

COP team lowers number of burglaries, sex crimes

A Eugene police officer talks candidly about crime and prevention. Burglaries, bike thefts and rape are common crimes around the University area, and students often let themselves become easy victims.

By STEVE KNIGHT
Of the Emerald

Living around the University can seem deceptively safe.

On the surface, it might appear that students lead a life *sans souci*. One thinks of the parties, hacky sack sessions between classes and Socratic debates on herbicide-free grass.

But within this tranquil setting lurks an inevitable plethora of criminals.

Eugene police officer Skip Stokes says burglary and bike theft are so prevalent on and around the campus that a special police unit — the Community Officer Patrol — was formed two years ago to combat the problem.

But the COP unit isn't a SWAT team waiting for the bad guys and then swooping down, TV style. Stokes says crime prevention is COP's major function.

'There's a misconception that burglaries happen only to the rich guy, but the opposite is true.'

"We try to prevent crime by educating students on the many ways to avoid being crime victims," he says.

Stokes explains that he and three other "COPs," who are all permanently assigned to the University beat, try to contain crime by periodically inspecting dorm and home security systems and by giving crime prevention lectures on campus. The COP unit also provides an engraver for students who want to mark personal belongings.

Stokes blames the high frequency of burglaries in this area on the "high-density, mobile population" living in the University neighborhood.

"When you have a flood of pedestrian traffic in an area where people don't know their neighbors, you're going to find a high crime rate."

But Stokes says many burglaries are committed by "someone living very close and knows the victim." Still, others are victimized because they believe only the well-to-do are burglarized, he says.

"There's a misconception that burglaries happen only to the rich guy, but the opposite is true. It's the lower and middle socio-economic

class that get robbed, and usually because they're unable to pay to secure their homes," he says.

Stokes says students can avoid being burglary victims by shopping around for secure apartments with deadbolt locks and an outside area with plenty of visibility and lighting.

People also should educate themselves to the specific crimes being committed in their neighborhoods and use "common sense preventive measures" to keep from being victimized, he says.

Along with burglaries and bike thefts, rape is another crime that occurs frequently in the University area, Stokes says. He terms a large percentage of sex offenses near campus as "acquaintance" or "blind date" rapes where the victim knows the rapist.

"Usually the rapist is someone a victim has met in a bar," he says.

Stokes says women students can avoid being potential rape victims by traveling in groups and going out to very public places.

Most of the other rapes in this area happen in the victim's home — and usually in an unsecure home — and not out on the bike paths and dark alleys where most people assume rapes occur, he says.

How has the COP team's preventive crime program affected these serious offenses?

"Incredibly well," Stokes says. While serious

A large percentage of sex offenses near campus are 'acquaintance' or 'blind date' rapes where the victim knows the rapist.

crimes have risen or remained steady in other parts of the city, the University area has seen a sharp reduction: a 35 percent decrease in residential burglaries and a 74 percent decrease in sex offenses.

Aside from "preventive" crime fighting, Stokes says COP members also act as witnesses at mock law school trials, provide crime information to students and investigate parking complaints and loud parties.

The COP phone number is 687-2677.



the Blade
CLOTHES FOR MEN

Welcome back students & staff

Get ready for fall with our V-Neck & Crew Neck sweaters in lightweight wool blends or easy care acrylic. Available in solid colors & soft patterns.

Bring this ad in and receive \$7.50 OFF the regular price of any sweater in our stock.

the Blade
CLOTHES FOR MEN

263 Valley River Center

343-0227

Nikon



349⁰⁰

**Nikon FE Automatic
35mm camera
with 1.8 Nikkor**

with 1.4 Nikkor 399.00
with 1.8 series E 326.00

VIVITAR



80mm



200mm

Vivitar 80-200mm F4.5
Zoom for Canon,
Nikon, Minolta,
Olympus, Pentax, and
other 35mm SLR
cameras.

limited to
stock on hand

149⁰⁰

KODAK

Kodak
MAILER PK20
for color
slides

PREPAID PROCESSING
20-exposure KODACHROME
KODAK EKTACHROME film
SIZES 110, 126, 135
for processing by
CAT 155 1365

limit 10 per customer

PK 20 **\$2¹⁹**
MAILER
PK 36 mailer \$3.59
PK 59 movie mailer \$2.37

ad expires 9-26-81.

gerlach's
camera centers

CAMPUS STORE
849 E. 13th

Halfway between duffy's
and the Bookstore

SPRINGFIELD STORE
651 W. Centennial