

Wet, wild
fun in the
waves.

See Sidelines



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Students face increased stress

Inability to cope led to Feher's action

By Michael Doko

Of the Emerald

Monday's sniper attack at Autzen Stadium by Michael Evan Feher, which ended in his suicide, the death of a former University track star and the wounding of a University wrestler, has left the community asking why the incident happened.

"The campus reaction is dismay and guilt," said Shirley Wilson, acting dean of students at the University.

"Everybody feels guilty because they missed clues," Wilson said.

Jim Stewart, president of the Delta Tau Delta house where Feher was a member, said fraternity members knew Feher was having problems when he tried to kill himself in July by slashing his wrist at Autzen Stadium.

"But we thought everything was all right after he had counseling over the summer," Stewart said. "We just swept signs of anymore trouble under the carpet. We convinced ourselves that nothing more would happen."

Feher shot and killed Chris Brathwaite, 35, during the siege and wounded wrestler Rick O'Shea, 22.

An autopsy shows Brathwaite died from a single gunshot wound that entered his side and lodged in his heart, said Sgt. Eric Mellgren of the Eugene Police Department. O'Shea, a senior from Harrisburg, was shot in the shoulder and buttocks at the onset of the incident, about 8:30 a.m. He remained in Sacred Heart General Hospital in good

condition Tuesday.

Feher's body was found by police tactical squad members just after noon in the south-side bleachers near the top of the stadium. He had sustained a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

Stewart said Feher had normal problems — "problems with studies, problems with women, problems that you and I could deal with."

"Michael was obviously a disturbed person trying to cope," Wilson said. "He wasn't admitting that things were as bad as they were for him. He gave the appearance of being fine — being one of the boys — but inside he wasn't coping."

And all of this unvented pressure probably led to Feher's actions Monday, she said.

Feher's personal problems are not rare to students, Wilson said. The stress students feel is the same as the stress many feel.

"Students' problems are the same as others'. There are problems with finances, with families and with social relations. Social relations are a key factor on how people decide who they are and if they care about others," Wilson said.

"And students have the added problem of succeeding academically," she said.

College students often feel they do not live up to the potential they had while in high school, she said. Students find college very competitive and often are alienated and overwhelmed by the size of the University.



Shirley Wilson

Feher's suicide "points out that when we get depressed, we absolutely lose our perspective," Wilson said. "We need to have a perspective."

People seriously depressed generally show a change in behavior, she said.

People draw away from friendships, don't go to classes, become involved with drugs, drink too much alcohol, and sleep too much, she said.

"They begin to avoid their responsibilities, and these patterns cause natural consequences," Wilson said.

The University offers many programs to help with the problems of stress, including the Counseling Center, the Crisis Center and their 24-hour crisis intervention hotline (686-4488), as well as the DeBusk Center and the Academic Advising and Student Services Center, Wilson said.

Friends are another excellent resource to help the depressed retain their perspective, she said. If the individual refuses treatment, it would be wise for a friend to visit a counselor and get tips on how to best help, she said.

"But I have no idea if anything would have worked with Michael; he was too covered up," Wilson admitted.

"We always take someone seriously if they call themselves suicidal, and that should go for students, too," Wilson said. "Take them seriously, stay up all night with them if you have to, talk to them. And the next day help them get on the road to perspective about their problem."

"We have a lot of people still here because of this kind of support."

Local police, women's service urge victims to report attacks

By Diana Elliott

Of the Emerald

In the wake of at least one rape on campus and rumors of several others, Eugene Police and the Women's Referral and Resource Service are urging people to report any trouble they see.

"We're encouraging women who have been harassed, sexually abused or raped to report it to us," says Sgt. Chuck Tilby of the Eugene Police Department.

"They don't have to give names if they don't want to, and they certainly won't have to testify," Tilby says. "We just need the information for a data base."

"There's a very small percentage of rapes being reported so the information we have to go on is inadequate, and that makes it very difficult to determine a pattern."

Police urge people who know of friends and acquaintances who have been attacked to report information too.

"If a third party calls with information, we'll except it as fact," says Tilby. "Certainly first person information is more complete, but we want anyone with 'info' to call."

"Our goal is to minimize the negative impact of the ordeal for the women," Tilby says. "The real purpose is to convict the guilty, not to make any kind of a value judgment

about the woman."

Although the police have been criticized in the past for being insensitive to the victim, Tilby says that is changing now.

"A lot of inroads are being made in law enforcement," says Tilby. "We try to minimize the trauma of the event as much as possible."

Not only do reported rapes provide police with clues to find a rapist, but they also give insight to the degree of the problem.

"We want to be able to relay to the community the accurate picture of what's going on," Tilby says.

Tilby is concerned because he has heard of as many as six unreported rapes that may have occurred on campus within the last several weeks.

Meanwhile, Laura Romano, of WRRS, says she has heard of at least 15 that have gone unreported this term.

"I don't think the rumors of several unreported rapes can be written off as third person hearsay," Chris Gonzalez, also with WRRS. "It doesn't matter that we don't have names. There's more going on out there than we're hearing about."

To report any information, call the service at 686-3327, Campus Security at 686-5444, the Eugene Police Department emergency line, 687-5111, or Rape Crisis Network's 24-hour line, 485-6700.

Oxfam leads fast for food

By Lori Stephens

Of the Emerald

This Thursday, people throughout the United States will be asked to give up one or all of their meals as part of Oxfam America's "Fast For A World Harvest." The money that would have gone for food that day will instead be donated to Oxfam to support the ongoing self-help development projects in impoverished countries.

This is the 11th annual Oxfam fast. Participants are encouraged to eat lightly, fast completely or eliminate a certain type of food such as meat or "junk food." Organizers of the fast hope to give Americans an opportunity to empathize with those who face constant hunger.

Throughout the country, students, community members, churches, and campus and city organizations are expected to take part in the fast. In many cities, a "break-fast" will be offered so fasters may gather and eat a simple dinner. Funds raised by the dinners will be donated directly to Oxfam America.

In Eugene, the Council For Human Rights in Latin America and other local groups are sponsoring a dinner on Thursday from 5-7 p.m. at the CHRLA headquarters, 1236 Kincaid St.

Becky Smith, a CHRLA organizer, says one purpose of the fast and the dinner is to promote social awareness. "Fasting for a day puts you in touch with the fact that we're making a personal commitment to people who go hungry."

Oxfam was founded in England in 1942 as the Oxford Committee on Famine Relief. In 1970, Oxfam America was established in Boston and is now one of the six autonomous Oxfam centers

around the world.

As a non-profit organization, it is funded entirely by contributions from individuals and accepts no government aid.

Donations are used to fund large-scale projects primarily in Africa, Latin America and Asia. Local people are provided with tools, seeds, training for long-term development and emergency relief in times of disaster.

Last year, more than 2,400 groups participated in the fast, raising \$475,000. This year, Oxfam workers hope to focus attention on the famine in Ethiopia and on the 12 drought-stricken countries in Africa.

Jack Kapuscinski, also a coordinator for CHRLA, says the proceeds raised by the benefit supper will be targeted to people in Ethiopia and El Salvador.

Bread For The World, Citizen Action for Lasting Security, and Clergy and Laity Concerned are also involved in the fast.

Suzanne Bader, current president of the International Studies Association, has participated in Oxfam projects for the last two years. She helped coordinate a Mount McKinley climbing expedition to raise money, introduced Oxfam to the business community in San Francisco, and is starting an African relief campaign on campus this year.

"The people in these countries are not helpless," she says. "Some organizations promote the stereotype that they are weak and helpless and will die if we don't go in and give them food. Oxfam

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