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## THE Red Ribbon WEEK CELEBRATION

Celebrate with millions of other children who display the courage never to surrender their dreams to drugs or alcohol.

As part of the Red Ribbon Week Celebration, wear or display a red ribbon in your work area or when attending classes and other activities on campus.

You can pick up your red ribbons at the following locations: UO Housing Dining Halls • ASUO • Office of the Dean of Students • President's Office • Student Health Center

For more information about events happening in the Eugene/Springfield Community, call 341-4724.

## ET ALS

### MEETINGS

**Student Senate** will meet today at 5:30 p.m. in EMU Century Room D. For more information, call 346-0630.

**Psy Chi** will meet today at 5 p.m. in Room 279 Straub.

**Mortar Board** will meet tonight at 6 in EMU Cedar Room C.

**College of Business Administration** will hold a new peer advisers informational meeting today at 5 p.m. in Room 333 Gilbert. For more information, call 346-3303.

**OSPIRG** will hold a NAFTA meeting tonight at 6 in EMU Century Room C. For more information, call 346-4377.

**OSPIRG** will hold an environmental education meeting tonight at 7:30 in EMU Suite 1. For more information, call 346-4377.

**OSPIRG** will hold a campaign finance reform meeting tonight at 7 in EMU Century Room F. For more information, call 346-4377.

**OSPIRG** will hold a Curb Your Car meeting tonight at 5 p.m. in EMU Century Room E. For more information, call 346-4377.

### MISCELLANEOUS

**Outdoor Program** will hold an Outdoor Program Equipment Swap tonight at 7:30 in the EMU Ballroom. For more information, call 346-4365.

**League of Women Voters, Common Cause, OSPIRG and American Party** will hold a Campaign Finance Reform News Conference today at 10 a.m. in Conference Room B at Harris Hall.

**Student Employment** will host a summer job information session titled "Start Your 1994 Summer Job Hunt Now" today from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Room 12 Hendricks. For more information or to sign up, call 346-3214.

*Deadline for submitting Et Als to the Emerald front desk, 300 EMU, is noon the day before publication. Et Als run the day of the event unless the event takes place before noon. Notices of events with a donation or admission charge will not be accepted. Campus events and those scheduled nearest the publication date will be given priority. The Emerald reserves the right to edit for grammar and style. Et Als run on a space-available basis.*

## BRIEF

The public is invited to an informational meeting about Ballot Measure 1 tonight at Eugene City Hall, 777 Pearl St.

The meeting, sponsored by Community Partnerships, will discuss the proposed sales tax and its potential effects.

The meeting is an impartial, non-partisan program organized for informational purposes. The meeting is scheduled from 7 to 9 p.m. in Room 104 of City Hall.

For more information, call 343-5256.

## TOZER

Continued from Page 1A

Schmidt said in his closing argument. "It's just not possible."

Tozer said she believes the city was skirting the issue by putting all of the blame on Mejia.

"If the government is letting people legally drive around with blood-alcohol levels less than 0.08, then the street signs should at least be kept visible," she said.

However, Schmidt explained to the jury that the law grants the city immunity from liability for any decisions it makes based on allocation of resources. There is also a \$200,000 liability cap, said Tozer, whose medical bill to date is nearly \$300,000.

The city was "overburdened" and "couldn't keep up" with citizen requests to maintain street signs and prune trees, so its priority was to "put out the fire bases," or emergency situations, Schmidt said, blaming "scarce resources" for the shortfall.

Schmidt also said the city's transportation division employees are not required nor expected to maintain all intersections to the standards set by the city codes that deal with vegetation near street signs.

According to these codes, a clearance height of at least 15 feet above a traffic sign is necessary for safety. Furthermore, Oregon's transportation division cites a visibility from a distance of 50 feet as a guideline. In this case, the tree's foliage was within three feet of the stop sign, Tozer's lawyer Don Corson said.

"This is not an urban forest," Corson said in his closing argument at the trial. "There is no excuse for the city not following its own standards."

A total of six automobile collisions occurred at this intersection between 1982 and 1988, according to evidence submitted by Corson. Schmidt said the city was unaware of this traffic history prior to Tozer's accident because a "lack of resources" between 1985 and 1988 made it difficult for the city to analyze problematic intersections.

It wasn't until 1990 that Robert Noble, a trans-

portation division supervisor, requested the accident records for this intersection. Police records did not cite the tree as a cause for the accidents, Schmidt said. The city has since cut the tree down, but this was inadmissible evidence for Tozer's case.

In 1988, the city was up to six months behind schedule for nonemergency requests and did not consider the intersection of Harris Street and East 23rd Avenue an emergency situation because it had received only one request for work there seven years prior to Tozer's accident.

City records also indicate the intersection was routinely inspected twice each year. The tree had last been trimmed about a year prior to Tozer's accident because the public works employee whose route had included this intersection "couldn't see the sign," he testified at the trial. However, he said the tree would have grown back by the next spring "just as good."

Tozer said she hopes her case has made private property owners aware that they are responsible for pruning vegetation to meet the city codes.

"I doubt if many property owners know they can be sued if they don't meet those specifications," she said.

In expressing frustration with the trial during closing arguments, Tozer's lawyer said, "This is a classic case of how you can't fight City Hall. They have the resources and will grind you down."

However, Tozer has not allowed the events of the past five-and-a-half years to grind her down, even though she is for the most part dependent on a wheelchair and will have a total of about \$475,000 in medical expenses by the time her surgeries are completed.

Tozer helped win a silver medal for the women's basketball team at the 1992 Paralympic Games in Barcelona, and earned a graduate degree at the University of Illinois after completing her undergraduate studies at the University of Oregon. She has also appeared in hundreds of classrooms and in television commercials in her work for Mothers Against Drunken Driving.

As for future plans, Tozer said perhaps she should come back to Eugene to run for City Council.

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