

# Parking fines add up to help fund OPS salaries

## Revenues also fund supplies

By Anna Rembecki  
Emerald Contributor



Photo by Andrei Kaniets

The Office of Public Safety collected \$238,000 last year from cars parked illegally or at expired meters last year.

Last year the Office of Public Safety collected more than \$238,000 from parking fines for the 1988-89 academic year.

Drivers on campus also paid over \$96,000 to the OPS parking meters during that same time.

Five OPS officers enforce parking on campus and give approximately 150 tickets per week said Suzie Hunter, OPS crime prevention officer. Hunter jokes and says the money doesn't go to her. But indirectly it does.

The money is used for "services and supplies," said OPS office manager Linda Manley.

Included in these are salaries for OPS officers, repairs and maintenance for OPS cars and equipment, uniforms and training. "There's no big secret about it," Hunter said.

Manley said that \$20,000 of last year's OPS revenue was used to rebuild the mechanisms in the campus meters. This maintenance, which occurred last August, changed the meters so they accept only quar-

ters. Yet the meters still break "all the time" and OPS sends a repair person to fix them at least once a week, Hunter said.

To avoid receiving parking tickets at an inoperative meter drivers should call OPS and report the defect along with the four or five digit serial number from the meter as soon as possible.

Giving tickets to cars parked at meters is a cut-and-dried matter, because the officers only look to see that the red flag is up, Hunter said.

"Sometimes the meters run fast or slow," Hunter continued, adding that the officers can make mistakes.

OPS enforces all meters on the streets bound by 13th Avenue and 18th Avenue and University Street and Agate Street. The meters on 13th, 15th, and 18th Avenues are owned and operated by the Eugene Police Department.

OPS charges \$4 for overtime parking at street meters and \$10 for overtime parking at lot meters. Citations can be petitioned.

To petition a parking citation, drivers should pick up a form at OPS, located on the south side of Straub Hall at 1319 E. 15th Ave. It takes two weeks to process a petition; it will be judged on the "validity of the complaint," Hunter said.

OPS enforces meters Monday through Friday 8-5, except during holidays and finals week.

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