bookstore have been the targets of previous threats.

DPS handles several less drastic, domestic emergencies on campus every day.

DPS said that although burglary has declined significantly over the last three years, sex crimes are on the rise.

ASU police have reported 355 burglaries in 1999 compared to 127 in 2001. However, sex crimes have increased from two offenses in 1999, 13 in 2001. Although sex crimes are indeed on the rise, Phillips emphasized how low the number really is. He attributes the low number to the small number of students who actually live on campus. Most students live in the surrounding valley cities of Tempe, Phoenix, Mesa, and Scottsdale.

"We have (sexual) assaults, but they do not make up the majority of our crimes," Phillips said, "The crime at ASU that occurs most frequently is theft."

The amount of students who drink has significantly decreased across campus over the last few years.

Liquor related arrests are down dramatically from 404 in 2000 to 134 in 2001. However, drug abuse is on the rise from 73 arrests in 1999 to 139 in 2001.

"The drug of choice on campus is still alcohol, followed by marijuana," said Phillips.

Students at ASU have contradicting opinions about on campus safety.

"I feel very safe at ASU," said junior Kayla Cartwright. "Everyone is in yelling distance if you need it."

Others don't feel so comfortable.

"At night sometimes it's scary walking around here," said senior Jillian Jamruszka. "I barely ever see security at night."

Students interviewed feel less safe in some corners of the campus than in others. Areas in which students feel most uncomfortable are Parking Lot 59, the area of the Student Services building, and the area around the Law Building.

ASU is prepared for not only the things that happen on a daily basis, but also the things that could happen only once in a lifetime.

Unbeknownst to most in the ASU community, the campus' proximity to the Salt River makes it vulnerable to the unlikely occurrence of a catastrophic flood. According to the ASU DPS Web site, a dam break or an extreme water release by the Salt River Project could send a destructive wall of water racing towards ASU. ASU students and faculty would have between 6.5 and 8.5 hours before being overwhelmed by water potentially 37 feet deep.

"ASU is the fourth-largest campus police force in the nation, and it shows."

Perhaps an even unlikelier disaster to strike the ASU campus would be an earthquake. According to DPS, ASU's location on the edge of the San Andreas fault makes a major earthquake very unlikely, but still within the realm of possibility. DPS considers the danger great enough to advise students to always keep extra supplies available in case of an emergency.

"ASU is the fourth-largest campus police force in the nation, and it shows," Phillips said. "We have a lot of support from the community and we are prepared for anything that could happen."

HEATHER MCCUNE / THE STUDENT PRESS

The emergency call boxes allow students to access emergency services from many locations around campus.



ASU's kiosks offer variety of ads for, well, you name it

Cement structures offer lodging, lessons, *State Press*

Sharon Heigh
The Student Press

Tall circular cement structures completely covered in a myriad of colorful advertisements grace the pathways of ASU's campus. These vivid monstrosities are most commonly known by students as kiosks.

The main reason the kiosks keep running is because of two different patrons, the posters and readers.

Playing an important role in campus publicity, kiosks advertise everything from wanted roommates to flying lessons.

"I occasionally post information about the homes I own," Carlos Rodriguez said. "They are four bedroom places close to ASU, and I usually get a good response back."

There are specific rules and regulations enforced by ASU

grounds-keeping about what can be put up on the kiosks. According to the Student Organization Research Center, all ads on the kiosks must be factual, bear the names of the sponsoring organizations posting and avoid the promotion of excessive alcohol usage.

"I've never had a problem with the rules," Sergio Ruiz said. I post my fliers and sometimes I get lucky."

The opportunities posted on these gargantuan statues are endless. The key to successful kiosk usage is in finding something applicable to your interests.

"I'm not really interested in people selling bikes," said Chris Luce, owner of Hoodlums CD store. "But when people post stuff about music and concerts, I take advantage of the kiosks then"

The reason most students stop by the kiosks is to pick up the latest issue of ASU's newspaper, *The State Press*. They can be easily found in the side pockets of the structures daily and are free to all who wish to read them.



HEATHER MCCUNE / THE STUDENT PRESS
Kiosks are places where ASU students can find almost anything.

"I usually just pick up a *State Press*, and I'm on my way," said Mellissa Bernard, a Journalism major.

The cluttered yet vibrant kiosks on campus attract student's eyes with lively sayings that appeal to the culture of student life at ASU. Such messages like "cheap rent" and "higher test scores" are just a few of the bold headings captured on the kiosks. With a keen eye and a little luck, you might find something worthwhile.

Residence hall life part of 'well-rounded experience'

ASU's 14 dorms offer little space, lots of freedom

Ashley Morris
The Student Press

The ASU on-campus housing organization is dedicated to establishing a safe living and learning environment that promotes academic achievement and personal development, according to the ASU Residential Life Web site.

"Living in a dorm is part of a well-rounded experience. The relationships established there can last a lifetime," said educational service manager of *The Arizona Republic*, Carol Carney. Carney was a former Palo Verde Main resident.

There are 14 different residential halls located on ASU's main campus and offer an abundance of educational and social programs. Dorm room communities include Best, Hayden, Irish, Ocotillo, Sahuaro, Cholla,

Manzanita, McClintock, Palo Verde East, Palo Verde Main, Palo Verde West, San Pablo and Sonora halls.

"[It's a] tiny, 10 x 10 white, shared, bathroom-less room of opportunity to meet new people and experience new things," said Sharon Heigh, a member of the Walter Cronkite Summer Journalism School about her dorm room.

"The [community] bathroom situation can be a downer," Carney said.

With the dorm room experience comes freedom.

"Freedom is a great thing, but realizing you need to get into a schedule is important," Carney said.

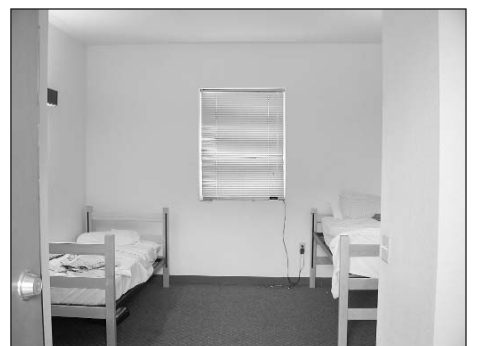
Many students who live in the dorms are living without parental supervi-

sion for the first time.

"There were rules but it was easy to do what you wanted," said Jessica Wilbourne, a biology major at ASU who lived in the dorms her freshman year.

Wilbourne left dorm life because "living in close quarters, it was easy to fight with my roommate. I basically left because of her."

Despite the tiny living space, "The good outweighs the bad. You're only young once. Take advantage of dorm life," Carney said.



HEATHER MCCUNE / THE STUDENT PRESS

The transition from a private room to sharing a small room with a stranger can be stressful to many students.