

Millrace in heavy metal



ERIN HERSHEP/for the Emerald

Laura Alpert's metalsmithing casts a bronze sculpture with a ceramic shell outside the Millrace. The class is intended to teach metal sculpting.

Bill would require new notification

□ Students may be informed about sex offenders on campus

By Susanne Steffens
Oregon Daily Emerald

Should students be notified about sex offenders on parole who are entering the University?

This question received a lot of attention two years ago, when a male student raped a female student in the Hamilton Complex. Michael Patrick Ryan was a student at the University, and had a criminal record that the school knew about.

The big question after the incident was if this rape could have been prevented. Right after the episode, the housing office received hundreds of phone calls from scared and frustrated students who wondered why they hadn't been informed about Ryan's criminal background.

On Nov. 3, a new House bill was passed in Oregon, which will have an impact on future notification requirements to students. The bill concerns predatory sex offenders on parole and requires parole officers to notify the community within 21 days of the offender's release.

The bill does not specify universities, but in Section 2 the bill states that the supervising agency should consider notifying residential neighbors and churches, community parks, schools, convenience stores, businesses and other places that children or other potential victims may frequently visit.

Carey Drayton, director of the University Office of Public Safety, said he has notifications on students who are on parole for a number of crimes, and several have had some type of sex offense in their past.

"The University is a microcosm of a larger community, and in the larger community, as at the University, we have people who are on parole," he said. "Everybody who is in the University environment is not an 18- to 19-year-old fresh out of high school. They come to the University with very different experiences and backgrounds."

It is the corrections department that notifies Drayton about criminals on parole. Joan Copperwheat, supervisor of the Lane County parole and probation office, said that when a sex offender poses a danger, correc-

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Police officers claim self defense in shooting death

□ Lane District Attorney and Springfield police chief believe actions justified

SPRINGFIELD (AP) — Joe Gene Barton recently told his estranged wife he would "shoot it out" with police rather than go back to jail.

On Friday, the 44-year-old man was shot to death by two Springfield police officers after refusing their orders to put down his loaded pistol.

Barton shouted "Shoot me" after the

two officers repeatedly told him to put down the gun, Springfield police Capt. Jerry Smith said.

Officers John Slimak and Joe Zito fired at least 27 rounds before Barton dropped the weapon.

A deputy medical examiner said it appeared Barton had been struck by seven or eight bullets. An autopsy was scheduled Monday.

Despite his wounds, Barton wrestled with officers and emergency medical personnel as they tried to pull him from under the deck behind a Springfield

house. He died en route to a hospital.

Barton had been arrested in August on a charge of possessing methamphetamine and had contacts with police dating to the mid-1960s. He had no warrants for his arrest at the time of the shooting.

Smith said an investigation would determine if Barton had fired his gun.

Lane County District Attorney Doug Harclerod and Springfield Police Chief Bill DeForrest said they believed the two officers acted appropriately.

"Officers are entitled to defend themselves," Harclerod said. "At this point

in time, I believe this is a justified shooting."

Both officers were placed on administrative leave pending the outcome of an investigation, a standard procedure in such circumstances.

The two officers were sent to the house shortly before noon by Oregon Children's Services Division. A caller had told the CSD that children were being neglected at the house and a woman who was staying there was wanted by police.

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More sexual assaults than officially reported

□ Unofficial forms allow students to remain anonymous

By Amy Columbo
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

Statistics gathered by the Unwanted Sexual Behavior Task Force demonstrate that there is more unwanted sexual behavior occurring on or near the University campus than the University Office of Public Safety had officially reported.

University students are not reporting as many acts of unwanted sexual behavior through official means as they are through the anonymous Unofficial Report Form.

The Unofficial Report Form is

sponsored by the University's Unwanted Sexual Behavior Task Force and allows students to unofficially report sexual harassment, sexual assault, sodomy, public indecency, acquaintance rape, date rape, stranger rape and gang rape. More often than not, these violations are directed toward women.

Nationally, women between the ages of 16-24 years of age have the highest victimization rate in the country, cited Joanie Robertson, from a 1990 FBI report.

"No campus is safe; that's the reality," said Robertson, a former assistant dean of students and co-chairwoman of the Unwanted Sexual Behavior Task Force.

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Housing creates loft system in dorms

□ Alternative to bunk system allows for extra space in rooms

By Rachel Miller
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The first time freshman Kevin Allen saw his dorm room, he thought to himself, "How am I supposed to live here?"

Other students have asked the same question when they opened the door for the first time into their cramped little dorm rooms.

But University Housing has come up with a way to make efficient use of what limited space there is in the majority of the residence hall rooms.

University Housing is in the process of patenting a permanent loft system designed by Gordon Melby, head of maintenance for Walton Complex. Melby's design will allow students

the option to bunk their beds or create a platform above their beds for extra storage space.

"Since maintenance was established, we'd been asked to come up with an alternative to the bunk systems we had been renting," Melby said.

University Housing used to rent more than 100 portable bunks each year, but discontinued the practice because of safety reasons.

The new loft system is a better alternative because it is constructed from four posts bolted to the floor and ceiling with a movable platform on which the mattress sits, explained Melby.

Nancy Wright, University Housing facilities director, said the loft is a fixed unit in the room so the student can move the bed to any height off the floor.

With the new lofts, "you don't have to handle

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