

Tel-Info connection simplifies student life

By BILLIE KAY KREWES
Of the Emerald

A new service called Tel-Info that relays taped information via the telephone is in business, ready to tell students what they need to know.

Tel-Info has been used on other campuses across the country, but the University is the only Oregon school to offer it so far, according to Coordinator of Special Projects Hilda Young, who heads the joint effort of the Dean of Students' office and the EMU.

Students can get the information they need by dialing 686-INFO and asking for a tape by its corresponding number. The tape will then be played for them by a volunteer staff member.

Lists of tapes, their subjects and their numbers are posted in the information area of the EMU in the first floor lobby. That information can also be obtained by calling the INFO line and asking for tape 100, the index tape.

The idea for Tel-Info started with University Pres. William Boyd three years ago when he arrived on campus, says Young, but never got off the ground because of funding trouble.

"After checking it out, we found out it didn't cost that much. We've had lots of volunteer help from students and faculty," she says.

The telephone service started March 26 and answered nearly 4,700 calls during spring term. A



Graphic courtesy of Tel-Info

survey showed that 71 percent of the students questioned rated the service very helpful and 29 percent rated it helpful.

"It's a good service for those who are limited physically," says Young. Although it is designed primarily for students, she says the service is open to

anyone in the community who needs information about the University.

The service welcomes suggestions from students and has added 27 topics since it began. One subject added because of student feedback is a tape called "How to Prevent Sexual Assault." The Lane Inter-agency Rape Team helped the staff prepare the tape.

"The information on the tapes keeps changing because we want to be current and useful to the students," says Young.

The most popular tapes concern financial aid, career planning and placement, how to write a resume and joining a fraternity or sorority.

"We'd like to do some tapes on academic advising. What kind of career opportunities, what kind of classes to start with — just combined information about your major," Young says.

"We always give them a reference for more information and we always give the number twice. We usually give them the hours to call," she adds.

Young stresses that the service was possible because many people were willing to give their free time.

"It's been a cooperative venture. If it hadn't been for that it would never have gotten off the ground. We're open to information and comments and what students want," Young says.

Students wishing to make comments or suggestions should call 686-3216.

Community cops boost local crime prevention

The Eugene Police Department introduced its "innovative new crime-prevention program," Community Officer Patrol (COP), last week, and Chief Pierce Brooks is excited about it.

"It's something I've been waiting for — for a couple of years," Brooks said. "In Lakewood (Colo., where Brooks was formerly chief), we had a very successful program similar to this."

The COP team consists of three police officers, a supervising sergeant, a crime prevention specialist and a burglary prevention aide.

The team will be working with neighborhood associations and other community groups or individuals to establish and support self-help crime prevention programs in the community.

Brooks would have liked to have three more officers on the detail but settled for a smaller program due to budgetary constraints. He is using federal funds to pay most of the salaries for the COP team.

Boosting public awareness of crime prevention techniques and thereby reducing opportunities for thieves and burglars is the primary task of the team, according to Brooks.

The team is still in the data collection stage and has not quite settled down in its new office space, but within two weeks it plans to conduct seminars on home and business security for neighborhood and business groups.

Charlotte Lemon, Chairperson of the West University Neighborhood (WUN) Crime Prevention Committee, feels optimistic about the success of the team. A longtime neighborhood activist, her area has been the site of numerous reported thefts, rapes and burglaries.

It was at the prodding of people like Lemon that the Eugene Police thought of instituting the present program.

"We are striving for crime prevention; we want to do it

through education, workshops, publicity and a neighborhood watch program," Lemon says.

What is a neighborhood watch?

"If you see a suspicious-looking character in your neighborhood, report him to the officer assigned to your area," she says.

"If I see a truck move in and start moving the furniture from my neighbor's house and I know that my neighbor is not moving out, I certainly know what to do about it; I will report the incident to police."

Contrary to popular belief, the COP team will not be walking their beat; instead they will be sending lots of public-service announcements to radio and television stations, according to

Officer Otis "Skip" Stokes — a team member.

Stokes, 32, joined the Eugene police last year after ten years as a police officer in Colorado

and Texas. His district includes West University Neighbors, Amazon Neighbors and South University Neighborhood Association.

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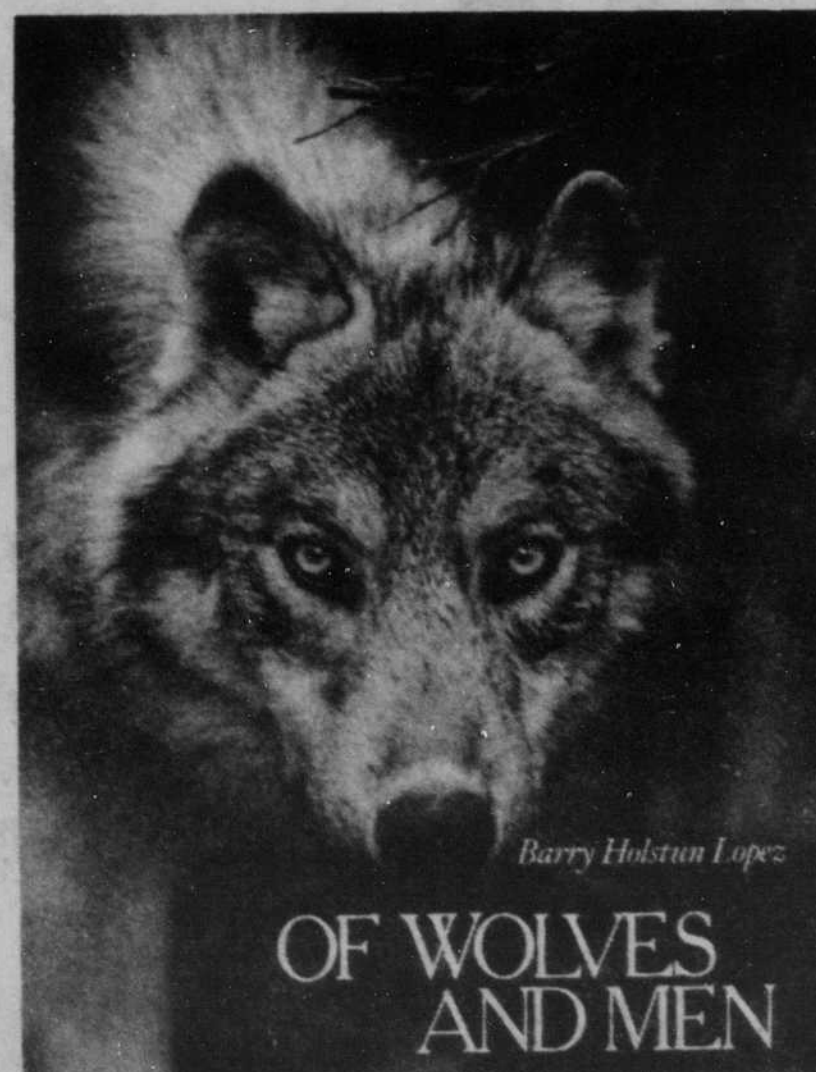
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