



University of Oregon SOFTBALL

HOME DATES:

Date	Opponent	Time
Fri., Apr. 1	Oregon State*	2:00 p.m.
Sat., Apr. 2	Washington*	1:00 p.m.
Wed., Apr. 6	Portland State	2:30 p.m.
Sat., Apr. 9	Puget Sound	1:00 p.m.
Sat., Apr. 16	California*	1:00 p.m.
Sun., Apr. 17	Western Oregon State	1:00 p.m.
Fri., Apr. 22	Pacific Lutheran	3:00 p.m.
Sat., Apr. 23	Arizona State*	1:00 p.m.
Sun., Apr. 24	Arizona*	1:00 p.m.
Wed., May 11	UCLA*	1:00 p.m.

Ticket Prices: Students **FREE** w/ U of O I.D.
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POLICE

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call are the cops."

Mistrust of the police is only one of the problems of the Hispanic population, one of the fastest growing ethnic groups in Eugene. Much of the community consists of recent immigrants from countries as diverse as Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua and Colombia. The ignorance of Eugene laws, the difference in cultural perspectives, racial stereotypes and the language barrier are leading members of the community into problems with the law.

The Eugene Office of Public Safety and the police department, are reaching out to the community in the hopes of improving relations. In 1991, the Public Safety Advisory Committee formed a Latino Hispanic Task Team, which over a six-month period developed a series of recommendations on how the police can better serve the Hispanic community. Some of the recommendations have been implemented. Others are in progress.

One of the key issues addressed by the task team was the need for cultural-sensitivity training for police officers so they could better understand the Hispanic population.

"Hispanics tend to gather in public places," said Phyllis Parks, a community service specialist for the Whiteaker Public Safety Station. "In Mexico they have social centers. When they did that here, we thought they were up to no good."

Police officers also need to understand that Hispanic males have problems with female police officers, Parks said.

"The female officer has to be aware that she might not be received well," she said. "She should either ask to be accompanied by a male officer or try to play the role of not being confrontational."

Parks said officers further need to be aware of the structure of the Hispanic family.

"The Hispanic male speaks for the whole family," Parks said. "He's offended if you speak to the woman first and she is too. She's not the spokesperson. If you want to talk to the woman, go through the man first."

The Office of Public Safety has made cultural-sensitivity part of entry-level and in-service training for police officers, supervisors and management staff.

Another key issue addressed by the task team was the need for bilingual personnel in the police department to deal with the Spanish-speaking population.

"In some Hispanic families, the only bilingual people are the younger kids," said police officer David Poppe, sergeant in prevention and education.

The police department has one Hispanic officer, one Hispanic interpreter, one Hispanic clerk and several officers who speak Spanish, said Jan Power, Office of Public Safety administrative aide.

The task team also recommended hiring someone who could work with the Hispanic community and provide the police with a clearer understanding of its needs.

Suarez applied successfully for the position and quit the police force in September last year.

"The community resource officer is a networking job where people come with problems, and I direct them on how to find services," Suarez said.

Besides the task team proposals, other programs for the Hispanic community are being instituted.

The Whiteaker Public Safety Station, located at 520 Blair Blvd., is a key area where the Office of Public Safety maintains contact with the Hispanic community.

"When it was first set up, there was a lot of concern in the Latino community about what it meant," said Guadalupe Quinn, a multicultural youth advo-

cate and a consultant to the Department of Youth Services. "Cops were going to be where the Latino community was. Does that mean the cops were going to be watching only our people?"

The Whiteaker station, a storefront operation affectionately known as the "cop shop," is extending a number of programs to serve the Hispanic community, one of which is a series of classes designed to help Hispanics acquire Oregon driver's licenses.

Many Hispanics stopped for traffic infractions are found not to have driver's licenses.

"When they are stopped," Suarez said, "they also probably have no insurance. They get a citation and the car is impounded. They barely understand the citation, so they don't go to court. As a result, the judge issues a bench warrant for their arrest. The next police contact is jail. And all this just because they wanted to get across town."

Another program started by the Whiteaker station is personal safety classes for Latinos, which ground to a stop because of a lack of resources.

"Culturally, Hispanic women don't seek this type of class out," Parks said. "They don't respond to marketing the way whites do. Hispanic culture particularly needs a one-on-one interaction. Also, there are the transportation issue and child-care issues."

Whiteaker station and the Office of Public Safety are making available information pamphlets and brochures in Spanish. For example, the Office of Public Safety has produced information sheets in Spanish explaining how to contact the Public Safety department and who to call with an inquiry, complaint or commendation about the department or its employees. These sheets are available at the Whiteaker Community Resource Center and the Chicano Affairs Center.

The Office of Public Safety also is working on a Latino video to greet Latino immigrants to Eugene.

One of the long-term programs that the Office of Public Safety and the police department are working on is the hiring of bicultural officers.

"Being able to speak and to communicate is one thing," said Tim Birr, information director for the Office of Public Safety. "Being able to speak and to understand often involves knowing the culture."

The efforts of the Office of Public Safety and the police department have been noticed in the Hispanic community.

However, Quinn said more needs to be done.

"Our people still get harassed a lot," she said. "If three or four guys are walking along the street, they will be stopped and questioned by the police."

Quinn said there is an institutional racial bias in the police department against the Hispanic community.

"It's not that cops are bad folks, but what they know about our population is negative because of the media," she said.

"There has been an influx of the drug trade along with an increase in immigrants," Suarez said. "Police have a tendency to look at Hispanics like suspects. We have to educate both the Hispanic community and the police."

Quinn said that education on both sides is needed.

"We have to educate our people on how things are done here," she said. "We have to educate the police about the cultural norms for the Latino population and get them to look at their own actions."

Quinn said it is necessary to continue organizing cultural-sensitivity training classes.

"It's a long process, moving people around to sensitivity," she said. "That's why it has to be ongoing and happening all the time."

However, Quinn believes things will improve.

"If you compare Eugene to other Public Safety folks in Lane County," she said, "Eugene is light years from them."

SAME OLD HANGOUT? WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?

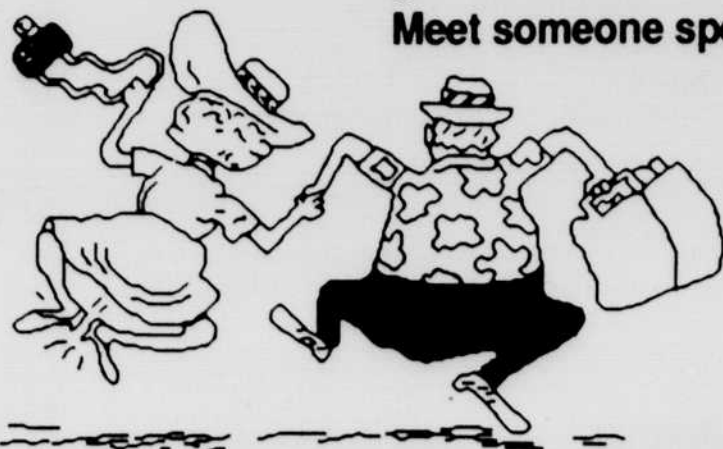
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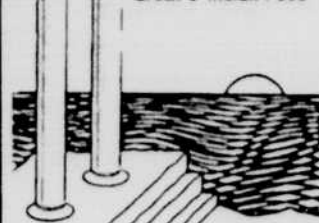
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