COMMUNITY

Uncertainty lowers reports of hate crime, analyst says

By Gerrit Koepping **Emerald Reporter**

Two white high-school age males in a pickup truck pulled up alongside a third-grade boy walking home from school.

The males drove alongside the boy, who is black, and began yelling things like, "What's up Buckwheat? Want some fried chicken? Want some watermelon?

The room was silent Tuesday night as Eugene human rights analyst Greg Rikhoff told this story to the Eugene Neighborhood Leaders Council.

Though police later determined who yelled at the child, no arrests were made. In fact, the incident was not even counted as a hate crime, but as a biased crime, Rikhoff said.

This is an example of two of the problems in fighting hate crime, he said.

First, even though the child feared for his safety, the suspects were not cited, Rikhoff said.

"We need more education, so that people know what is and what is not a hate crime," he said.

Second, it was not listed as a hate crime because the officer did not investigate the matter as a criminal act, Rikhoff said.

In 1991 the Oregon legislature passed the Hate Crime Reporting Act, which stated that

law enforcement agencies must keep track of how many crimes were motivated by the victim's race, national origin, religion or sexual orientation. In addition, police officers were to be trained in recognizing hate crimes.

From January to June 1991, 32 hate crimes were reported in Lane County, 25 more than the previous year. The increase was due to a number of factors, including an influx of minority residents and better reporting by the police, Rikhoff said.

Of the 1991 hate crimes, 11 were motivated by racial bigotry, five by national origin, two by anti-Semitism, 10 by sexual orientation, and three by reli-

"This is just the tip of the iceberg," Rikhoff said. "Whether it's because of a language barrier, a cultural barrier, a fear of authority or whatever, we estimate for every incident we hear about, three to five occur that we don't hear about.

Generally, the perpetrators are generally white, male, middle class, and about 17 years old, Rikhoff said.

"We've raised our kids with an expectation of a standard of living that just can't be met." Rikhoff said. " And when it doesn't happen they look for

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be set free. But its wording was unclear as to whether he had already been released.

Anderson said in a videotaped statement released Wednesday by his captors to the AP in Damascus that he was to be freed.

"After finishing several stages we decided to separate the issue of our captives from the hostages in the prisons of the enemy and we're going to free our last captive, Terry Anderson, thus folding this page in the hostage file before glorious Christmas," the statement said.

More than 100 Westerners were seized as part of a Shiite Muslim campaign to drive Western influence from Lebanon.

The Islamic Jihad said in its statement that the "confrontation" created by the kidnappings made the world listen to the voice of oppressed peoples and unmasked the "ugly American and Israeli

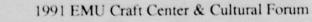
Anderson's relatives were thrilled by the early reports of his re-

Anderson's sister, Peggy Say, said she got a phone call from President Bush, who promised to give her a "big hug soon." She crisscrossed the globe meeting with world leaders, terrorists and spies in a dogged campaign to free her brother.

"He's one of us," said Louis D. Boccardi, the AP's president and chief executive officer. "I think the thing that marks the AP's reaction is everyone in the AP felt a tremendous solidarity with him."

Anderson headed the AP's Beirut office from 1983 until he was kidnapped on March 16, 1985. His colleagues there cried and also toasted him with champagne.

His daughter Sulome was born three months after he was kidnapped. Anderson's estranged wife, Mihoko, and their 15-year-old daughter Gabrielle live in Tokyo. They declined to talk with re-



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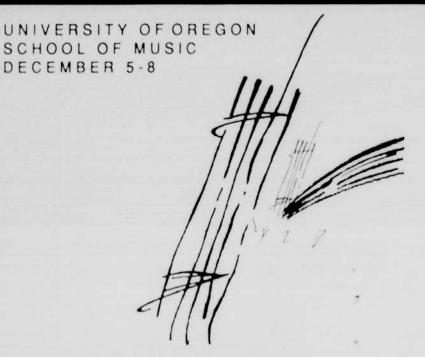
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