

Campus security comes to rescue of students

By Diana Elliot
Of the Emerald

It seemed like a routine call to the public safety office, but when Don Brooks answered a call for campus security he got more than he bargained for.

"One afternoon I got a call to help a woman in an art studio," says Brooks, who is associate director of public safety. "I figured it would be just a routine first aid call until I found out that the woman was a nude model and had passed out."

This is just one example of an event that happened several years ago that illustrates the type of unusual calls public safety officers must cope with occasionally.

Manned by 12 employees, the public safety department, or campus security as it's informally known, handles duties ranging from locking up each door on campus to transporting ill students to the Health Center or hospital. The department also manages the Crisis Center calls when the counselors are out and assists students with car problems.

But the most well-known task of the department, other than issuing parking tickets, is responding to calls.

"Our job is to carry baseball bats and to be as mean as possible," quips Oakly Glenn, director of public safety.

Answering calls and investigating complaints is the job of Campus Security, just one segment of the campus public safety system.

"The most common call we get is reports of minor theft," says Glenn. But the type of calls varies depending on the time of year and what's going on around campus, he says.

At the beginning of fall term, calls from uneasy freshmen away from home for the first time are the most prevalent. During finals week, pranks such as pulling fire alarms are common when anxiety plagues many students.

Campus Security officers not only investigate all phone complaints, but also check out every call that comes on from the 52 intercoms. They must investigate each call whether it is a serious complaint or an obvious joke.

"We never take a chance," says Glenn. "We always assume that someone could be in danger."

Students generally make good use of the intercoms, he says. Those located near the dorms and by the track at Hayward Field are used most often.

Because occasionally serious incidents do occur, Cam-

pus Security often teams up with the Eugene police department. In fact, the Eugene police work out of the same office on 15th Street and share the same radio.

"We coordinate our efforts," says Glenn. "Security has to be there for any on-campus disturbance, but if a problem is expected to be serious and an arrest might be involved, then the police have to be there too."

While Campus Security is basically confined to the boundaries of campus, the Eugene police, working out of the Public Safety office, patrol a wider area stretching from Franklin Boulevard to 19th Avenue and between Hilyard and Agate streets.

The Eugene Fire Department also is closely connected with the public safety department. The fire marshal is alerted to handle any situation when a fire alarm goes off.

With fire alarms, the problem of pranks is more serious than with intercoms. When an alarm is pulled, a security of-

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— Oakly Glenn

ficer will investigate only if he is in the near vicinity. If no one is close enough to check it out immediately, then the fire department is alerted.

"It's easier and safer to call the fire department before verifying if the alarm is valid," says Glenn. "Because the fire department is located just off campus on Agate Street, it isn't that costly to send the fire trucks back in the case of a false alarm."

Alarms don't always signal fires to the public safety department. They're hooked up all over campus to vaults, cashiers' cages, lab experiments, and even vending machines. All must be reset and checked frequently.

Aside from being the watchdog on campus, public safety officers also assist students with car problems and transport ill students to the Health Center or hospital.

"All of the employees are trained above basic first aid. All are certified Emergency Medical Technicians," says Glenn. "This is particularly important considering that we

get more calls for first aid than anything else except minor theft."

Although locking doors and resetting alarms may sound a little mundane, Don Brooks, associate director of public safety, says enough unusual situations occur to make the job interesting.

"Because this is a college town, there's a lot of harmless pranks that make this job interesting," says Brooks. "In the dorms, we often have to rescue students who have been penned in their rooms."

Glenn recalls situations that are hard to forget, like the time he got a call from some dorm residents who complained about a male student who had been locked in a toilet stall for hours. When he investigated the scene, he found the student dead.

"Around here, the unusual becomes usual after awhile," says Brooks.

Although the job of public safety does have some interesting moments, visible rewards are scarce.

Do public safety officers get discouraged considering many University students see them as merely ticket givers? Not Glenn.

"It's not our job to beat a bass drum and make ourselves noticed. We're here to help students get an education in a safe and secure atmosphere."

ASUO fills two posts

The ASUO has hired William Kittredge to be the new director of the office of Student Advocacy, Mary Hotchkiss, ASUO president recently announced.

Kittredge will advise and defend students who have grievances against the University or State Board of Higher Education.

Hotchkiss also announced the appointment of Tess Brasser, a University law student as coordinator of the new minority affairs task force.

The minority affairs task force will analyze existing resources available to minority students and recommend improvements in services, affirmative action enforcement, cultural events, recruitment and other matters, Hotchkiss said.

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