

# Police complete sketch of suspect

By Bryan Houston  
Emerald Contributor

The Eugene Police Department has now completed a composite sketch of a man suspected in the attack of a female jogger Oct. 23.

The assailant is described as a white male, clean-cut, between 19 and 21 years of age, about 5 feet and 10 inches tall, 170 pounds, with sandy-brown hair.

The suspect beat a 32-year-old woman from Seattle, Wash. who was in Eugene to attend a conference. The incident took place early in the day on the bike path near 30th Avenue and Hilyard Street, north of Amazon Park. According to police reports, the woman was grabbed from behind by the attacker, thrown to the ground and beaten about the face repeatedly, breaking her nose, bloodying her lips, and bruising her face.

Police now believe that there may be a connection between the Oct. 23 incident and a similar one that occurred last April at Alton Baker Park. In that situation, a 24-year-old female jogger was choked into unconsciousness and beaten on the Willamette River bike path near Alton Baker Park. The assailant in that attack was described as a white male, clean-cut, in his early twenties, about 5 feet and 10 inches tall, 170 pounds with dark blond hair.

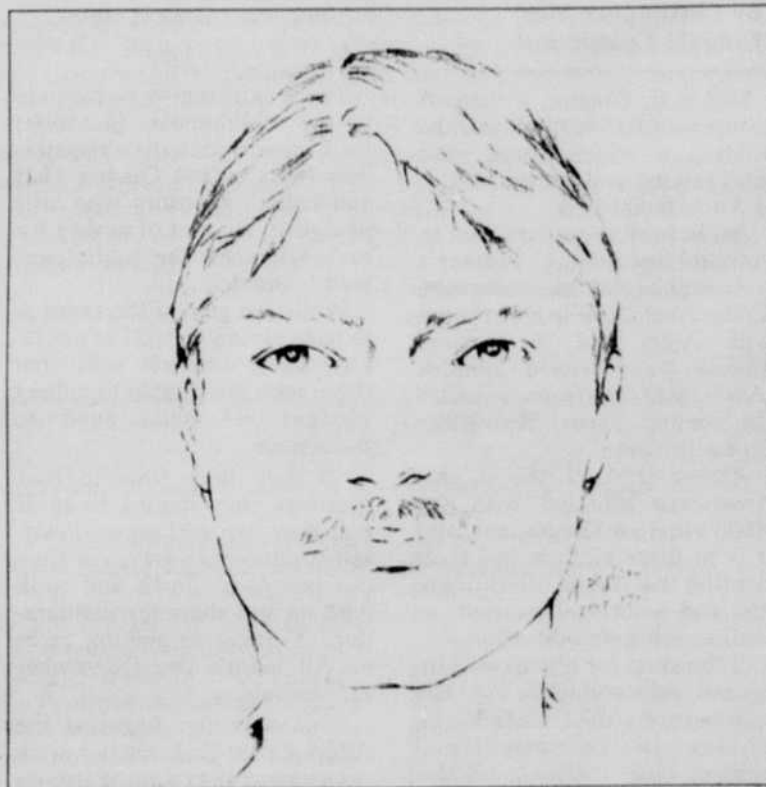
According to Tim Birr, EPD public information officer, said a connection is suspected because the nature of the attacks is so similar — both being physical violence against women and non-sexual. Birr said, however, that the EPD cannot say for sure the attackers are the same because the incidents occurred about six months apart.

When asked if the Oct. 23 attack was raising more concern in the EPD, Birr said that that concern has always been there.

"The Eugene Police Department has always been concerned with the problem; it is possibly a most serious area. There have been problems in the past, with verbal abuse and assault of both a physical and sexual nature, usually directed at women," Birr said.

But on the question of taking steps to increase the security on

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Police Sketch

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