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Community patrol faces voters

By PETE SHEPHERD
Of the Emerald

Eugene voters will vote today on a city budget which includes funds for a unique, and, according to Eugene Police Chief Pierce Brooks, much needed new police service. The Community Officer Patrol program (COP) is described by Brooks as "the next best thing to a cop on the beat."

Although he established a similar program during his tenure as police chief in Lakewood, Colo., Brooks said no other city has a program quite like COP.

Five officers supervised by a sergeant would be permanently assigned to equally populated areas of Eugene. "It would be ideal if the officer lived in the assigned area," Brooks noted, but that will not be a requirement.

Once assigned, the officer would seek out groups such as

parent-teacher associations, clubs, and neighborhood groups, to identify him or herself as the community officer for that area.

Although the participants would be drawn from experienced officers now employed by the police department and would be available for emergencies, they would not be involved in routine police work. Instead, the officers would "develop a sense of where problems are before they erupt," Brooks said. "We would like to be pro-active rather than reactive."

"If the officer is inquisitive and people learn to trust him or her," Brooks explained, "they may come to the officer before their problems become a tragedy." Brooks said problems such as unstable family situations and neighborhood feuds would be among the things the officer would be expected to become aware of.

The officers would be prohibited from saying that a matter "isn't a police problem and we can't do anything about it." Instead, COP officers would operate as a referral point to other agencies. In one example, Brooks described an elderly woman who complained to police about the odd sound of trains as they passed over a particular stretch of rail near her house. Brooks said the appropriate police response is to contact the railroad, see that whatever necessary is done to solve the problem, and then check back with the citizen. This function of the COP officers was seen by Brooks as critical to gaining the trust and support of their areas.

Each of the officers would also be an expert in crime prevention. Householders or businesses in the officer's area could ask that the officer make inspections and

suggestions on how to make their property more secure.

The COP officer would also be in charge of special programs, such as providing speakers from the police department, for activities in each area. "Right now I'm the only one going out to speak," said Brooks, "and I think the people should hear from officers as well."

The initial cost of the program will be between \$125,000 and \$150,000, with the bulk going to salaries. Brooks said the cost of unmarked police cars and other one-time purchases would make COP's first year more expensive than those to follow.

Brooks views the six officers as a nucleus which could quickly increase in size. "The program will prove itself to the community and within a couple of months after it starts up the COP officers will be requesting more help."

Summer wilderness experiences unlimited

By TIMOTHY LEONARD
Of the Emerald
Leaving the asphalt pavements, books and buildings be-

hind, students just beginning to know each other hoist their packs and start on the path. Deeper into the forest they walk in silence,

their bodies relaxing with the change of climate.

Whatever your tastes, the Outdoor Program offers a wide range of wilderness-oriented experiences for the student this summer. Located in the basement of the EMU (near the loading dock), the program depends on spontaneity rather than the structure of a calendar approach, according to Bruce Mason, co-director of the center.

"We hope the interested student will come by to see what is available rather than expect us to be a guide agency," he emphasized. People deciding to stop by the office will discover information pertaining to a wide assortment of activities. Maps of wilderness areas, catalogs of people, places and things, a reference library for subject matter along with future ideas exist.

The question of expenses may have crossed the mind and the answer mirrors the general philosophy of the program. All costs are shared in a cooperative spirit with each person sharing their own responsibility.

There is no particular charge for specific activities. Equipment rentals are handled by the outdoor resource store next door. The Outdoor Program acts as an adviser dealing with certain matters of materials needed for events.

Individuals are grouped according to certain criteria, namely the skill level and experience of the participant. The programs range from introductory through advanced, with the individual deciding where to begin.

Through the month of July, there are a skeleton of trip possibilities with the rest of the summer outings dependent on individual initiatives. For example, the major areas of involvement include backpacking, climbing, water-related excursions, bicycling and conferences.

And it doesn't end there. Response is generated through the continued mutual support of created efforts. For the person who has always wanted to test his or her abilities in a river perhaps the idea of canoeing in the Yukon Territory of Canada will strike a note.

The journey is masterminded by Christopher Tapfer of the Outdoor Program at Washington State University. Experienced wilderness people can contact him in room B-25 CUB, Pullman, Wash. 99163. The proposed trip is from August 1 through Sept. 8, with applications from eight people being accepted until July 1.

According to Mason, there will be more than 100 trips of various sorts conducted this summer. After the 11-week session, major one to three week backpacking trips will be initiated with students showing interests in meeting needs for increased wilderness awareness.

Prior to fall term there will be student orientation trips with four or five offered each week. The idea will be to introduce people to the wilderness resource center, the Outdoor Program, and meeting other students and faculty staff members.

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