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"There are not any differences in terms of crimes, regardless of religious, political or sexual preference," Rutledge said. "If someone can show intent to harass a person because of prejudice against their lifestyle, it can be a crime under the protected class law instituted on Oct. 1, 1989."

Rutledge said training in this area for police officers is very limited right now, but explained that a training program on sexual orientation and homophobia would begin in January or February. The department is still trying to locate experts to initiate and conduct the program for all EPD staff and officers.

EPD has also changed the way crimes have been reported. For the last six months hate crimes have been tracked and categorized for each protected class rather than lumped together as harassment, said Rutledge.

Recently the EPD moved hate crimes to a priority one status, which consists of life threatening situations. During March of last year, racial incidences became a community concern.

"It became a priority when minorities began to demand that we take it seriously," Rutledge said.

"We changed the way we responded to those types of calls as a result of community feedback," Rutledge said. "Crimes are reported and officers file a written report whether or not an investiga-

tion takes place now."

Transients and their affects on businesses in Eugene was also addressed.

Sergeant Greg Zahar from the Community Response Team said a survey conducted by the police department shows that aggressive panhandlers, and disorderly conduct by intoxicated individuals are some of the main fears of merchants, customers and community members.

Richard Greene, owner of Rainbow Optics on 13th Avenue, said there is a real problem with aggressive transients, whom he calls "predators."

Greene said that he has seen a marked increase in deterioration due to these predators during the past 12 years his business has occupied 13th Avenue.

"These people make it their business to harass other people which makes it difficult to conduct a business," Greene said. "I get phone calls everyday from clients who refuse to come to this facility because of this problem."

Greene said his workers are also harassed by these people.

"Over half the employees are women and there isn't one of them who hasn't been harassed by predators," Greene said.

EPD is trying to change this fear by increasing police patrol in the business districts of Eugene, said Rutledge.

Rainforest Action Group meets tonight

MEETINGS

College Republicans meet tonight at 5:30 in EMU Century Room B.

Druids meet tonight at 6 in EMU Cedar Room B.

Bahai Campus Association meets tonight at 6 at the Bahai Center, 1458 Alder St.

Students for Creative Anachronism will meet and hold

Et als

dance practice tonight at 8:30 in the EMU Walnut Room.

Rainforest Action Group meet tonight at 5:30 in the Survival Center office, EMU Suite 1.

Jewish Student Union is holding a general meeting tonight at 7:30 in the JSU office.

SPEAKERS AND LECTURES

Mike Lewis, Alaskan activist, will speak on the impact of the Exxon Valdez oil spill tonight at 5 in the EMU Ben Linder Room. The presentation is sponsored by the Survival Center.

"**The Australian Family and the Uses of Psycho-pathology**" is the title of a lecture to be given by Prof. Kim Halford today at noon in EMU Cedar Rooms A and B. People are welcome to bring a lunch. The presentation is sponsored by the Australian Studies Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS

"**The Cranes Are Flying**" is the title of Kalatozov's film about lover's separated by war. The film is in Russian.

President Brand's Open Forum will be held today at 4 in Room 150 Columbia Hall.

A CD-ROM tutorial on the ERIC (education) database will be held today at 4 p.m. in the Reference Department. Knight

Library

Student Mass will be held tonight at 9 at the Newman Center, 1850 Emerald St.

ASUO Women's Center will be holding an open house tonight from 7 to 9. All are welcome.

Students interested in summer employment with Cintas Corp. are asked to submit their resume to Room 12 Hendricks Hall by Jan. 12.

"**Great White Hunter**" is the title of a video about boating on many of the West's legendary class V rivers, including the Wenatchee, Trinity and South Fork of the Payette. The video

will be shown today at 12:30 p.m. in EMU Room 23.

Deadline for submitting Et als to the Emerald front desk, EMU Suite 300, is noon the day before publication. Et als run the day of the event unless the event occurs before noon. Please submit Et als the day before they are to run only.

Notices of events with a donation or admission charge will not be accepted. Campus events and those scheduled nearest the publication date will be given priority. The Emerald reserves the right to edit notices for grammar and style.

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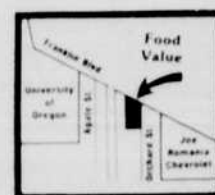
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