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9:30 am: Continental Breakfast (228 Chiles)

10:00 am: Presentation

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COMMUNITY

Hate crimes on the rise locally

By Rebecca Merritt
Oregon Daily Emerald

The number of hate crimes in Lane County is growing as local human rights organizations have fallen victim to vandalism and harassment by white supremacists, group leaders said at a news conference Tuesday.

"We have a problem in this city," said Greg Evans, president of the Oregon/Washington branch of National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "It's time now that we stand up as a community."

Evans said the Eugene-Springfield NAACP recently received a white supremacist newspaper in the mail and has been a repeated victim of harassing telephone calls and death threats. The newspaper had a Eugene postmark and the organization believes it came from a local white supremacist group, he said.

Clergy and Laity Concerned, a Eugene human rights group, is also receiving threatening phone calls, said Norman Riddle, a member of the group's steering committee.

About a month ago, the group's office was broken into, which members believe was done as a hate crime. CALC's computer, fax machine, hard drive and data disks were taken during the break-in, CALC member Jonn Lundsworth said.

Ten days after the burglary, two hate stickers were left on the office door. One sticker read "Fight Crime: Deport Niggers."



MORGAN SMITH/For the Emerald
Gregory Rikhoff, human right analyst, discusses the growing problem of hate crimes in Lane County.

and the other said "Deport Race-Mixers."

"When organizations which work to promote inclusiveness, justice and equity are targeted, we all need to be alarmed," said Gregory Rikhoff, human rights analyst said.

Painted swastikas and other street graffiti is also evidence of hate crimes in Eugene, Rikhoff said. Lane County had 22 reported hate or bias crimes in the first half of the year, he added.

More than 25,000 white supremacists work actively in the United States, said Eric Ward, a representative of Communities

Against Hate, a CALC project. In Oregon, about 300 active skin-head neo-nazis promote hate crimes in communities. Ward said people need to be more aware of the white supremacist literature that is being read nationally by 500,000 people.

Ward said law enforcement should play a large role in stopping hate crimes, but the problem is more community-based.

"We need to build coalitions with one another," he said.

Rikhoff said the human rights commission is working with community organizations to stop hate activity.

Police take bicycle traffic law seriously

By Ben Moebius
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

After almost two months of fall classes, the Eugene police department is still taking bicycle traffic laws seriously.

When Officer Kel Williams, supervisor of the Eugene Traffic Unit, was asked if bicycle traffic laws were being more strictly enforced than in the years past, the answer was simply, "Yes."

"The risks involved in not making a complete stop at all stop signs, or riding a bike at night without a light are numer-

ous," Williams said.

Williams said Eugene has a higher than average number of bicycle-related accidents.

Most bicycle infractions are issued in the campus area or on the bicycle commuter routes to campus. A few of the possible infractions and their fines run as follows:

- Disobeying a traffic signal. This includes traffic lights and stop signs. It is the same fine as would be issued for a motorized vehicle. A \$50 fine.
- Lighting violation. Riding

after dusk or before dawn without a bike light. A \$40 fine.

- Unsafe use of a bicycle on the sidewalk. It is not illegal to ride a bicycle on the sidewalk. This infraction would be issued to a bicyclist that was endangering a pedestrian. A \$50 fine.

- Failure to signal a turn or stop. Hand signals are required by law. Williams admitted that this was not consistently enforced, but stressed that in court, on matters of liability, failure to use hand signals could be upheld. A \$40 fine.

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