

## COMMUNITY UPDATE

### Police identify strangled woman

Eugene police are investigating a homicide in connection with the body of a young woman found Saturday on the bank of the Willamette River across from Valley River Center.

Two women and a young girl discovered the body of Sharon Marie Hiller, 25, of 2345 G St., Springfield, about 4:15 p.m. Hiller's body was on the south bank of the Willamette River 150 yards east of the Greenway Bike Bridge, EPD spokesman Tim Birr said.

A large area surrounding the body was cordoned off Saturday evening while detectives from EPD's Violent Crimes Unit processed the scene.

An autopsy performed Sunday evening concluded that asphyxiation by strangulation was the cause of death. Birr said there appeared to be an attempt to cover up the body. Leaves and part of a tree were covering the body.

No identification was found on Hiller's body. She was identified Sunday and police interviewed several of Hiller's co-workers, family members and friends that afternoon.

Among those interviewed, Hiller was last seen alive at about 2:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 25. Hiller was leaving the Great Alaska Bush Company, where she worked as a dancer. She was driving a friend's car and was reportedly alone.

Police are asking for assistance in locating the car, missing since Wednesday. It is a 1979 Chevrolet Blazer, Oregon license plate number LRB 360, with a white roof, two-toned blue body and damage to the right rear quarter panel. Anyone with information can call the Eugene police department at 687-5121.

### Environment event set

Students pursuing careers in environmental technology may be interested in attending the Oregon Environmental Technology Association Conference and Trade Exhibition Dec. 2 and 3 at the Eugene Hilton.

The conference will feature speeches from Grant Ferris, editor-in-chief of the *Environmental Business Journal*; Don Connors, co-founder and board chairman of the Environmental Business Council; and Angus Duncan of the Northwest Power Planning Council.

Trade exhibits displaying advanced research technology and environmental applications will be on view throughout the conference.

The OETA is a non-profit industry organization representing all areas of environmental industry, including analytical lab research, water treatment and hazardous waste management.

Bill Snyder, executive director of OETA, said the event is an important part of the association's efforts to attract business to the burgeoning environmental industry.

Snyder said the conference's theme — "Opportunities in the New Environmental Economy" — reflects a myriad of business opportunities available in areas of scientific research and practical application emerging from environmental concern.

Snyder said he encourages students to attend the conference, especially if they are considering a career in environmental research or industries.

"I think (students would) have a much more clear understanding of what this industry is all about and the breadth of service areas within it," Snyder said.

Students may attend the conference at a discounted fee of \$50, which covers the cost of meals.

### Pacific to open branch

Pacific University is opening a fifth-year teacher certification program in the Eugene area. The program will consist of one year of intensive study in teaching methods.

"Ours is a professional program that teaches how to teach," said Nancy Watt, director of Teacher Education at Pacific University.

The program, which is independent of the University of Oregon, is designed for people who already have a bachelor's degree in a particular field and would like to earn a teaching certificate.

For example, someone who wants to become a math teacher would first obtain a bachelor's degree in math. After passing a proficiency exam in that area, the person may earn a teaching certificate through a fifth-year program like the one operated by Pacific.

Watt said the program would not be able to accredit special education teachers, nor would it accept physical education teachers, because there are "just a ton of P.E. teachers already."

Tuition for the program is \$9,950 for the academic year, which will run from January to December.

Nearly 30 percent of the applications received for Pacific's teacher certification program were from the Eugene area, Watt said. The high percentage aided in the decision to open a program in Eugene.

The planning for the fifth-year program in Eugene was in progress for more than a year. The planning involved talking to local school districts to arrange opportunities for student teaching and selecting a site for the program, which has not yet been decided.

Watt said the program in Eugene, like the one at Pacific's Forest Grove campus, will remain small, with about 25 students per class going through the program together.

"Our program will never be huge," Watt said. "We're not set up to be a big, big program."

## Stories enrich life of kids and volunteers

By Donna Gavin  
Emerald Contributor

"Gather around children. I'm going to tell you a story."

That kind of invitation is extended daily in the Eugene/Springfield area by volunteers from Talking Books, an organization dedicated to enriching the lives of children through books and storytelling.

Volunteers find their "special audience" in the soup kitchens, homeless shelters and elementary schools and preschools in poorer neighborhoods.

"Most of the children we work with come from disadvantaged, dysfunctional or disrupted homes. They may be homeless, in domestic crisis or living in transitional institutions," said Sue Hunt-Thompson, former teacher, mother and site coordinator for Talking Books.

William Kaufman, author of 157 published works and UNICEF photographer in 70 countries, conceived Talking Books. In his opinion, Talking Books is not a service, but a necessity, he said.

"If we make children richer, we enrich society," Kaufman said. "The schools are going through a difficult time; we have a society of mobile parents, one-parent families and families stressed from earning their bread. People fighting for survival may not be up to sitting through and telling stories to their children."

Kaufman recruited Rita Seligson, a young mother who organized and still administers Talking Books.

The organization learned Eugene's regional needs from its slow start in the old Albertson's store at 30th Avenue and Hilary Street in Eugene nearly two years ago. "The program didn't do well because the need wasn't in that area," Seligson said.

Now about 25 volunteers take their stories to children at 15 sites in and around Eugene. They try to reach kids outside the Eugene library's district, where a library card can cost \$50.

Members communicate through a newsletter Seligson mails along with a schedule showing where each member will read or tell stories for 30 minutes each month.

Seligson said a volunteer can read from a book and still be animated, although a number of volunteers "jump" the fence and go over to storytelling.

Inspiration for storytellers comes from Jeff Defty, a children's librarian in Eugene. Defty is a master storyteller who demonstrates his art to new Talking Books volunteers at a mandatory two-hour orientation session.

"We care that we are sending out good people. The orientation allows us to take a look at you, as well as you at us,"

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**'If we make children richer, we enrich society.'**

— William Kaufman,  
creator of Talking Books

# THIS WEEK



# NOV. 30-DEC. 6

### Toastmasters Club UO Law School

A Toastmasters Club is starting up at the UO Law School. There are currently 20 members in the Law School who are interested and would encourage new memberships. This club builds confidence in public speaking and would benefit greatly in those areas. Contact Kyle Dukelow (686-4290) or Dr. Wayne Westling, Law Center (346-3833).



Don't Buy Another Gift  
until you check out  
The EMU Winter Craft Fair

EMU Fir Room  
Wednesday & Thursday, December 2 & 3  
10:00 am - 5:30 pm

Live Music! Free Cider! Fantastic Gifts!

### EMU RECREATION CENTER CAMPUS LOST AND FOUND SALE!

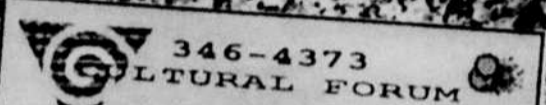
- Umbrellas
- Coats
- Sweaters
- Gloves/Hats
- Books
- Misc. Goodies

Great Bargains—Nothing over \$3.00!

Dead Week  
Dec. 7th & 8th  
9-5pm  
CASH ONLY

emu 346-3705

EMU Board Meeting  
Monday, November 30, 1992  
(Check posted schedule for location)



### Events

#### SAFERIDE BENEFIT

With  
★ Brenda Kahn and Laura Kemp ★  
CATE Auditorium 8:00 p.m.  
Monday, November 30th  
\$5/UO Students \$8/General public  
Tickets available at EMU Main Desk

#### MUDHONEY

Alternative Thrash Rock Group  
EMU Ballroom 8:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, December 1st  
\$9.50/UO Students \$11.50/General public  
Tickets available at EMU Main Desk

#### BEER GARDEN

Featuring  
International Anthem  
EMU Dining Room FREE  
Friday, December 4th 4:00p.m.

YOUR PATRONAGE SUSTAINS US. USE OUR SERVICES. TELL US HOW TO PROVIDE SERVICES THAT MEET YOUR NEEDS. YOUR FEEDBACK IS VALUABLE.