

# One University student who is making a difference

By Hope Neelson  
Emerald Reporter

University law student Michele Coker decided to make a difference. She volunteered.

Coker works as a medical advocate by assisting women and as a crisis interventionist by answering telephones for Sexual Assault Support Services, and she said the work brings her a lot of happiness.

It is, as she said, like working in the real world.

"Being in law school you get the feeling that no one really cares," Coker said. "And to be able to help people having very serious needs is something that makes me feel like a real person."

One day a week, Coker is on call 24 hours as a medical advocate. She carries a beeper and is contacted when someone is needed to assist a caller to the hospital or police station, she said.

Coker also works another five hours a week answering telephones for the 24-hour crisis line, she said.

SASS volunteer coordinator Erin Collier said the program now has about 40 volunteers who provide two types of services.

"Right now, because the agency is so young, the services we provide are a 24-hour crisis line and immediate medical advocacy, which means that we will send a team of women out

to go to the hospital with someone who has just been raped and help her through the examination process, the medical collecting process and the police questioning process," Collier said.

Collier said the volunteers must have the ability to listen to people, believe their stories and empathize with the callers.

Most of the calls coming in are from people who have been abused in their past and are having flashbacks, Collier said. They need support and someone to listen to their memories. Some want to know what they can do to help themselves emotionally, as well as legally, she said.

Collier said SASS needs more volunteers, funding and time to complete other facets of support the agency wants to provide.

"Eventually, our services will be expanded to include legal advocacy, community outreach and community education, which is public speaking, support groups and one-on-one peer support volunteers," Collier said.

The volunteer training gives background in sexual assault issues. Issues like myths and facts about rape, rape trauma syndrome, partners' reaction to rape, childhood incest and abuse, and suicide assessment.

Collier said the volunteers have come from different age groups and racial and class backgrounds.

Other types of training include gay and lesbian sensitivity training and multi-cultural training.

Coker said she got involved because of the importance of the sexual assault issue.

"I have learned since about four years ago how pervasive and how important it is when one in two women will be battered in their lifetime," Coker said.

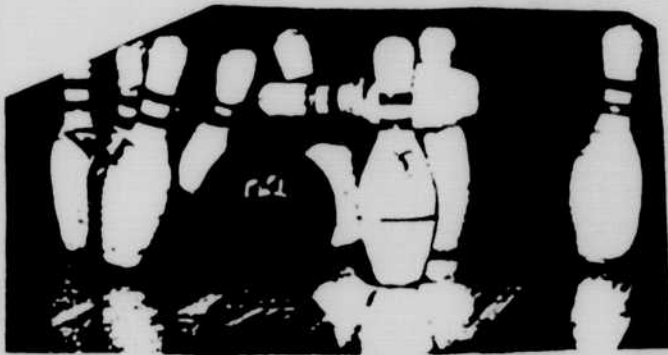
Coker said students should get involved because their experience in helping victims can result in a more educated society.

"Students are generally a young group of people, so they will grow up in this world making their ideas known to the people around them," she said. "Students have their influence, and it's pretty easy to have four to 10 hours a week."

The next volunteer orientation will be Jan. 8. People interested in volunteering should call 484-9791 for more information.

## FORGET EVERYTHING YOU'VE LEARNED

or, How low can you go...



### THE BAD BOWLING TOURNAMENT

OBJECT: SCORE AS LOW AS POSSIBLE (GUTTERBALLS = 10 POINTS)

TUES. OCT 29th 6:00 p.m.  
EMU RECREATION CENTER  
\$2.00 ENTRY FEE (2 person teams)



CHAZPRO  
Family Fun Shop  
& Magic Co. Inc.  
455 E. UMBAGO  
EUGENE, OREGON 97402

Dandelions  
FLOWERS AND GIFT  
1714 Chestnut, Eugene, OR 97402 • 485-1211  
407 E. 13th, Eugene, OR 97402 • 485-3882

kinko's  
the copy center

SIGN UP AT THE REC. CENTER TODAY!

You've heard the ominous facts, thought about it a long time and now you want to...

## STOP SMOKING!!



- Come join the American Cancer Society's Freshstart program to kick the smoking habit.
- Freshstart provides participants with the essential information and strategies needed to direct their own efforts to quit smoking.
- This is a 4-week Smoking Cessation Workshop held on each Tuesday.

Dates: Nov. 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th  
4:00-5:30 p.m.  
Medical Library  
in the Student Health Center  
Pre-register by calling 346-4456

Sponsored by the Lifestyle Planning Program in the Student Health Center

## City Hall letting residents help decide future

By Tammy Batey  
Emerald Reporter

Eugene residents are getting an opportunity to influence city decisions about cutting services and finding revenue sources through a strategic planning process called Eugene Decisions.

The goal of Eugene Decisions is to form a long-term city service and funding strategy by April 1992.

Eugene Decisions began in March 1991 because of the urgency of reconstructing the city budget. The city's six-year General Fund budget projection shows a multi-million dollar deficit that continues to grow each year.

"It's very real," Eugene Mayor Jeff Miller said. "We have to make very real decisions. Either we have to cut programs or find a new revenue source or do both."

Miller said Eugene Decisions was launched with a "large amount of respect to the voter."

"People are going to vote if new revenue sources are on the ballot," Miller said. "We want people to understand if we make cuts that we've consulted with the community. We need people to be involved."

The participants in the Eugene Decisions public workshops this summer made initial decisions about how the city should balance the budget. Most citizens decided they didn't want to cut city services, but rather cut the costs of providing those services, Eugene Decisions coordinator Barb Bellamy said.

Citizens expressed interest in expanding library services, social services, affordable housing and

public safety, according to *Eugene Decisions: Results of Citizen Input Summer 1991*.

To increase revenue, citizens suggested increasing taxes, reducing services or creating new user fees.

Bellamy said she believes citizen input in Eugene Decisions is both important and necessary.

"The council feels like the process will succeed only with citizen input," Bellamy said. "It takes an informed public and an involved public to make it work. Whatever kinds of changes we make, the citizens will be able to make good choices with good information."

The City Council developed a short-term strategy to balance the 1991-92 budget in November 1990. Short-term solutions included reducing personnel, cutting operating budgets and increasing user fees.

In March 1991, the City Council approved a preliminary design for Eugene Decisions developed by the consulting firm ECO Northwest of Eugene.

The City Council looked at where Eugene was financially at the time and the trends affecting the city, Bellamy said. Two factors affecting Eugene were the withdrawal of federal government funding to the city and the city's population spurt.

The next step of Eugene Decisions was to obtain citizen input about how city services should be affected.

The City Council held two public workshops in July and August and conducted a random community telephone survey.

A second round of public workshops will take place in mid-November.

**HALLOWEEN PARTY**  
WITH THE **BLUBINOS**  
COSTUME CONTEST  
\$200 1ST PRIZE \$100 2ND PRIZE  
\$50 3RD  
THURSDAY OCT. 31ST

*Guido's*  
13th & Alder 343-0681

**NOW SERVING PITCHERS OF BEER AT**

*Club WASH*

13th & Patterson  
342-1727

RIGHT ON TARGET!

Oregon Daily **Emerald**  
CALL OUR AD DEPT: 346-3712