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Rape crisis on campus



Photo by Eric Evans

Safety is an increasing concern on campus, with unreported sexual assaults and poor lighting remaining the major issues.

Briefly

President Brand and University students voiced different priorities for campus issues Wednesday at an open forum.

The president focused on financial concerns facing the University while students challenged the administration's stance on the Grateful Dead and Coca-Cola.

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Elections

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Barbara Roberts made a visit to campus Wednesday to drum up support in the final days of her campaign.

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While they share some of the same views on abortion, incumbent Democrat Peter DeFazio and his Libertarian challenger, Tonie Nathan, don't agree on much else as they battle for District 4's U.S. House seat.

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Nationally

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., voted with the majority Wednesday as the Senate approved 73-24 a compromise that would penalize federally funded artists convicted under obscenity or child pornography laws.

The bipartisan compromise, offered by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and adopted as an amendment to the Interior appropriations bill, would require the National Endowment for the Arts to recoup any grant money given to artists who are subsequently convicted.

Guilty artists would be barred from receiving any new federal grants for three years.

Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., did not vote.

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WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. Rep. Denny Smith, R-Ore., provided the lone opposition among Oregon's delegation Wednesday night as the House voted 380-45 to approve an emergency spending bill.

Oregon Democrats Les AuCoin, Peter DeFazio and Ron Wyden were joined by Republican Bob Smith in approving the measure, which would keep the government operating through Saturday.

Officials concerned by unreported rapes

By Stacy Ivie
Emerald Associate Editor

Recent efforts to track unreported rapes in the University area show that many women may be the victims of sexual abuse crimes, but their reports never make it through official channels.

"We have received 15 sexual assault calls on the crisis line and at the time they were not reported to the Eugene police department," said Jerry Stanley, advocate coordinator at the Rape Crisis Network.

"The unofficial reports of 15 rapes on campus is very alarming," said Jackie Gibson, co-chairwoman of the University task force on Unwanted Sexual Behavior.

However, the Eugene police department has recorded only two rapes on campus since July 1990 in the West University area and none in the South University area, which police said is about average.

This compares to one rape for the same time period in 1989 in South University and none in West University.

However, Stanley said that the 15 unreported cases of sexual assault the network has received is "a normal amount for this time of year."

Statewide rape and sexual assault cases have risen about 16 percent in the last year, and the University is following the trend, Stanley said.

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More lighting needed

By Tammy Batey
Emerald Reporter

In an effort to improve student safety on campus the ASUO, along with the Office of Public Safety, initiated a plan to increase lighting.

A survey conducted by a University Safety Advisory subcommittee last year determined the areas of campus that need improved lighting and a three phase lighting plan was generated by University administrators and the ASUO, said Kirk Bailey, ASUO co-president.

"A tour of the campus was taken and priorities were given to areas that were most hazardous and most dark. Special concern was given to housing being

well-lighted and safe," Bailey said. "Students and the ASUO need to improve University safety especially for women. Women often fear 'Oh, I can't walk alone at night.' No one should have to deal with that."

Public safety is an issue the ASUO keeps examining, Bailey said.

Improved lighting on campus is an important issue for both the ASUO and the University Safety Committee, said Kay Coates, University safety officer.

The committee conducted night tours of campus and made recommendations, including additional lighting

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Language, cultural barriers complicate trauma

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Reporter

For international students, the trauma of rape is often complicated by their reluctance to confide in a counselor who doesn't understand their language or their culture.

More steps need to be taken to ensure the safety of international students, to give them information on prevention of sexual assault and to provide crisis counselors who are fluent in foreign languages, said Bobby Lee, ASUO affirmative action coordinator and a member of the newly formed Unwanted Sexual Behavior Task Force subcommittee on international students.

"Most domestic colleges don't have any specific policy, resources or counseling to deal with international students when they are raped," Lee said. "That's what we're

trying to start here."

Lee said at least seven Japanese students were raped on campus last year. Two were reported to the University's International Services office and two were reported to the American English Institute, a campus organization that helps international students improve their language skills. None were reported to the police.

Students from some countries may even be unaware of the possibility of sexual assault on campus, Lee said.

Also, differences in the way cultures perceive sexual behavior and in what is acceptable and unacceptable may prevent some students from seeking counseling, said Sandy Tsuneyoshi, psychologist at the University's Counseling Center.

For example, some students may believe they are rude if they say no to a sexual advance, she said.

"In some cultures, it's not OK to talk about certain things, and that blocks them from coming in," she said. "But if they don't talk about how they feel, it will affect them. They won't be able to function in school."

In addition, when a rape or sexual assault does occur, international students are often reluctant to report it or talk about it because few counselors are fluent in foreign languages, Lee said.

The Rape Crisis Network, whose services are contracted through the ASUO for students, has two counselors, one Hispanic and one Chinese, available to help international students. Jerri Stanley, advocate coordinator at the Rape Crisis Network, said the center tries to provide other interpret-

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