

Board improves campus safety

By Daniel West
Oregon Daily Emerald

The ASUO Safety Affairs Board is having a major effect on this campus and other campuses around the country.

The Safety Affairs Board was developed to create a campus that is safe for all students attending the University. The board also educates students on various issues such as personal safety, safety resources, sexual assault and rape.

The idea for a safety affairs board began under the direction of past-ASUO Executives Bobby Lee and Karmen Fore. They believed the concerns of safety on this campus hadn't been addressed before.

There were several groups scattered throughout campus that dealt with this issue on an individual level. But Lee and Fore came up with an idea to create a position that would encompass all safety issues. The current board is headed by Troy Shields and a staff of interns.

Shields and the staff cover a wide variety of topics, from more lighting on the walking paths to hate crimes, discrimination and rape. The board puts on many programs such as Hate Free Week and Safety 101, as well as distributing brochures and T-shirts that appear on and off campus, in the dormitories and in the EMU.

Outside the University, safety affairs is influencing many other campuses and pushing them to create a safer environment. They have even lobbied at state and national levels for legislation that would create laws that increase the safety for all students across the United States.

In fact, the Violence Against Women Act is an example of what safety affairs has been working on getting passed for the past couple of years. This act would greatly increase the penalties for violence committed against women, as well as stiffen the stalking laws in the United States. The act specifically calls for an increase in the penalties for rape

and more funding for women's resources, such as battered women's shelters.

Under this new act, many violent crimes committed against women would be considered hate crimes instead of gender bias.

Although the bill has not completely passed yet, there are parts of it that have already been approved. The Safe Campuses for Women Act was passed in 1992 in conjunction with the reauthorization of higher education, which provides \$20 million in funding for campuses across the nation to promote safety on campus. Some of this money will go toward a national survey on violence against women on campuses.

The need for this bill was originated by Sen. Joseph Biden. He drafted the bill in response to a Dec. 6, 1989, massacre where a man entered a study lounge at a polytechnical institute in Canada and demanded that all the men leave. He then proceeded to open fire, and 14 women were killed.

Although the bill has been passed, the funding has yet to be provided. Therefore, the Safety Affairs Board is working hard this year to pass the violence against women bill and fund the remainder of Biden's bill.

"It affects everyone because it is a serious matter; it could be your mother, sister, daughter or best friend," said Shannon Wall, safety affairs executive assistant. "Violence is more prevalent against women. We don't actually know how many women have been victims of a violent act because only 50 percent of all assaults or rapes are reported."

Currently, safety affairs is working on the formation of a Student Advisory Board that will work directly with the students.

"This student advisory board would give me more input on issues and concerns that the students have," said Shields, safety affairs chairman. "Also, this will give direction to what issues are most important to students on this campus."

Killer domestic cats focus of lecture

By Jade Chan
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

"Killer Cats" — that means lions, tigers, jaguars, and cougars, right?

Wrong. Killer cats also include Fluffy, Snowball and all other domestic felines, as those who attend today's lecture on cats in the University Museum of Natural History at 4:30 p.m. will learn.

Presented by naturalist Dan Gleason of the University biology department, the lecture focuses on the hunting instincts, methods and lifestyles of cats in natural and domestic settings and the impact that domestic

cats have on wildlife.

The main problems that domestic cats inflict upon wildlife are caused by the cats' tendency to catch and kill animals such as birds.

"This is a bigger problem in places that are more isolated, such as islands," Gleason said. "The area's more open, and cats can catch more wildlife, which is devastating in small areas."

Gleason noted that studies in England show that cats in suburban areas have more impact on the bird population, but no research has been done in the United States to show how serious the impact is, though "most people know about cats often

killing birds at birdfeeders."

Although this lecture may cause some people to react differently whenever they see cats, Gleason doesn't know if it will change people's attitudes toward felines. However, he hopes to provide some interesting information about wild and domestic cats.

"Killer Cats" concludes the weekly six-part lecture series that coincides with the museum's latest exhibit, "Cats: The Hunting Elite," which will be on display until winter term.

"Go through the displays at the museum," Gleason urged. "There's a lot of information there."

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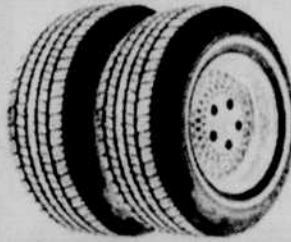
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