

Outside influence



University freshmen Matt Thorne (from left), Harmony Matthews and Melinda Jaeger camp out overnight Tuesday in the EMU Courtyard as part of the OSPIRG Hunger and Homelessness Week. Only a few students took part in the event, which included homeless speakers.

Police identify woman; say death was suicide

□ Friends say 23-year-old woman who died Monday spoke of killing herself

By Jake Berg
Emerald News Editor

Authorities have identified a woman who committed suicide Monday morning by jumping from the top-floor balcony of Prince Lucien Campbell Hall.

Eugene police department spokesman Tim Birr said the woman was Monica Margaret Abrams, 23, of 1872 Harris St., Eugene. Abrams was not a student and was not affiliated with the University, he said.

Police discovered Abrams' body about 8:30 a.m. lying near the base of the south balcony on the outside of PLC — the tallest building on campus — after reports of her fall reached EPD. Abrams is believed to have jumped from the ninth-floor balcony, Birr said.

Police could not immediately identify Abrams because there was no identification found with her body.

Police discovered the woman's identity after EPD officer Ken Saxon learned the victim, who is originally from the Seattle area, regularly visited a local restaurant at night. Upon further investigation, police learned Abrams' first name and an approximate address, Birr said.

The Lane County Medical Examiner's office also officially determined the death was suicide. Lynn Walter, a deputy medical examiner, said Tuesday there was no reason to believe otherwise.

"Everything looks to be (suicide)," he said. "There's no thought about foul play."

Birr said Abrams' friends also indicated she was exhibiting "irrational behavior" prior to her death.

"Apparently she was upset about a

Turn to **SUICIDE**, Page 4

PLC danger concerns renewed

By Matt Bender and Jake Berg
Emerald Writers

A University Physical Plant safety committee recommended the south external balconies adjoining Prince Lucien Campbell Hall be fenced in for safety reasons two years ago, two Physical Plant employees said Tuesday.

Others outside of the Physical Plant said they remembered "talk" of enclosing the balconies.

A 23-year-old woman committed suicide Monday morning by jumping from the ninth-floor balcony.

Two Physical Plant employees, who said they were with the safety committee when the recommendation was made, said concerns about the balconies' safety arose when students threw a moped and a vending machine — in separate incidents — from the ninth-floor balcony, the building's top floor.

Gus Morse, who works in support services at the Physical Plant, said the safety committee sent a recommendation to the Campus Safety Advisory Committee that the balconies be fenced in. From there, he said, the recommendation went to University Vice President Dan Williams' office, where "nothing was done with it ... be-

Turn to **PLC**, Page 4

City officials join in campaign to stop drunk driving

□ MADD, Project Eugene sponsor annual red ribbon awareness effort

By Daralyn Trappe
Emerald Associate Editor

Local politicians and police officers joined forces Tuesday with Mothers Against Drunk Driving to officially start the holiday season's drinking and driving awareness campaign.

Project Eugene: A Century Coalition is co-sponsoring Lane County's effort, along with the local chapter of MADD.

A major part of the local campaign is something that has caught on nationwide during the past seven years

— MADD's "Project Red Ribbon."

This campaign involves asking people to sign a pledge to not drink and drive. In addition, participants are asked to attach red ribbons to their cars as a visible symbol of the pledge and a reminder to others.

Red ribbons are also attached to trees along Sixth and Seventh Avenues near Willamette Street. Patsy Hand, Project Eugene's local coordinator, said each ribbon symbolizes a Lane County resident who has taken the pledge. Nearly 3,500 ribbons are already on the trees, Hand said, and 1,000 more are expected to be added this week.

The large white bows on top of the trees are there in memory of Lane County residents who have been victims of drunk driving.

U.S. Congressman Peter DeFazio, D-Springfield, was

among the local politicians who renewed support for the project. DeFazio said it has a personal meaning for him because his wife's sister died at a young age in an alcohol-related car accident.

Lane County District Attorney Doug Harclerod said his commitment stems from his job.

"We're good at prosecuting people after the fact," he said. "But we're not so good at stopping it before it starts, and that's why this kind of thing is so important."

"If we only save one life, this effort will have been worth it," Harclerod said. He said 30 percent of all misdemeanor cases in his office during 1991 involved driving while under the influence, and the financial cost to taxpayers was substantial.

Turn to **MADD**, Page 3

WEATHER

There will be mostly cloudy skies today with a chance of rain late. Highs will be in the upper 40s to mid 50s.

Today in History

In 1928, the first sound-synchronized animated cartoon, Walt Disney's *Steamboat Willie*, starring Mickey Mouse, premiered at the Colony Theater in New York.

MORE DUCK CALL

In response to heavier-than-anticipated student use of DUCK CALL this week, DUCK CALL will be available for two additional hours Wednesday through Friday of this week. DUCK CALL hours will be 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. November 18-20

Because new groups of students become eligible only during the hours from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., the extended hours should increase registration opportunities. Students may register at any time after they become eligible. Normal DUCK CALL hours during the initial registration period are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

SPORTS

SEATTLE (AP) — The University of Washington won't have to forfeit any of the games in which suspended quarterback Billy Joe Hoberg played, officials of Pacific-10 Conference schools decided today.

In a conference call this morning, university presidents and chancellors decided to go along with the recommendation of the Pac-10 Conference Council, said Jim Daves, sports information director for Washington.

Washington Athletic Director Barbara Hedges refused to talk to the media about the Hoberg decision.

But in a statement, she said, "We are pleased with the outcome of the review by the Pac-10 presidents and chancellors."