

Saferide's all-female drivers ensure safety of passengers

There are several points I would like to address regarding Project Saferide.

The issue of only women drivers and riders is a matter of safety, not politics or social prejudice. It is impossible to screen a man's potential for past or future harm toward women. No, not all men are rapists, but a person must be a man to rape a woman.

It is Saferide's obligation to protect women on this campus from any physical attack from a man either driving or having access to her home and schedule patterns by riding on the van with her.

Last year, Campus Security had eight calls from men needing a ride at night. Last year, Campus Security had as many as 90 calls a night from women needing rides at night. There was no report of a man being raped on this campus.

The University of California, Los Angeles, had a walking escort service by men for women at night. On one occasion, a male escort raped the woman he was escorting. She suffered physical and emotional trauma, and she sued UCLA.

It is my judgment that the risk of legal problems and assault far outweigh the true need for a male escort service. True, not all men are rapists, but as at UCLA, it only takes one.

Sexual preference has nothing to do with rape prevention. At first I thought no one could be seriously concerned about lesbian involvement with Saferide, but I have found that it is a real concern for some.

Lesbians do not rape women or men. Most of the Saferide personnel are heterosexual, and one of the initiators of the project is a man.

Saferide is a safety issue. It is a legal issue. If a woman needs protection on campus at night, that is what the van is for. If the men on campus see fit to continue their ridicule, harassment and undermining of the project, it is obvious to me that they are not concerned with their girlfriends' safety.

If the undermining of the project is successful, the only people who will win are the rapists. Success of Saferide means that women on this campus win safety and men win the safety of their friends, sisters, wives and girlfriends.

Eugene has one of the highest rape and sexual assault rates per capita in the country.

Saferide is part of the answer to these statistics. These are the facts.

Mercea Mabrey
Former Saferide Coordinator

Claims Continued from Page 1

The ASUO "worked hard to put together a good program, and it's my impression that we were doing a fine job," said Shirley Chase, ASUO insurance coordinator. "I can't deny we haven't had problems...but nothing works 100 percent all the time," she said.

LaRoach said students only get reimbursed for 80 percent of an average cost of the service.

The company determines this average cost and only pays that amount in order to prevent students from submitting claims with exorbitant costs.

"If anyone is unhappy, all it takes is a phone call" to have a claim reviewed, LaRoach said.

After a student contacts Loan Star or Parker and Parker, company representatives re-examine the claim and either

adjust it or send a letter to the student explaining why the claim was not adjusted, he said.

All claims not paid within 14 days are subject to a 1.5 percent monthly interest charge, according to the terms of the insurance contract. But students are not informed of this in the insurance brochure they are given.

Chase, as a paid representative of the ASUO, should inform students of their rights and benefits because students are paying for the service, Kittredge said. The ASUO has 50 hours each week to devote to student health insurance, and it should serve the needs of the student body better, he added.

If students want their interest, they must request it, Perry said. To receive interest for a late payment, students only need to call or write to Lone Star requesting it, she said.

Lone Star is a subsidiary of the K-mart Corporation and serves 120 colleges throughout the United States, Perry said. The company has been involved with student health insurance since 1969.

Fines Continued from Page 1

tree doesn't constitute adequate restraint, Underwood said.

An incident about a year ago involving a dog attack on a pregnant woman has resulted in a \$50,000 lawsuit against the dog's owner, Barzee said. The woman was walking near the University law school when a dog lunged at her, knocking her backward into some bushes, he said. The woman went into labor later that day. The lawsuit still is pending in court.

Barzee's proposal was presented in a public hearing May 14 and currently is under review by Dan Williams, the

University's vice president for administration. If Williams approves the proposal, it will take effect July 1.

Barzee hopes the proposed fines will make people think about obeying rules.

"If people had to reach into their pocketbooks more or appear before a conduct committee, they might think twice about obeying the regulation," he said. "I don't care if it involves a student, faculty or staff member — people have no business bringing their animals on campus and endangering other people."



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