

Crime: a year-round problem

By Julie Freeman
Of the Emerald

It's summertime and the living is easy. The days are long and the nights are warm, and people are sometimes just a little less careful than usual.

Those who normally lock up their windows and doors at night might sleep with them open. Drivers who obey speed limit and traffic laws for the most part sometimes drive a little faster and occasionally run a stop sign or two. And neighbors who usually report strangers seen around houses that have been vacated or rented out for the summer might just shrug them off to the unpredictability of summertime visitors.

These things happen often in the summer, which leads to problems, especially at the University where safety is a year-round concern for students and those living in the immediate area, says Sgt. Chuck Tilby, a Eugene police officer.

"Summer can lull one into a sense of false security," Tilby adds. "You don't have the cohesive community on campus that you do during the school year. Problems may go unnoticed and people just don't report as many suspicious characters."

While all this would lead one to think that crime goes up in the summer, Tilby says that the victim population in Eugene actually drops. He is quick to point out, however, that the lower crime rate relates directly to the smaller summer population on campus.

Still, while there are relatively few "new" safety problems at the University during the summer months, people should not forget the ones that plague the campus year-round such as rape, burglary and theft.

Last year additional lighting was added to certain campus areas that posed safety risks and several night escort services were established for students walking home late at night.

"The lighting on campus is a lot better than it has ever been," says Sgt. Marjorie Bigelow, who supervises the 4 p.m. to midnight shift at campus security.

Although there are no student escort services operating on campus during the summer, Bigelow says she usually sees more people walking on campus in groups and encourages this as a safety measure for those out late at night. But campus security will provide escort services after dark for those who still need them, Bigelow says.

Bicycle theft is another problem that actually decreases during the summer. But Bigelow says



Marjorie Bigelow

students still should take the time to register and lock up their bikes because even though theft decreases in the summer — it does not disappear.

Residential burglary and theft typically occur during the day, says Tilby, who works closely with campus security most of the year.

He says that people must remember to close up screens on windows and doors during the hot summer months and let neighbors know when they will be away on vacation.

Bigelow believes that the compacted, fast-paced courses offered in the summer tend to attract a more-serious student to the University, which cuts down on overall problems. But she sees the numerous camps, which attract younger students to campus, as a potential source of trouble.

The main problem campus security has faced with those attending camps so far is the misuse of the campus security phones, Bigelow says.

There are about 16 of these emergency phones on campus. Each of the phones are hooked up directly to the campus security office behind Straub Hall. Bigelow says a great deal of time is wasted when officers have to respond to false calls.

Non-science areas lack funding

By Scott McFetridge
Of the Emerald

The University is concerned about increasing funding in all departments, not only the sciences, but state legislators are more willing to appropriate money to areas they believe will improve the state's economy, a University administrator said Friday.

"The Legislature believes money spent in this way will help economic development in the state," said John Moseley, head of the physics department and soon-to-be vice president for research.

The Legislature allocated \$12 million in State Lottery funds to partially fund two new science buildings, and the University still is working to attain \$31 million in federal grants to upgrade current science facilities and construct two more science buildings. The Legislature also allocated \$2.4 million to the University to create centers of excellence in the areas of biotechnology, materials science, optical science, computer science and high-energy physics.

But several non-science related areas did not receive funds. Although a new architecture building has been one of the top state building priorities for several years, no funds were appropriated for construction. And a request for a \$6 million library automation system that would link together the state's eight public colleges and

universities also was refused by the Legislature.

"We've got to convince the state Legislature that it's just as important to the state to get funding for the humanities," Moseley said. "I want us to be thought of as a major university — not technical, not engineering, but a university."

Although Thelma Greenfield, English department head, said she understands the Legislature's desire to increase funding for the sciences, she believes greater funding for her department is necessary to meet an increased demand by students. The English department can fill any current positions that are vacated, but no new positions can be added, she said. There has been no expansion in the department since the early 1970s, she said.

"We just happen to live in a time where there is a perceived need for a buildup of the state economy," Greenfield said. "To do this they feel a need for more science courses."

Grant McKernie, speech department head, said the funding priorities of the Legislature are not surprising. The sciences typically have been better funded than the humanities, he said.

McKernie admitted that it is frustrating to see such large amounts of money being spent on the new science buildings when his department is in desperate need of increased funds, but he said a direct comparison between the two situa-

tions cannot be made.

"I know the federal government isn't making money available in the humanities, but they are in the sciences," McKernie said. "I wouldn't want the University to say, 'No, we won't take advantage of that.'"

The humanities must fight a hidden prejudice that is ingrained in society, McKernie said. Although sciences are perceived to be crucial to economic development, the humanities are thought to have little practical value, he said.

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