

Window pain



Rain Sussman, a sophomore anthropology major, settles into a comfortable study spot in the EMU art gallery Monday night. Photo by Jeff Paslay

Police arrest student on intimidation charge

□ A group of men confront and beat a student they believe to be gay

By Matt Bender
Emerald Reporter

An 18-year-old University student was arrested and charged with intimidation after a group of men allegedly assaulted two men Friday because they believed the victims were homosexuals.

Todd Linwood Pendexter is suspected of assaulting Steve Laliberty, 23, and a 19-year-old student, who asked not to be identified, as the two were walking on the 1300 block of Mill Street.

Laliberty, who is bisexual, said he and his friend were walking home when a group of about eight men started to yell obscenities at them. He said one of the members of the group yelled, "Hey you hippie faggots."

Laliberty said the student he was with, who is heterosexual, said, "I'm a hippie," and the group ran up to the two victims. According to police reports, members of the group said they hated "fags" and repeatedly cursed the victims.

"They got into our face and were really foul," he said. "They were incredibly intoxicated and started to push us."

One of the members of the group took

out his penis and told the victims, "Suck on this," Laliberty said. The victims said they tried to talk to the group, but could not reason with them.

"I take a lot of stock in Tantric Buddhism, so I told them to respect our space and that I loved them," Laliberty said.

At that point, one of the assailants knocked Laliberty's glasses off and crushed them with his foot. Then Laliberty was pushed over a picket fence and kicked in the head, ribs and groin. The man with Laliberty was also thrown to the ground in the confrontation.

The police arrived and the crowd of about 20 people dispersed, Laliberty said. Pendexter was arrested after police found him in the area shortly after the incident occurred.

According to police reports, Pendexter admitted to the assault and was taken to jail. Laliberty said Pendexter was one of the main participants in the beating. However, he said two or three other members of the group also participated in the assault.

Tim Birr, EPD spokesman, said Pendexter was charged with intimidation because the assailant perceived that the victims were homosexuals.

"If you threaten someone on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or sexual orientation, you have committed the crime of intimidation," Birr said.

Computer crunches for physics students

□ New software makes graphs allowing students more time for analyzing

By Demian McLean
Emerald Reporter

FIRST OF THREE PARTS

New forms of technology are increasingly being used in science. The amount of time spent at home increased with the technology in their labs.

In the same way that the hand-held calculator replaced the slide rule in calculus, computers may be replacing the traditional physics experiment.

For the past three years, physics Professor David Sokoloff has been working on an innovative method to teach the principles of physics without burying students in statistical calculation.

The project uses computer software that can be run on a Macintosh computer. In one lab period, students can run several experiments instead of spending the whole lab computing the data for one experiment, Sokoloff said.

Sokoloff said he got the idea for the software while attending a 1988 physics conference where Tufts University professors used

Turn to COMPUTERS, Page 3

Cat's curiosity results in 911 call

By Martin Fisher
Emerald Editorial Editor

Larry Tomlinson lives in a high-crime Eugene neighborhood, so when he called home to check his messages Saturday night, he was immediately suspicious when someone answered his phone.

Instead of hearing his own voice issue a friendly, answering-machine greeting, he heard what he described as "rustling" on the other end of the line.

Certain his apartment was being burglarized, Tomlinson immediately hung up and dialed 911. Tomlinson, who sells men's suits at a Valley River Center department store, does not own a car, but was able to get a ride to his apartment with a store customer.

When he arrived at his apartment, he was met by four Eugene police officers who

found no sign of forced entry. The only other person with a key to the apartment was the manager.

Tomlinson and the police were growing more perplexed by the minute.

After entering his apartment, Tomlinson discovered parts of his apartment had been ransacked by a real-life cat burglar — Buster. Buster is Tomlinson's cat, a white, American long-hair.

Apparently, Buster heard the phone ringing and decided to investigate the source of the noise. "I didn't think he could get up there," Tomlinson said, referring to the countertop where the phone was sitting.

Buster apparently knocked the receiver off the phone before the answering machine could kick in. The receiver fell to the floor near a pile of newspapers.

Tomlinson said he believes the rustling sound he heard was his cat playing in the papers. "He must have heard my voice at the other end saying, 'Hello, Hello,' and got excited," Tomlinson said.

"I felt pretty stupid," he said. "The police had a good laugh."

Tomlinson was sufficiently embarrassed by the incident to stay home, rather than return to work. "I just stayed there feeling like an idiot," he said.

Tomlinson said Buster got his name for a reason. "When he was young, he used to tear my house apart," Tomlinson said. "He would actually bust things, so I named him 'Buster.'"

Tomlinson said he does not expect to have similar problems in the future. "The phone's on the wall now," he said.



WEATHER

Mostly cloudy skies with temperatures in the lower 50s.

Today in History

In 1987, the White House announced the resignation of CIA director William Casey, who was hospitalized and underwent brain surgery.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(AP) — Over the weekend, along with making football picks and stocking up on snacks, many people were debating whether violence against women is at its worst on Super Bowl Sunday.

A spot check of hot lines, police departments and shelters indicated that most had received no more or less than the usual number of complaints.

"Whether there's a correlation between violent sports and domestic violence, I don't know," said Sue Osthoff, director of the National Clearinghouse for the defense of Battered Women in Philadelphia. "But that's the wrong focus. It turns it into a sport-like event. It's very discouraging."

SPORTS

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — It's appropriate that Buffalo residents woke up to winter's worst chill the morning after their football team lost a record third straight Super Bowl — and lost it big time.

The city cancelled a welcome-home rally for the Bills in front of city hall because the team didn't want to face the humiliation after the Bills' 52-17 loss to Dallas.

"Everyone's just doing work," said Jack Martin, spokesman for toymaker Fisher-Price in suburban East Aurora.

"Nobody's really mentioning the game. It's like it never happened. I think they're just wishing the last three years were all a figment of our imagination."