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Common sense is key to safety

Students vulnerable to crime, punishment

By Kirsten Lucas
Emerald Contributor

The first thing that comes to many students' minds when they think of the Office of Public Safety is parking tickets. However, campus crime prevention officer Suzie Hunter likes to think of OPS as the University's "kinder and gentler police department."

OPS, formed in the early 1970s, is in charge of campus crime prevention, bicycle registration, keys and locks, occupational safety, environmental health and parking enforcement. Its jurisdiction encompasses the entire University campus and outlying University property.

Students may not realize the diversity of OPS's responsibilities until they find themselves in trouble.

"We'll let you in if you've locked yourself out of your office," Hunter said. "We'll come out and jump start your car. We'll rescue you if you're stranded on campus. Those are the types of services you're not going to get out of a police department because they don't have the time."

OPS employs 15 professionally-trained campus security officers and two supervisors, who are armed only with flashlights, keys, handcuffs and ra-



Photo by Scott Chadek

Officers from the Eugene Police Department and the Office of Public Safety work together to keep the University campus secure.

dios. It also contracts with the Eugene Police Department for five armed officers and a sergeant to assist public safety officers with law enforcement.

In addition to these professionals, University Housing employs student security pa-

trols, supervised by OPS. These students patrol the dorm areas in pairs, acting as extra eyes and ears for OPS. The student patrols primarily look out for parties and doors propped open

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